

Acts 27:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,

Analysis

The shipmen were about to flee out of the ship—The sailors' attempted desertion reveals self-preservation instinct overriding duty and divine promise. The Greek nautai (sailors) were experienced seamen, yet panic eclipsed professional responsibility. Their deception **under colour as though they would have cast anchors** shows how crisis exposes character—religious pretense masking cowardice. Luke's nautical precision ('foreship,' technical anchor terminology) validates his eyewitness account.

Paul's earlier assurance (v. 22-26) that all would survive required human cooperation, not passive fatalism. The sailors' expertise was necessary for safe landing, demonstrating how divine sovereignty works through human means, not apart from them.

Historical Context

Ancient Mediterranean sailing required specialized knowledge of winds, currents, and coastal navigation. Lifeboats (Greek skaphe) were small boats towed behind or carried aboard larger vessels. Sailors abandoning ship would have doomed passengers unfamiliar with seamanship, making their desertion particularly treacherous during this 60 AD storm.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does panic lead believers to abandon God's clear promises and pursue self-preservation?
2. In what ways does God's sovereignty require rather than eliminate human responsibility and action?

Interlinear Text

τῶν G3588	δὲ G1161	ναυτῶν G3492	ζητούντων G2212	φυγεῖν G5343	ἐκ G1537	τοῦ G3588	πλοίου G4143
	And	as the shipmen	were about	to flee	out of		the ship
καὶ G2532	χαλασάντων G5465	τὴν G3588	σκάφην G4627	εἰς G1519	τὴν G3588	θάλασσαν G2281	
	when	they had let down	the boat	into		the sea	
προφάσει G4392	ὥς G5613	ἐκ G1537	πρώρας G4408	μελλόντων G3195	ἀγκύρας G45		
	under colour	as though	out of	the foreship	they would	anchors	
ἐκτείνειν G1614	have cast						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 27:16 (Parallel theme): And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:

