

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

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

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

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

περιπεσόντες 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 πρῷρα 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
of the waves
G3588 G2949

Additional Cross-References

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.

