

Chapter 27

What a dangerous nauigation he had towards Rome: and that by his prediction and counfel the ship might haue been faued. And for his fake (as God alfo reuealed to him before) al the companie was preferued, being 276. perfons.

And after it was decreed that he should faile into Italie, and that Paul with other prifoners should be deliuered to a Centurion named Iulius, of the band Augufta, ² we going vp into a fhip of Adrumetum, beginning to faile about the places of Afia, loofed from the land, Ariftarchus the Macedonian of Theffalonica continuing with vs. ³ And the day following we came to Sidon. And Iulius intreating Paul courteoufly, permitted him to goe to his freinds, and to take care of himfelf. ⁴ And when we had loofed thence we failed vnder Cypres: becaufe the winds were contrarie. ⁵ And failing the fea of Cilicia and Pamphilia, we came Myra to ‘Lyftra,’ which is in Lycia: ⁶ and there the Centurion finding a fhip of Alexandria failing into Italie, remoued vs into it. ⁷ And whereas many daies we failed flowly, and were fcarfe come ouer againft Gnidus, the wind hindering vs, we failed neere Crete by Salmone: ⁸ and with much adoe failing by it, we came into a certaine place that is called Good-hauens, nigh to the which was a citie Thalaffa.

⁹ And when much time was fpent, and whereas now it was not fafe failing, becaufe the ^a)faft now was paft, Paul comforted them, ¹⁰ faying to them: Ye men, I fee that the failing beginneth to be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and the fhip, but alfo of our liues. ¹¹ But the Centurion beleued the Gouvernour and Maifter of the fhip, more then thofe things which were faid of Paul. ¹² And whereas it was

^a It may fignifie the Iewes faft of the feuenth moneth Septēber, after which the nauigation was perilous, winter approaching.

not a commodious haven to winter in, very many taking counfel appointed to faile thence, if by any meanes they might comming to Phœnice, winter there, a haven of Crete looking toward the ^{a)}Afrike and the Chore. ¹³ And the fourth-wind blowing, they thinking that they had obtained their purpose, when they had parted from Affon, failed along by Crete. ¹⁴ But not long after, a tempeftuous wind that is called Euro-aquilo, droue againft it. ¹⁵ And when the fhip was caught and could not make way againft the wind, giuing vp the fhip to the winds, we were driuen. ¹⁶ And running vpon a certaine Iland, that is called ^{b)}Cauda, we could fcarfe get the cock-boat. ¹⁷ Which being taken vp, they vfed helps, girding the fhip, and fearing left they fhould fal into ^{c)}the Syrte, letting downe the veffel, fo were they caried. ¹⁸ And when we were mightily toffed with the tempeft, the next day they caft forth. ¹⁹ And the third day with their owne hands they threw forth the tacklings of the fhip. ²⁰ And neither funne, nor ftarres appearing for many daies, and no fmal ftorme being toward, al hope was now taken away of our fauing.

²¹ And when there had been long fafting, then Paul ftanding in the middes of them, faid: You fhould indeed, O ye men, haue heard me, and not haue parted from Crete, & haue gained this hurt and loffe. ²² And now I exhort you to be of good cheere. For there fhall be no loffe of any foule among you, but of the fhip. ²³ For ^{d)}an Angel of the God, whofe I am, and whom I ferue, ftood by me this night, ²⁴ faying: Feare not Paul, thou muft appeare before Cæfar: and behold God hath ^{d)}giuen thee al that faile with thee. ²⁵ For the which caufe be of good

ὧ λατρεύω

^a Names of windes.

^b Græc. Clauda.

^c A place of quick-fandes.

^d Paul (faith S. Hierom) had fo many foules in the fhip giuen him, that is, fo many men faued for his fake: & after he is with Chrift, fhall he shut his mouth, & not be able once to fpeake for thē that haue beleued in his Ghofpel? *Hier. ad. vigil.* Wherby he proueth that if God doe much for the merits of Saints in this life, much more at their interceffion and praier in Heauen.

cheere ye men: for I beleue God, that it fhall fo be, as it hath been faid to me. ²⁶ And we muft come vnto a certaine Iland. ²⁷ But after the fourteenth night was come on vs, as we were failing in Adria about mid-night, the fhipe-men deemed that there appeared fome countrie to them. ²⁸ Who alfo founding, found twentie fadomes: and being parted a litle from thence, they found fifteene fadomes. ²⁹ And fearing left we fhould fal into rough places, cafting out of the fterne foure ankers, they wifhed that day were come. ³⁰ But as the fhipe-men fought to fly out of the fhipe, hauing let downe the cock-boat into the fea, pretending as if they were about to caft out ankers out of the fore-part of the fhipe, ³¹ Paul faid to the Centurion and to the fouldiars: ¶ Vnles thefe tarie in the fhipe you can not be faued. ³² Then the fouldiars cut of the ropes of the cock-boat; and fuffered it to fal away.

³³ And when it began to be light, Paul defired al to take meat, faying: This day is the fourteenth day that you expect and remaine fafting, taking nothing. ³⁴ For the which caufe I defire you to take meat for your health fake: for there fhall not an haire of the head perifh of any of you. ³⁵ And when he had faid thefe things, taking bread he gaue thanks to God in the fight of them al: and when he had broken it, he began to eate. ³⁶ And being al made of better cheere, they alfo tooke meat. ³⁷ And we were in al in the fhipe, foules two hundred feuentie fix. ³⁸ And being filled with meat, they lighted the fhipe, cafting the wheat into the fea. ³⁹ And when day was come, they knew not the land: but they fpied a certaine creeke that had a fhore, into the which they minded, if they could, to caft aland the fhipe. ⁴⁰ And when they had taken vp the ankers, they committed themfelues to the fea, loofing withal the rudder bands: and hoifting vp the maine faile according as the wind blew, they went on toward the fhore. ⁴¹ And when we were fallen into a place between two feas, they graueled the fhipe: and the fore-part truly fticking faft remained vnmoueable: but the hinder-part was broken by the violence of the fea. ⁴² And the counfel of the fouldiars was, that they fhould kil the prifoners: left any fwimming

out, might runne away. ⁴³ But the Centurion willing to faue Paul, forbad it to be done: & he commanded them that could fwimme, to caft out themfelues firft, and efcape, and goe forth to land: ⁴⁴ and the reft, fome they caried on bordes, & fome vpon thofe things that were of the fhip. And fo it came to paffe, that al the foules efcaped to land.

ANNOTATIONS

23 An Angel.) S. Paul had many vifions, fpecially to affure him that he should to Rome & ftand before Cæfar, our Lord himfelf before (*23, 11.*) appearing to him, & here an Angel, for that purpofe. Whereby we plainly fee the fpecial providence of God toward that See, where his two principal Apoftles were defigned to preach, plant the faith, liue, die, be buried, and honoured til the worldes end.

Gods providēce to the See of ROME.

31 Vnles thefe tarie.) When God reuealeth to vs any thing, or affureth vs of any euent to come, he difchargeh vs not thereby of our requifit endeauours and labours for atcheiuing the fame; not executing ordinarily his difignements toward men otherwife then by their owne free-wil and actions. S. Paul faid not here: Let vs doe what we lift; worke we or fit we ftill, whether the mariners goe out or tarie within, we are al fure to be faued, for fo God hath reuealed to me, and he can not lie, neither can it fal otherwife; but contrariwife faith he: If thefe mariners leaue the fhip, you can not be faued. So fay al true Catholike Preachers to Chriftian people: What providence, predeftination, or forefight foeuer God haue of your faluation you are not thereby conftained any way; you haue free-wil ftill, and cannot be faued (though you be predeftinate) except you keep Gods commandments, repent you of your finnes, beleue, liue & die wel. And if it were reuealed to any man, that he were one of Gods elect, & that he should finally die in grace and be faued, yet he were bound to worke his faluation with feare & trembling, as S. Paul both did, and taught, left he become reprobate: no leffe then the fame Apoftle here and his fellowes, though they had their life promifed to them of God, yet were bound to labour and vfe al poffible diligence that they might not be drowned.

Gods predeftination and appointment taketh not away mans free-wil & endeauours.

1. Cor. 9, 17.
Philip. 2, 12.