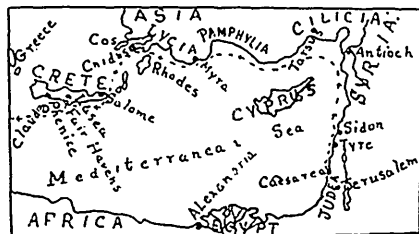


**III. A MESSAGE OF CHEER.—21, 22.** Long without food (Rev. Ver.); for which their anxiety had left them no heart, and besides, the storm made it difficult to prepare food. Paul stood forth; the only hopeful one in that despairing crowd. Sirs; literally "men", who should show manly courage. Hearkened unto me, etc. See vs. 9, 10, where Paul appears as the prudent, cautious adviser. Now... be of good cheer. In this moment of hopeless panic, also, he is cool, confident, and sure of being saved.

**23-25. Angel of God.** Paul's message of cheer was from heaven. Whose I am. Paul was ready to confess God anywhere. Whom I serve; and who will, therefore, keep me till my work is done. Fear not, Paul; in spite of the danger that filled all others with terror. Before Cæsar; according to the promise of ch. 23: 11. God hath given thee; doubtless in answer to Paul's earnest prayers. All... with thee. What an encouragement here to pray for others! Be of good cheer; words that would infuse new courage into despairing hearts. I believe God; and his faith made Paul both captain and pilot of the ship. Cast upon a certain island. The angel had revealed this to Paul.

#### THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



From CESAREA, the ship in which Paul set out Rome-wards as a prisoner under the charge of a centurion named Julius, sailed along the coast of Palestine to SIDON, and thence still coastwise to MYRA, a port in southwestern Asia Minor. Here the prisoner was transferred to a larger vessel from ALEXANDRIA in Egypt bound for Italy. This ship sailed in a southerly direction to CAPE SALMONE, on the eastern point of CRETE, and then westward to the harbor of FAIR HAVENS. The centurion, following the advice of the ship captain and against Paul's

counsel, determined to go on to the harbor of PHENICE, now Lutro, forty miles westward.

#### LESSON QUESTIONS

**13-15** What "purpose" is referred to in v. 13? What seemed to favor this purpose? How does Luke describe the wind which arose? What name is given to it? Whence did it come? What were those in charge of Paul's ship obliged to do?

**16, 17** Where was calmer water sought? How did the sailors strengthen the ship? What is this operation called? What did the sailors specially dread? What did they do to avoid this danger? In what direction were they driven?

**18-20** What was first done to lighten the ship? What else was thrown overboard? How were the sailors deprived of guidance? What, at last, did they expect?

**21-26** Why had those on the ship been long without food? Who now came forward to cheer them? What did he say they ought to have done? What does he promise them now? Why was he able to make this promise?

#### FOR DISCUSSION

1. Was the centurion to blame for not having followed Paul's advice at Fair Havens?
2. The duty and value of prayer for others.

#### A LESSON FOR LIFE

Fishermen of Brittany in France offer this simple prayer when they launch their boats upon the deep: "Keep me, my God; my boat is small and the ocean is wide." We may well make the fishermen's prayer our own, as we voyage over the ocean of life. Our boat is small, we are very weak and helpless, very heedless of God's warnings and forgetful of His goodness. Unless He keeps us, we shall perish; for the ocean is so wide.

**Prove from Scripture—That God will be our Guide.**

**Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 30-33.**

**The Question on Missions—5.** What churches are working among the people of Formosa? The English Presbyterian Church, since 1865, in South Formosa, and the Presbyterian Church in Canada since 1872, in North Formosa. In 1895 the Church of Christ in Japan sent a Japanese evangelist; a year or two later the Episcopal Church in Japan sent another.

#### FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What port did the centurion in charge of Paul wish to reach?

2. How was this prevented?

3. Tell about the message of the angel