

Acts 27:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them,

Analysis

When much time was spent and sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past—The 'fast' (νηστεία, nesteia) refers to the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), occurring in late September/early October. Ancient Mediterranean navigation ceased from mid-September to mid-March due to seasonal storms and poor visibility. Luke's nautical precision shows the journey's peril began with poor timing. **Paul admonished them** (παρήνει, parēnei)—a strong verb meaning 'warned earnestly.' Though a prisoner, Paul's spiritual discernment and previous shipwreck experiences (2 Cor 11:25) gave him prophetic authority the centurion would later regret ignoring.

Historical Context

This occurred around late September/early October AD 59 during Paul's voyage to Rome as a prisoner. Ancient sailors avoided Mediterranean travel after the Day of Atonement until spring due to violent autumn and winter storms. The grain ship was traveling from Myra (in Lycia) toward Italy, carrying Paul and other prisoners under centurion Julius.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. When has God given you spiritual discernment that contradicted conventional wisdom or expert opinion?
2. How do you respond when God's warning through his servants conflicts with practical or economic considerations?

Interlinear Text

Ίκανοῦ δὲ χρόνου διαγενομένου καὶ ὅντος ἥδη
when much Now time was spent and was already
G2425 G1161 G5550 G1230 G2532 G5607 G2235

ἐπισφαλοῦς τοῦ πλοὸς διὰ τὸ καὶ τὴν νηστείαν
dangerous G3588 when sailing because G3588 and G3588 the fast
G2000 G4144 G1223 G2532 G3521

ἥδη παρεληλυθέναι παρήνει ὁ Παῦλος
already past admonished G3588 Paul
G2235 G3928 G3867 G3972

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 29:7 (Parallel theme): And ye shall have on the tenth day of this seventh month an holy convocation; and ye shall afflict your souls: ye shall not do any work therein: