

Acts 27:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

Analysis

And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship—After those who could swim reached shore (v. 43), the remaining survivors used wreckage: ἐπὶ σανίσιν (epi sanisin, 'on planks') and ἐπὶ τινων τῶν ἀπὸ τοῦ πλοίου (epi tinōn tōn apo tou ploiou, 'on some things from the ship'). **And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land**—The fulfillment: καὶ οὕτως ἐγένετο πάντας διασωθῆναι ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν (kai houtōs egeneto pantas diasōthēnai epi tēn gēn, 'and thus it came to pass all to be brought safely to the land').

The phrase πάντας (pantas, 'all') echoes Paul's prophecy (27:22, 24, 34)—not one life lost despite a violent storm, shipwreck, and soldiers' murder plot. God's word through Paul proved absolutely reliable. The detailed account (Acts 27 is one of the most vivid nautical narratives in ancient literature) demonstrates that God controls nature, circumstances, and human hearts to fulfill His purposes. Paul will reach Rome; nothing can prevent it.

Historical Context

Ancient shipwrecks were catastrophic—most passengers couldn't swim, and drowning was common. The survival of all 276 people was remarkable, bordering on miraculous. The detail about 'boards' and 'broken pieces' reflects accurate maritime knowledge (Acts 27 shows precise nautical terminology). Malta (Greek Melitē) was about 58 miles south of Sicily. The survivors washed ashore on what's

traditionally identified as St. Paul's Bay. Luke, who was present ('we' narrative), recorded this as eyewitness testimony. The fulfillment of Paul's prophecy would have profound impact on the centurion, soldiers, sailors, and prisoners—a testimony to God's power and faithfulness.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the literal fulfillment of Paul's prophecy ('all safe to land') demonstrate the trustworthiness of God's word and His power over creation?
2. What does this passage teach about God's sovereignty—He uses both natural means (planks) and supernatural providence (survival of all) to accomplish His will?
3. In what storms of life has God proven faithful to His promises to you, and how does remembering these build faith for future trials?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	τοὺς	λοιποὺς	οὓς	μὲν	ἐπὶ	σανίσιν	οὓς	δὲ	ἐπὶ
And	G3588	the rest	some	G3303	on	boards	some	and	on
G2532		G3062	G3739		G1909	G4548	G3739	G1161	G1909
τινων	τῶν	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	πλοίου	καὶ	οὕτως			
G5100	G3588	broken pieces of	G3588	the ship	And	so			
		G575		G4143	G2532	G3779			
ἐγένετο	πάντας	διασωθῆναι	ἐπὶ	τὴν	γῆν				
it came to pass	all	safe	on	G3588	land				
G1096	G3956	G1295	G1909		G1093				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 27:22 (Parallel theme): And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

Acts 27:24 (Parallel theme): Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Acts 27:31 (Parallel theme): Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

Amos 9:9 (Parallel theme): For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.

1 Peter 4:18 (Parallel theme): And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

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