

LESSON V—October 31st, 1897.

Paul's Voyage and Shipwreck. Acts 27: 13-26.

(Read chapter 27. Commit to memory verses 21-26).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." Acts 27: 25.

PROVE THAT—The Lord preserves in danger. Ps. 107: 28.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 100. *What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?*

A. The preface of the Lord's prayer (which is, *Our Father which art in heaven*) teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence; as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

LESSON HMMNS. Nos. 82 (Psalm 107) 492, 493, 499. (Old Hymnal Nos. 93, 35, 123, 145).

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Sailing for Rome. Acts 27: 1-12. *Tuesday.* Paul's voyage and shipwreck. Acts 27: 13-26. *Wednesday.* Peace amid the storm. Acts 27: 27-36. *Thursday.* Wreck and rescue. Acts 27: 37-44. *Friday.* Christ in the vessel. Mark 4: 35-41. *Saturday.* Confidence in God. Psalm 23. *Sabbath.* Danger and deliverance. Psalm 107: 23-32. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

INTRODUCTORY. In Paul's time there were no regular lines of vessels sailing at fixed dates for certain ports, but everyone had to take the chance of finding a merchantman which would advance the traveller a stage upon his journey. As each port was reached enquiries would have to be made for a ship which would carry him a little farther on his way. In this manner Paul and his fellow prisoners were conveyed to Rome. The first vessel took them to Myra in Lycia, where they found a vessel about to sail for Italy and embarked upon it on the famous and disastrous voyage. As they passed under the south coast of Crete a tornado swept down upon them from the heights of mount Ida, and they at first found shelter in the port of Fair Havens. Here Paul wished to remain, but the captain thought that he would be able to reach Phenice, where he could lay up for the winter as the season for navigation was closing. Read chapter 27. Time, middle of October A. D. 60.

LESSON PLAN. I. Outwardly Distressed vs. 13-20. II. Inwardly Comforted vs. 21-26.

13. South wind—They sailed under the lee of Crete to escape the north wind R. V. "they weighed anchor, and sailed along Crete, close in shore." **14. Arose against it**—R. V. "Beat down from it." i. e. from the mountains of Crete. **Tempestuous**—"Typhonic," hence our "typho." **Euroclydon**—R. V. "Euraquilo" a "north east" wind, as the name signifies. "Euroclydon" is probably the name used by the sailors and heard by Luke. This wind is well known to mariners and is now called "a Levanter," from the portion of the Mediterranean where it occurs, the Levant. **Could not bear up**—Literally, "could not look the wind in the eye." R. V. "face the wind." **Let her drive**—R. V. "we gave way to it, and were driven." **16. "Under"**—R. V. "under the lee of," Claudia, or Cauda, now Gozzo, —23 miles S. E. of Crete. R. V. "we were able with difficulty to secure the boat." The small boat was towed behind in fair weather, but hoisted on board when a storm came up. **17. Helps**—These were strong cables, passed several times around the vessel, to strengthen it against the strain upon its timbers. The modern term for this process is "to frap." **The quicksand**—The Greater and the Lesser Syrtis on the north coast of Africa. The wind was carrying the ships directly upon the dangerous shoals. **Strake sail**—R. V. "lowered the gear," everything that would make the vessel top-heavy, leaving just enough canvas to enable them to steer,

18. R. V. "and we labored exceedingly with the storm." The storm increased in violence, so that they found it necessary to lighten the ship by throwing some freight overboard. This was probably merchandise other than the main cargo, which was wheat (verse 38). **19. We cast out**—The passengers now lent a hand to save the vessel. **The tackling**—The furniture, moveable articles generally. **20. Neither sun nor stars**—These were the only guides to steer by before the invention of the mariner's compass. **Many days**—Perhaps for the whole 14 days (verse 27). **21. Abstinence**—The food would have been spoiled by the water, no fire could be lit, utensils were cast overboard, and no one cared to eat, with death staring him in the face. **Gained**—R. V. "gotten" **22. Good cheer**—They all expected to go to the bottom with their foundering vessel. Paul's hopeful words revived their courage. **23. An angel of the Lord**—A fearless confession before the heathen. He would be respected for it. **24. Thou must stand before Caesar**—And in order to do so he cannot be drowned on the way. **God hath given thee**—Paul had been praying for them and his prayer was answered. **25. I believe God**—Paul becomes both captain and pilot. He is cheerful because he knows that he is in God's loving care. **26. A certain island**—Paul seems to have had a full revelation of all the details of the shipwreck.

LESSONS. 1. With the utmost prudence, we cannot escape all perils. 2. If life is so dear, the safety of the soul should be dearer. 3. Sacrifice worldly interests to spiritual advantages. 4. Those who trust in God can be brave. 5. God's purposes in regard to us cannot fail.