

Acts 28:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita.

Analysis

The island was called Melita—Modern Malta, 58 miles south of Sicily. The Greek 'Melitē' (Μελίτη) identifies this strategic Mediterranean island where Paul's shipwrecked company found refuge. Luke's careful geographical notation continues Acts' pattern of precise historical detail, confirming the narrative's reliability. **When they were escaped** (διασωθέντες) means 'brought safely through,' emphasizing divine preservation from the storm described in chapter 27. God's promise to Paul that all 276 passengers would survive (27:24) finds fulfillment, demonstrating that no human circumstances can thwart divine purposes. Malta becomes another stage for gospel witness, showing how apparent disaster advances God's mission.

Historical Context

Malta (Roman 'Melita') was a Phoenician colony later controlled by Rome, located on crucial Mediterranean shipping routes. Paul's shipwreck occurred in late October/early November AD 60 during his journey to Rome as a prisoner. The island's population spoke a Punic dialect but was familiar with Greek and Latin.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How have apparent disasters in your life become opportunities for unexpected ministry?
2. What does God's preservation of all 276 passengers reveal about his sovereignty over circumstances?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	διασωθέντες	τότε	ἐπέγνωσαν	ὅτι	Μελίτη	ἢ	
And	when they were escaped	then	they knew	that	Melita		G3588
G2532	G1295	G5119	G1921	G3754	G3194		
νῆσος	καλεῖται						
the island	was called						
G3520	G2564						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 27:26 (Parallel theme): Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

Acts 27:44 (Parallel theme): 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.

Acts 27:39 (Parallel theme): And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.