

# Acts 27:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

## Analysis

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**Falling into a place where two seas met**—The nautical term (τόπον διθάλασσον, topon dithalasson) describes a reef or sandbar where currents converge. Archaeological research identifies this as Malta's St. Paul's Bay, where a muddy channel between Salmonetta promontory and the island creates exactly such conditions. **The forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken**—Luke's precise description reflects eyewitness detail: the ship's prow lodged in sand while the stern, exposed to wave action (τῆς βίας τῶν κυμάτων, the violence of the waves), disintegrated. This divinely orchestrated shipwreck fulfilled Paul's prophecy (v. 22) while demonstrating God's sovereignty over nature's forces—the ship destroyed, but all 276 souls saved (v. 37).

## Historical Context

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This occurred in late October or early November AD 60 during Paul's voyage to Rome as a prisoner. Ancient ships were structurally vulnerable: the bow's tenon-and-mortise construction could lodge firmly in sand, while the stern's lighter construction shattered under wave assault.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's promise of deliverance (v. 24) coexist with physical hardship and material loss in your life?
2. What does the precise fulfillment of both Paul's warning (v. 10) and God's promise (v. 24) teach about prophetic reliability?

## Interlinear Text

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περιπесόντες	δὲ	εἰς	τόπον	διθάλασσον	ἐπώκειλαν	τὴν
falling	And	into	a place	where two seas met	aground	G3588
G4045	G1161	G1519	G5117	G1337	G2027	
ναῦν	καὶ	ἡ	μὲν	πρῶρα	ἐρείσασα	ἔμεινεν
the ship	and	G3588	G3303	the forepart	stuck fast	and remained
G3491	G2532			G4408	G2043	G3306
ἀσάλευτος	ἡ	δὲ	πρύμνα	ἐλύετο	ὑπὸ	τῆς βίας
unmoveable	G3588	And	the hinder part	was broken	with	G3588 the violence
G761	G1161		G4403	G3089	G5259	G970
τῶν	κυμάτων					
G3588	of the waves					
	G2949					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 27:26** (Parallel theme): Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the midst of the seas.

