

An Anchor In The Storm

Introduction. In Acts 27:23-25, the apostle Paul was about to shipwreck. In the middle of all the fearsome tempest, he knew they would make their destination. This confidence was based on three elements found in the verses we will study.

It is common for the Bible to look back at the past in order to encouragement for the future. This is mostly done by God caring for the Israelites. We will do the same in this lesson.

I. ***God's Presence***

- A. The angel of God gave proof to Paul that God was with him in this extremely difficult time in his life. Most men would have been overcome with fear, wondering if they would lose their lives. But Paul had confidence.
- B. God gave the Israelites manna in the wilderness (Exodus 16:13-15). He was with them through the period of the judges (Judges 2:18). He did not leave them (Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:23-24).
- C. God will be with us too (Hebrews 13:5). He is our protection and provision (Genesis 15:1; Isaiah 41:10). David knew what it was like to feel his enemies advancing on him, waiting to kill him. Through it all he put his trust in God (Psalm 63:1-11).

II. ***God's Purpose***

- A. Paul specifically knew that he must continue his travels and work, even to the point of appearing before Caesar. God had a plan for him (Acts 9:15-16; 2 Corinthians 5:20).
- B. God was with the Israelites and wanted them to be a glorious nation (Exodus 19:5-6). They were God's servant to spread His knowledge throughout the earth (Isaiah 41:8-9).
- C. We have a purpose too (1 Thessalonians 5:4-8; 1 Peter 2:9). We do not have miraculous assurance like Paul, but we know that we have a purpose from God. We are not useless to Him. He wants us to work with all our might to get to heaven (Philippians 2:12-13).

III. ***God's Promise***

- A. Not only do we have God's presence, and an important purpose, but we also have the confidence that His word will be true. In one of the scariest times of his life, Paul could believe because of the surety of God's promise.
- B. One of the most renowned promises of God was the promise to never destroy the earth after the flood (Genesis 9:15-17). That promise has stood for 5,000 years.

1. It is easy to bid men "be of good cheer," but futile unless some reason for good cheer is given. In 27:10, Paul had spoken from opinion, but now he speaks with authority from God's assurance. The bold words might seem foolish to the despairing crew against the roar of the tempest and the look of their battered ship.
 2. Here the nature of faith is expressed (Hebrews 11:1). When there is a mutual relation made between it and the word of God, it will strengthen men's minds against the assaults of temptation (Luke 1:45; John 16:33; Romans 4:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:12).
- C. God's "exceeding great and precious promises" reassure us in the face of trial and temptation (2 Peter 1:4; cf. Ezra 8:22; Titus 1:1-3).

Conclusion. These three are great anchors in your life. But it is sad to know that a lot of people never get the help and comfort God provides. We need the anchor lest we drift (Hebrews 2:1-2). Jesus is the anchor of our souls (Hebrews 6:19-20).