

God Travels with Paul

Paul is finally on his way to Rome to stand trial. A Centurion is guarding him during this very hard journey. Paul had warned the pilot of the boat that this was not a good time to travel. The pilot ignored his warning and began the journey to Rome.

Acts, Chapter 27, gives a blow-by-blow description of Paul's journey. We begin with Verse 39. The ship has crashed on an unknown piece of land. When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.

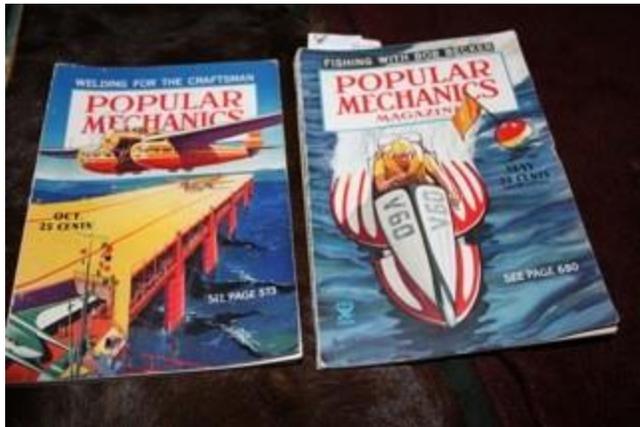


Photo: God awaits us at the end of our journey.

The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.

All of us have taken a journey in our life where we experienced danger. The danger could have been from a blizzard, cold weather, fog, or maybe we just got lost and we were unsure of our whereabouts. I remember the time I was flying and our plane was struck by lightning. That was beyond scary. Paul's trip to Rome was filled with danger. He warned the captain of the ship that this was not a good time to travel and that the sea would wreck his boat. The captain didn't listen. Because Paul knew that God wanted him to make this trip, he knew God would protect him.

God has a plan for each of us and we need to have faith that he will protect us. This faith reminds us that God will be waiting on shore for us with open arms.

Prayer: Thank you God for being there for me when I need you.