SAINT PAUL’S CAPTIVITY VOYAGE TO ROME AND
SHIPWRECK (ACTS 27-28)
NEW EVIDENCES OF THE RELATION BETWEEN
THE SACRED TEXT AND REALITY

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(Received 16 May 2003)

Abstract
Saint Paul’s journey of captivity focused the attention of many scholars in archaeology, biblical
hermeneutics and geography, because Luke the physician gives in Acts 27-28 details which were
supposed to be fake, but are in fact true. In our paper, we make a survey of the journey’s itinerary,
pointing to the biblical text and comparing it with the elder literature of trips; survey which
reveals that Luke has used information coming from an ocular witness beyond any possible
mystification.

Keywords: journey, Acts, Paul, shipwreck, wind, manoeuvre, harbour

1. Introduction

The maritime journeys were usually presented by the harbour mooring (Xenophon of Ephesus,
Narrations Ephesians); stopovers are numerous and offer opportunities of tourism.

Travelling also became widespread due to the officials who had to participate at different
inspections around the empire, having a numerous escort of civil servants with them during
these long journeys.

On the other hand, the extension of the Greek language (the koinê) and of the
Greek laws to the kingdoms of Lagides (Egypt) and of Seleucides (Syria)
prevented feeling of disorientation or the state of insecurity among the travellers.
Even more, the passing traveller could be welcomed by one of the numerous
professional or religious associations that offered accommodations and food in
return of a modest contribution.

In the recites of antique voyages we can find five types of journeys, which
are sorted according to their goal:

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