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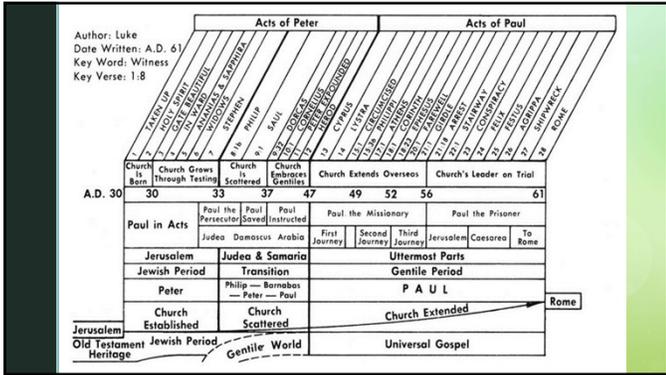
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Acts 27:27-29 <sup>27</sup> Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land. <sup>28</sup> And they took soundings and found *it* to be twenty fathoms; and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found *it* to be fifteen fathoms. <sup>29</sup> Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come.

- How would the sailors sense that they were close to land?
- What does it mean to take a sounding?
- Why place the anchors off the back of the boat?

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Acts 27:30-32 <sup>30</sup> And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow, <sup>31</sup> Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." <sup>32</sup> Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off.

- Why must the men remain on the ship for everyone to be saved?

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Acts 27:33-38 <sup>33</sup> And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored *them* all to take food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing nothing." <sup>34</sup> Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you." <sup>35</sup> And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken *it* he began to eat. <sup>36</sup> Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves. <sup>37</sup> And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship. <sup>38</sup> So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea.

- What does Paul's actions mirror?
- What does it mean that not a hair of their head will fall?
- Why was wheat still aboard when they had already "lightened" the ship?

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Acts 27:39-41 <sup>39</sup> When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible. <sup>40</sup> And they let go the anchors and left *them* in the sea, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore. <sup>41</sup> But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves.

- What is the impact of not recognizing the land?

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Acts 27:42-44. <sup>42</sup> And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. <sup>43</sup> But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from *their* purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump *overboard* first and get to land, <sup>44</sup> and the rest, some on boards and some on *parts* of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.

- Why would the soldiers consider killing the prisoners?
- If Paul is within God's will, why this calamity?

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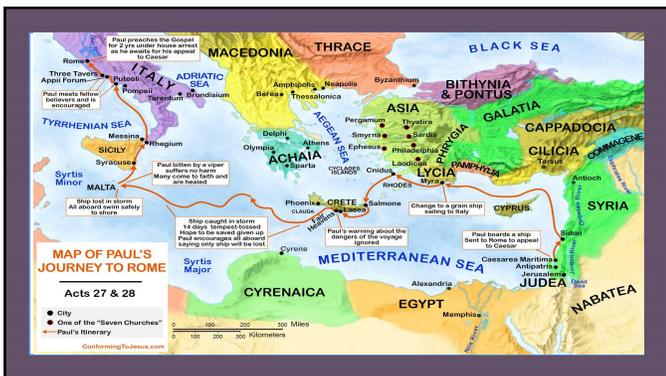
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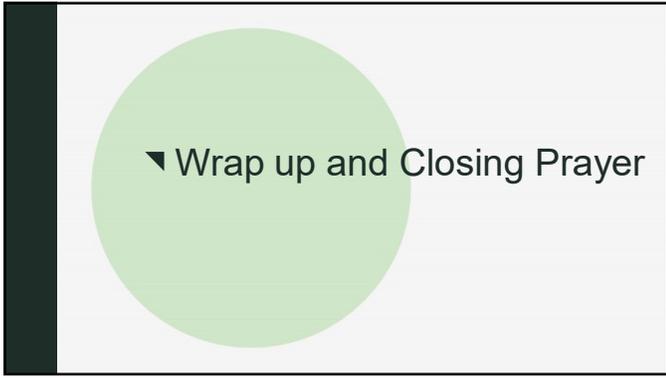
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