

Lesson V.

PAUL A PRISONER—THE VOYAGE

October 31, 1909

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The story of Paul's voyage from Caesarea Romewards, as far as Fair Havens (vs. 1-12) in Crete, is told in the Geography Lesson.

GOLDEN TEXT—Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass.—Psalm 37: 5. Memorize vs. 22-24. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Acts 27: 13-26. Study Acts 27: 1-26.

13 And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained *their* purpose, ¹ loosing *thence*, they sailed close by Crete.

14 But ² not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, ³ called Euroclydon.

15 And when the ship was caught, and could not ⁴ bear up into the wind, we let *her* drive.

16 And running under ⁵ a certain island which is called Clau'da, we had much work to come by the boat:

17 ⁶ Which when they had ⁷ taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should ⁸ fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.

18 And ⁹ we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next *day* they ¹⁰ lightened the ship;

19 And the third *day* ¹¹ we cast out with ¹² our own hands the tackling of the ship.

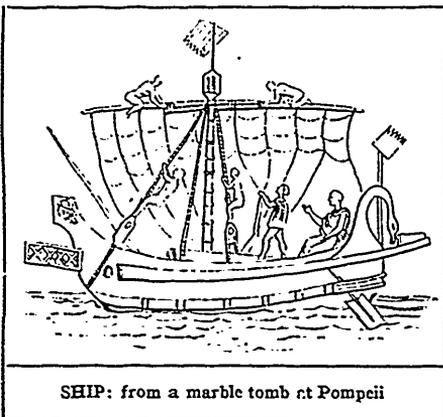
Revised Version— they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close in shore; ² after no long time there beat down from it; ³ which is called Euraquilo; ⁴ face the wind, we gave way to it, and were driven; ⁵ the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the boat; ⁶ and when; ⁷ hoisted it up; ⁸ be cast upon the Syrtis, they lowered the gear; ⁹ as we laboured exceedingly with the storm; ¹⁰ began to throw the freight overboard; ¹¹ they; ¹² their; ¹³ shone upon us for many days; ¹⁴ now taken; ¹⁵ And when they had been long without food, then Paul; ¹⁶ set sail; ¹⁷ Omit to 18 gatten; ¹⁸ injury; ¹⁹ Omit any man's; ²⁰ only; ²¹ an; ²² the; ²³ whom also I serve; ²⁴ stand before; ²⁵ granted; ²⁶ so; ²⁷ hath been spoken unto.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—The voyage, Acts 27: 1-12. T.—The voyage, Acts 27: 13-26. W.—Jesus visits Sidon, Mk. 7: 24-30. Th.—God's power, Ps. 104: 1-9. F.—God's works, Ps. 104: 24-31. S.—God's leading, Ps. 77: 11-20. S.—God's care, Ps. 23.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. A FIERCE STORM.—13-15. South wind blew softly.

This was a favorable wind for the course determined on by the shipmaster (v. 12). As far as Cape Matala, six miles west of Fair Havens, the wind would be from the side. From that point, where the coast turns suddenly to the north, it would be dead astern. Obtained their purpose. Sir William Ramsay translates, "got their opportunity" (see v. 12). Sailed . . . close in shore (Rev. Ver.); barely able to clear the jutting point of Cape Matala. Beat down from it (Rev. Ver.); that is, the island of Crete. A sudden eddying squall struck down from the Cretan mountains seven thousand feet high. Tempestuous wind (literally, a "typhonic" wind). Euraquilo (Rev. Ver.); an east, northeast wind, now called the Levanter. A modern ship captain said to a traveler, "The wind comes down from those mountains fit to blow the ship out of the water." Caught; as if seized in the grasp of a giant. Could not face (Rev. Ver.); literally, "look at the wind eye to eye". Eyes were painted on the prows of ancient vessels. Gave way . . . driven (Rev. Ver.). There was no time for preparations to meet the sudden and furious storm.



SHIP: from a marble tomb at Pompeii

II. DESPAIRING SAILORS.—16, 17. Running; dashing madly and helplessly on before the fierce gale.

Under the lee (Rev. Ver.); where there would be calmer water. Clau'da; twenty-three miles nearly due south from Phenice. With difficulty . . . secure the boat (Rev. Ver.); the small boat, which had been towed behind the ship. Used helps; strong, flat cables. Undergirding the ship. The cables were passed round the ship's hull in four or five turns to support it. This operation is called "frapping". Fearing . . . the Syrtis (Rev. Ver.); dangerous quicksands on the north coast of Africa. Lowered the gear (Rev. Ver.); reduced sail. 18-20. The freight overboard (Rev. Ver.); apparently that part of the cargo which was on deck, or at any rate, was easiest to get at. This lightening of the ship would relieve the strain on its timbers. Cast out . . . the tackling; the fittings and equipment of the ship, anything movable. Neither sun nor stars; the only guides, in those days of no compasses, for sailors out of sight of land. No small tempest; which had the ship wholly at its mercy. All hope . . . taken away; absolute despair now.