

Lesson X.

PAUL'S VOYAGE AND SHIPWRECK

June 7, 1903

Acts 27 : 33-44. Study vs. 1-44—Memory Verses, 41-44.

Golden Text—Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.—Ps. 107 : 28.



33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought *them* all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.

34 Wherefore I pray you to take *some* meat : for this is for your health : for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all : and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took *some* meat.

37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.

39 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.

40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed *themselves* unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore.

41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground ; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.

43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from *their* purpose ; and commanded that they which could swim should cast *themselves* first into the sea, and get to land :

44 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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

It was at last decided that Paul should go to Rome and be judged by the Emperor himself.

So, with a company of prisoners under charge of an officer named Julius and a guard of soldiers, Paul was put on board a large wheat vessel sailing for Italy.

On the way the ship met with one storm after another, until at last the sailors, unable to control the vessel, were obliged to throw overboard everything that could be spared to lighten the ship, and allow her to drift.

For fourteen days Paul and his companions were tossed and driven by the storm, until one night, when everybody but the apostle had given up all hope of being saved, they

thought they heard a sound as of waves beating upon the shore.

Then the sailors, supposing they were nearing some island, let down four anchors and waited patiently for daylight.

All this time both passengers and crew had been too frightened and sea-sick even to eat. But as morning dawned Paul encouraged them, saying, "Do, I beg of you, take a little food and keep up your strength, for by the mercy of God you shall yet be saved."

Then Paul set food before them, and when he had asked God's blessing upon it, they began to eat and were much encouraged.

They then threw out the very last of the