

A Study in Acts

Chapter Twenty-Seven – Paul’s Journey to Rome.

ACTS 27:6-8:

In our previous lesson, Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus have begun their journey to Rome under the careful eye of Julius the Roman centurion and his men. They have slowly traveled from Caesarea to Myra hugging the coast of Palestine, Syria, Cilicia, and Pamphylia. Paul will constantly be working to fulfill the promise made to him by the Lord.

Acts 23:11 *“But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.””*

The trip to Rome is going to follow this outline:

27:1-8 Part 1 – Caesarea to Fair Havens.

27:9-12 Part 2 – Paul’s Warning Ignored.

27:13-38 Part 3 – The Gale and Storm.

27:39-28:10 Part 4 – Shipwrecked on Malta.

28:11-16 Part 5 – Arrival at Rome.



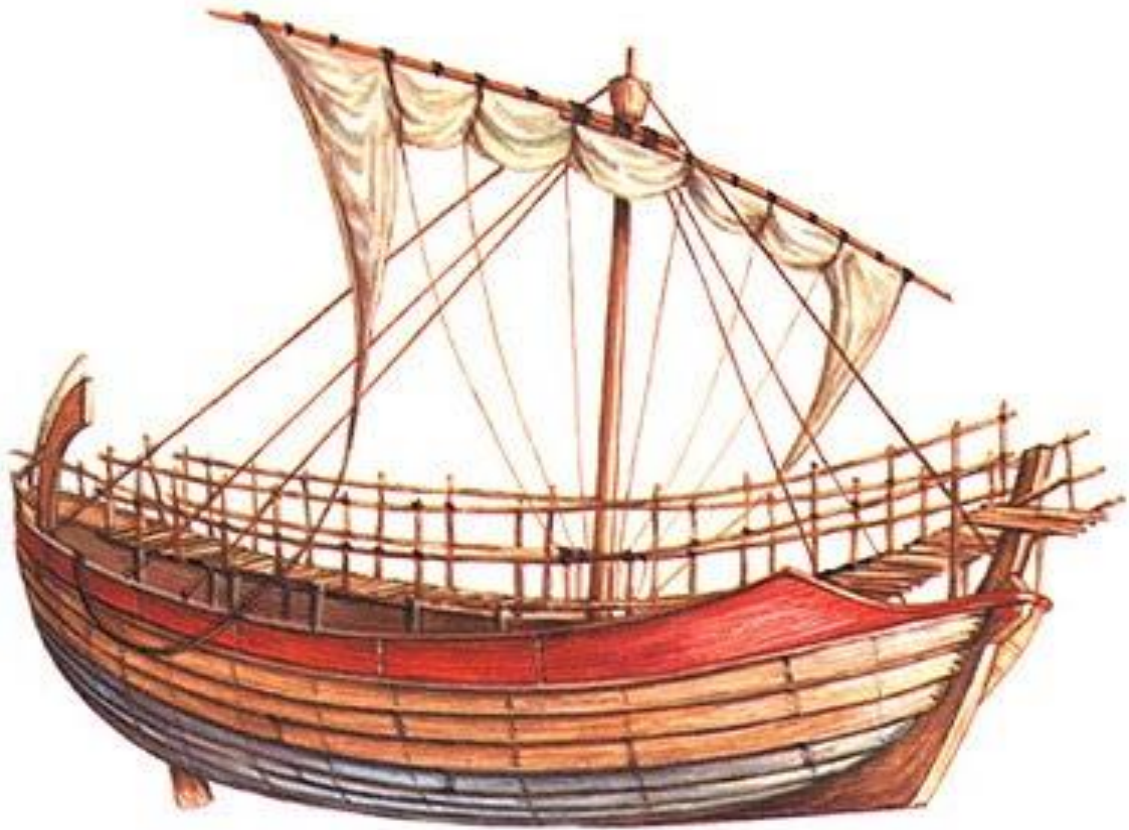
Text #1

Acts 27:6-8 *“There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board.*

⁷ When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone. ⁸ Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea.”

Alexandrian Ship – This ship is going to be vastly different to the ship they began this journey on. This is a large open ocean sailing vessel. We will see that there are two hundred and seventy-six people on this ship, as well as a large cargo of wheat.



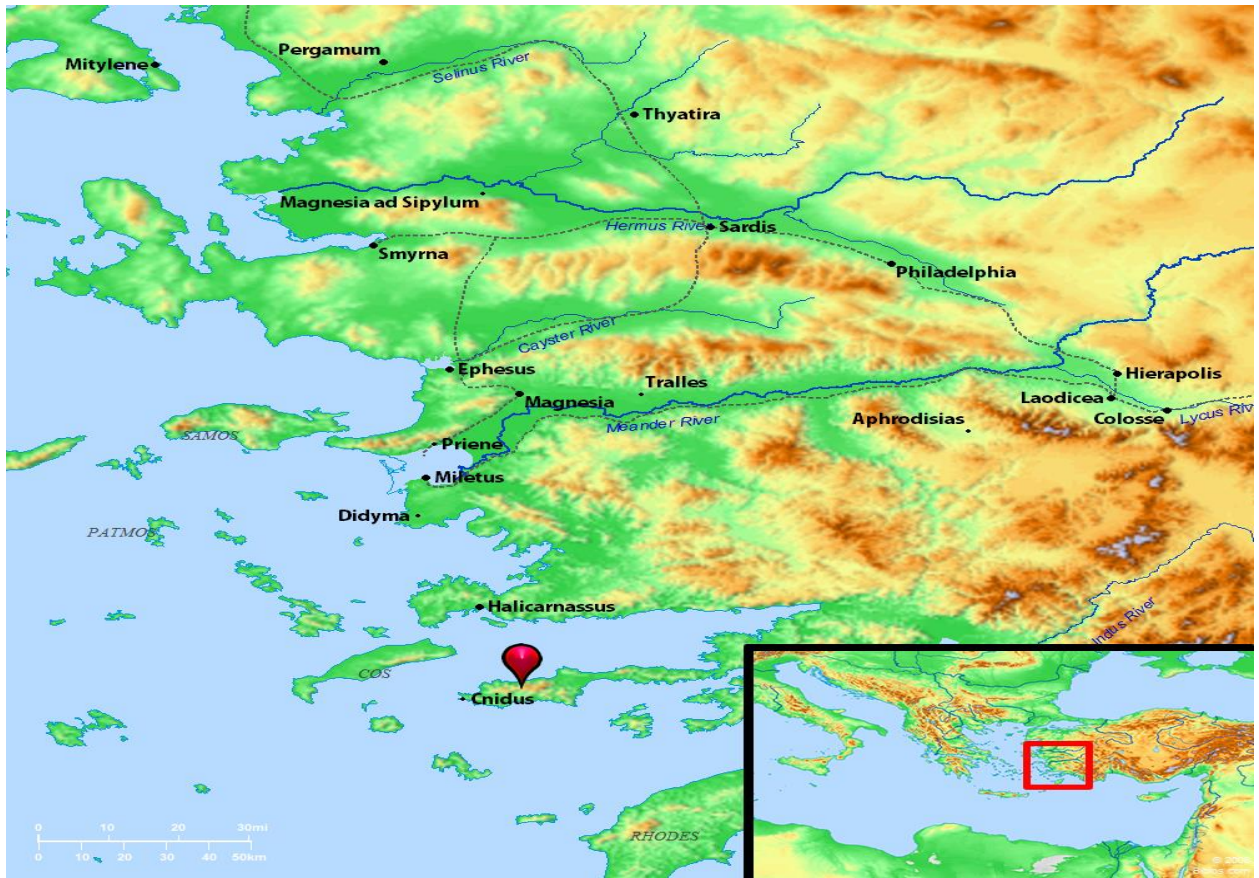




These are artist renditions of the larger ships that this next portion of the trip entails. They are fairly accurate except for scale. They would have to be far larger than this, so imagine them bigger, accompanying two hundred and seventy-six people.

By the first century BCE grain ships (corbita) with capacities of 1,300 tons could be found sailing the grain run from Alexandria to Rome. Grain was transported in sacks, and liquids in large amphorae—earthenware pots that were packed into place in the cargo hold with brushwood.

Cnidus – From Myra, they are going to take many days to travel 130 miles westward. Luke does not record the change in wind from the westerly to north-westerly, he only states the difficulty in making way against it. Cnidus is a city in Caria, at the south-west corner of Asia Minor. It had two excellent harbors and had the rank of a free city in the empire.



Fair Havens – This is a small bay five miles east of Cape Matala.

Lasea – A small seaport five miles east of Fair Havens, but the largest city on the eastern side of the island.

The winds have become so difficult on this westward journey that Paul and his troop are going to have to drop south in an attempt to make their way westward under the protection of the island of Crete. This was a common tactic when it became such a struggle against the winds.

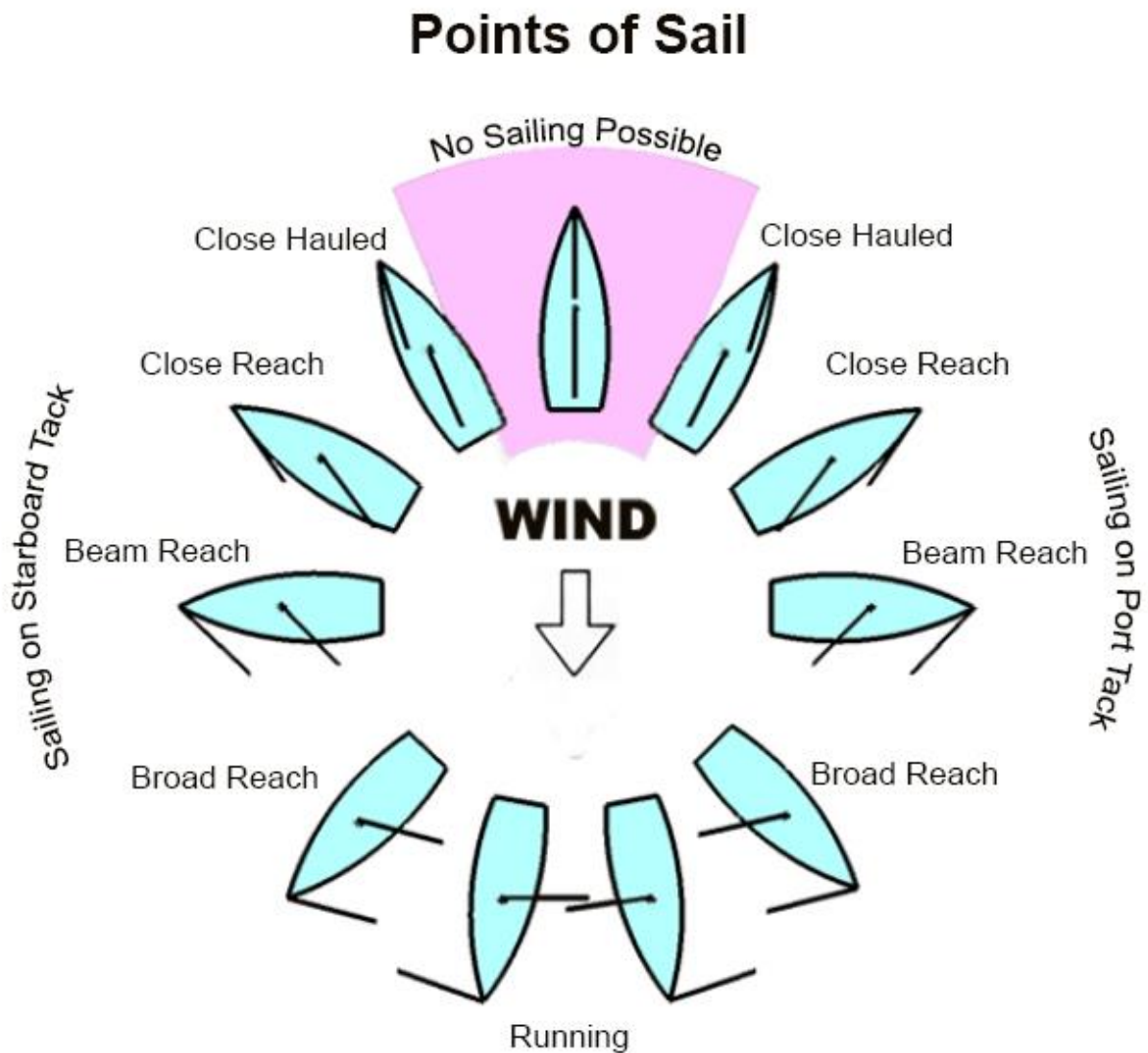


Illustration by SchoolofSailing.net