

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

Ἰκανοῦ	δὲ	χρόνου	διαγενομένου	καὶ	ὄντος	ἤδη	
when much	Now	time	was spent	and	was	already	
G2425	G1161	G5550	G1230	G2532	G5607	G2235	
ἐπισφαλοῦς	τοῦ	πλοῦς	διὰ	τὸ	καὶ	τὴν	νηστείαν
dangerous		when sailing	because		and		the fast
G2000	G3588	G4144	G1223	G3588	G2532	G3588	G3521
ἤδη	παρεληλυθέναι	παρήνει	ὁ	Παῦλος			
already	past	admonished			Paul		
G2235	G3928	G3867	G3588		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: