

PERSEVERING

Paul and The Sailors Persevere In The Storm

Scripture Reference: Acts 27:1-44

When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners boarded a ship, and we put out to sea.

Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous.

Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the “northeaster,” swept down from the island. The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. On the third day, they threw the ship’s tackle overboard with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: “..I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul.’ So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land.

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. 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.” 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. They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. Altogether there were 276 of us on board. When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

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. 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.

He (the Centurion...a soldier) ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety.

Use the code box to figure out what each statement says. Find the first number on the side of the box and the second number on the top of the box. Then find and circle the statement that shows the people were to be persevering.

		CODE BOX				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E	
2	F	G	H	I	K	
3	L	M	N	O	P	
4	R	S	U	V	Y	

A. " $\frac{25}{15} \frac{15}{35} \frac{43}{35} \frac{45}{34} \frac{43}{41} \frac{13}{34} \frac{43}{41} \frac{11}{22} \frac{15}{15}$ "

OR

B. " $\frac{22}{11} \frac{11}{44} \frac{15}{43} \frac{35}{11} \frac{31}{31} \frac{23}{34} \frac{35}{15} \frac{34}{21}$ "

$\frac{12}{15} \frac{24}{33} \frac{22}{42} \frac{11}{44} \frac{15}{14}$ "

Look in the Bible story to see how many people were on the boat, then answer these questions.

How many people landed safely on the land?

How many people died in the storm?

Find the way through the stormy sea (from START to FINISH) by adding up the numbers in each path on the maze. Can you find the path that will add up to the number of people who reached land safely in the storm?





