

# Acts Series

## In the Middle of the Storms of Life, God is our Hope

**Acts 27:1-2<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. <sup>2</sup>We boarded a ship from Adramyttium (*add-ruh-mitti-um*) about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea.”

**Acts 27:10 (NIV)** “Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.”

**Acts 27:13-15 (NIV)** “When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. <sup>14</sup>Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. <sup>15</sup>The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.”

### God is Our Hope...

#### 1. But that does not absolve me of all consequences.

**Acts 27:21 (NIV)** “After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: ‘Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss.’”

### God is Our Hope...

#### 2. But that does not mean I lose courage.

**Acts 27:22-26 (NIV)** “But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. <sup>23</sup>Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me <sup>24</sup>and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ <sup>25</sup>So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. <sup>26</sup>Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.’”

**Acts 27:33-34 (NIV)** “Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. ‘For the last fourteen days,’ he said, ‘you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven’t eaten anything. <sup>34</sup>Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head.’”

### God is Our Hope...

#### 3. But that does not mean I keep him to myself.

**Acts 27:35-37 (NIV)** “After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. <sup>36</sup>They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. <sup>37</sup>Altogether there were 276 of us on board.”

**Acts 27:44<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “...everyone reached land safely.”