

Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 191 – July 10th – Acts 27:21-44

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Acts

Bruce, FF, *The Acts of the Apostles*, London, 2nd ed. 1952

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Stott, John R W, *The Message of Acts*, IVP (The Bible Speaks Today), Leicester, 1990

Verse 21

Πολλῆς τε ἀσιτίας ὑπαρχούσης τότε σταθεῖς ὁ Παῦλος ἐν μέσῳ αὐτῶν εἶπεν· Ἔδει μὲν, ὧ ἄνδρες, πειθαρχήσαντάς μοι μὴ ἀνάγεσθαι ἀπὸ τῆς Κρήτης κερδῆσαί τε τὴν ὕβριν ταύτην καὶ τὴν ζημίαν.

ἀσιτια, ας f lack of appetite
ὑπαρχω be (equivalent to εἰμι)

"Their abstinence from food might have been due to various reasons – difficulty of cooking, spoiling of food by sea-water, sea-sickness, etc." Bruce

τοτε then, at that time
σταθεῖς Verb, aor pass ptc, m nom s ἵστημι 2
aor stand, stand firm
μεσος, η, ον middle; ἐν μ., εἰς μ. in the
middle, among
ἔδει Verb, imperf indic, 3 s (impers) δει
impers. vb it is necessary, must, should
πειθαρχεω obey, listen to
ἀναγω lead up; midd or pass set sail

"We appreciate this human touch in Paul; he is a man of like passions with us and not above saying 'I told you so!'" Bruce
His words also serve to underline the fact that, having been proved right in what he said previously, it is worth listening to him now.

κερδαινω gain, spare oneself (a loss)
ὕβρις, εως f mistreatment, damage (of
ships)
ζημια, ας f loss

Verse 22

καὶ τὰ νῦν παραινῶ ὑμᾶς εὐθυμεῖν, ἀποβολὴ γὰρ ψυχῆς οὐδεμία ἔσται ἐξ ὑμῶν πλὴν τοῦ πλοίου·

και τα νυν and now, yet even now
παραινεω advise, urge
εὐθυμεω take courage, be happy
ἀποβολη, ης f loss, rejection
ψυχη, ης f life, 'soul', person
οὐδεις, οὐδεμια, οὐδεν no one, nothing
ἔσται Verb, fut indic, 2 s εἰμι
πλην prep with gen. except, but only,
besides

Verse 23

παρέστη γάρ μοι ταύτη τῇ νυκτὶ τοῦ θεοῦ, οὗ εἰμι, ὃ καὶ λατρεύω, ἄγγελος

παρέστη Verb, 2 aor act indic, 3 s παριστημι
stand before
νυξ, νυκτος f night
λατρευω serve, worship

Verse 24

λέγων· Μὴ φοβοῦ, Παῦλε· Καίσαρι σε δεῖ παραστῆναι, καὶ ἰδοὺ κεχάρισται σοὶ ὁ θεὸς πάντας τοὺς πλέοντας μετὰ σοῦ.

φοβεομαι fear, be afraid
σε Pronoun, acc s συ
δει v.21
παραστῆναι Verb, 2 aor act infin παριστημι
v.23
κεχάρισται Verb, perf midd/pass dep indic, 3
s χαριζομαι grant, give

Suggests Paul had been praying for the lives of these men and that his prayer had been granted.

πλεω sail

Verse 25

διὸ εὐθυμεῖτε, ἄνδρες· πιστεύω γὰρ τῷ θεῷ ὅτι οὕτως ἔσται καθ' ὃν τρόπον λελάληταί μοι.

διο therefore, for this reason
εὐθυμεω v.22

πιστεωω γαρ τω θεω 'for I trust in God' i.e. I believe what he says.

οὕτως and οὕτω thus, in this way
ἔσται Verb, fut indic, 2 s εἰμι
τροπος, ου m way, manner; ὅν τ. in the
same way as, as, like
λελάληταί Verb, perf pass indic, 3 s λαλεω
speak, talk

Verse 26

εἰς νῆσον δέ τινα δεῖ ἡμᾶς ἐκπεσεῖν.

νησος, ου f island
ἐκπεσεῖν Verb, aor act infin ἐκπιπρω fall
away, run aground (of ships)

Verse 27

Ὡς δὲ τεσσαρεσκαίδεκάτῃ νύξ ἐγένετο
διαφερομένων ἡμῶν ἐν τῷ Ἀδρία, κατὰ μέσον
τῆς νυκτὸς ὑπενόουν οἱ ναῦται προσάγειν τινὰ
αὐτοῖς χώραν.

τεσσαρεσκαίδεκατος, η, ον fourteenth
νύξ, νυκτος f night
διαφερω carry across, drive about

διαφερομένων ἡμῶν 'while we were drifting
across'

Ἀδριας, ου m Sea of Adria

Not to be confused with the modern Adriatic.

μεσος, η, ον v.21
ὑπενόουν Verb, imperf act indic, 1 s & 3 pl
ὑπονοεω suppose, think, suspect
ναυτης, ου m sailor
προσαγω come near

There are a number of variant readings for
προσαγειν including προσαχειν (B*).
Metzger's note in the *UBS Textual
Commentary* reads, "The reading of B*
προσαχειν is a Doric form (unattested
elsewhere) for the more usual Attic προσηχειν,
'to resound.' Moulton-Howard regard it as a
'very attractive reading,' and suggest that it was
'a term used by sailors from Crete, Cyprus,
Lesbos, Corinth, or some other maritime
country outside the Ionic-Attic area,' and later
used more generally as a technical term...
"On the other hand, the harshness of προσαγειν
in the context (literally, land 'was approaching'
them) may have been the occasion for the rise
of other readings."

χώρα, ας f country, land

"Ramsay ... suggests that they heard the
breakers... According to Smith ... no ship can
enter St Paul's Bay from the east without
passing within a quarter of a mile of the point
of Koura, and when she comes within this
distance (and not until then) it is impossible
not to observe the breakers, which are
particularly violent at Koura in a N.E. wind."
Bruce

Verse 28

καὶ βολίσαντες εὗρον ὀργυῖας εἴκοσι, βραχὺ δὲ
διαστήσαντες καὶ πάλιν βολίσαντες εὗρον
ὀργυῖας δεκαπέντε·

βολιζω take a sounding (for depth of water)
εὗρον Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl εὕρισκω
ὀργυια, ας f fathom (six feet)

εικοσι twenty

βραχυς, εια, υ little, short, small

διαστήσαντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl
διῆστημι pass (of time), sail farther on
παλιν again, once more

Verse 29

φοβούμενοί τε μή που κατὰ τραχεῖς τόπους
ἐκπέσωμεν ἐκ πρύμνης ῥίψαντες ἀγκύρας
τέσσαρας ἤϋχοντο ἡμέραν γενέσθαι.

πού enclitic adv somewhere; μη που lest
somewhere

τραχυς, εια, υ rough; κατα τ. τοπους on a
rocky coast

τοπος, ου m place

ἐκπέσωμεν Verb, aor act subj, 1 pl ἐκπιπτω
fall off, fall away; run aground (of ships)

πρυμνα, ης f stern

ῥίψαντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl ῥιπτω
throw, throw down, put down

ἀγκυρα, ας f anchor

τέσσαρες neut τεσσαρα gen τεσσαρων four

Anchoring from the stern was not the normal
procedure but was necessary in this case to
keep the ship facing into the shore before the
wind.

ἤϋχοντο Verb, imperf midd/pass dep indic, 3
pl εὐχομαι pray, wish, long

Verse 30

τῶν δὲ ναυτῶν ζητούντων φυγεῖν ἐκ τοῦ
πλοίου καὶ χαλασάντων τὴν σκάφην εἰς τὴν
θάλασσαν προφάσει ὡς ἐκ πῶρης ἀγκύρας
μελλόντων ἐκτείνειν,

ναυτης, ου v.27

ζητεω seek, attempt

φυγεῖν Verb, aor act infin φευγω flee, run
away from

πλοιον, ου n boat, ship

χαλαω lower, let down

σκαφη, ης f ship's boat

θαλασσα, ης f sea

προφασις, εως f false motive, pretence

πρωρα, ης f bow (of a ship)

ἀγκυρα, ας f anchor

μελλω (before an infin) be going, intend

ἐκτεινω stretch out, extend

Verse 31

εἶπεν ὁ Παῦλος τῷ ἑκατοντάρχῃ καὶ τοῖς
στρατιώταις· Ἐὰν μὴ οὗτοι μείνωσιν ἐν τῷ
πλοίῳ, ὑμεῖς σωθῆναι οὐ δύνασθε.

ἑκατονταρχης, ου m centurion

στρατιωτης, ου m soldier

εαν if

μείνωσιν Verb, aor act subj, 3 pl μενω
remain, stay

σωζω save, rescue

"For the third time in this narrative, Paul shows outstanding presence of mind. Had the sailors made good their escape, there would not have been enough skilled hands to work the ship. As it was, all they had to do was to wait for the storm to abate, and then row ashore in the dingy. But the soldiers seem to have misunderstood Paul's advice." Bruce

Verse 32

τότε ἀπέκοπαν οἱ στρατιῶται τὰ σχοινία τῆς σκάφης καὶ εἶασαν αὐτὴν ἐκπεσεῖν.

τοτε then, at that time
ἀποκοπτω cut off, cut away
σχοινιον, ου n rope
εἶασαν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl εἶω allow, permit
ἐκπεσεῖν v.29

"In doing this, the soldiers took effective means to prevent the sailors escaping, but also rendered the business of getting ashore more difficult." Bruce

Verse 33

Ἄχρι δὲ οὗ ἡμέρα ἤμελλεν γίνεσθαι παρεκάλει ὁ Παῦλος ἅπαντας μεταλαβεῖν τροφῆς λέγων· Τεσσαρεσκαίδεκάτην σήμερον ἡμέραν προσδοκῶντες ἄσιτοι διατελεῖτε, μὴθὲν προσλαβόμενοι·

ἄχρι until; ἄχρι οὐ until, when

ἄχρι normally means 'until' but here seems to mean 'when'.

ἤμελλεν Verb, imperf act indic, 3 s μελλω be going, be about
παρακαλεω exhort, encourage, urge
ἅπας, ασα, αν (alternative form of πας) all; pl everyone
μεταλαμβάνω receive, share in, take
τροφή, ης f food, nourishment
τεσσαρεσκαίδετατος, η, ον fourteenth
σήμερον today

Τεσσαρεσκαίδεκάτην σήμερον ἡμέραν an idiomatic Greek expression, 'this is the fourteenth day...'

προσδοκαω wait, wait for, expect
ἄσιτος, ον without food
διατελεω continue, go, be

ἄσιτοι διατελεῖτε 'you continue without food.'

μῆθεν equivalent to μὴδὲν nothing, not at all
προσλαβόμενοι Verb, aor midd ptc, m nom pl
προσλαμβάνομαι accept, receive; eat (food)

Verse 34

διὸ παρακαλῶ ὑμᾶς μεταλαβεῖν τροφῆς, τοῦτο γὰρ πρὸς τῆς ὑμετέρας σωτηρίας ὑπάρχει· οὐδενὸς γὰρ ὑμῶν θριξ ἀπὸ τῆς κεφαλῆς ἀπολεῖται.

διο therefore, for this reason

"The use of προς with the genitive is literary and is the one NT occurrence." Bruce

ὑμετερος, α, ον possessive adj of 2 pl your

A few MSS read ἡμετερας

σωτηρια, ας f salvation

"The taking of food was essential to their health, and the physical well-being which it would promote might play its part in saving their lives." Bruce

ὑπαρχω be (equivalent to εἰμι)
θριξ, τριχος f hair
κεφαλη, ης f head
ἀπολεῖται Verb, fut midd indic, 3 s ἀπολλυμι destroy; midd be lost, perish

Verse 35

εἶπας δὲ ταῦτα καὶ λαβὼν ἄρτον εὐχαρίστησεν τῷ θεῷ ἐνώπιον πάντων καὶ κλάσας ἤρξατο ἐσθίειν.

λαβων Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s λαμβανω
ἄρτος, ου m bread, a loaf, food
εὐχαριστεω thank, give thanks
ἐνώπιον prep with gen before, in the presence of, in front of
κλαω break (only of bread)

"We need not find a sacramental significance in Paul's act, though we are naturally reminded of the occasions when Jesus acted similarly." Bruce

ἄρχω rule, govern; midd begin
ἐσθιω and ἐσθω eat, consume

Verse 36

εὐθυμοὶ δὲ γενόμενοι πάντες καὶ αὐτοὶ προσελάβοντο τροφῆς.

εὐθυμος, ον encouraged
γενόμενοι Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m nom pl
γίνομαι
προσελάβοντο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 pl
προσλαμβάνομαι v.33

Verse 37

ἡμεθα δὲ αἱ πᾶσαι ψυχαὶ ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ διακόσια ἐβδομήκοντα ἕξ.

ψυχη, ης f life, 'soul', person
διακοσιοι, αι, α two hundred
ἐβδομηκοντα seventy
ἕξ six

The numbers are probably mentioned here because the food had to be rationed.

The reading in B and cop^{sa} ὡς ἑβδομηκοντα ἕξ 'about seventy six' probably arose from a misreading of Greek letters used to represent numbers.

Verse 38

κορεσθέντες δὲ τροφῆς ἐκούφιζον τὸ πλοῖον ἐκβαλλόμενοι τὸν σίτον εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν.

κορεσθέντες Verb, aor pass ptc, m nom pl
κορεννυμι fill; pass be full, have enough

ἐκούφιζον Verb, imperf act indic, 1 s & 3 pl
κουφιζω lighten, make weight less

ἐκβαλλω throw out, expel, cast out

σιτος, ου m grain, wheat

θάλασσα, ης f sea

Verse 39

Ὅτε δὲ ἡμέρα ἐγένετο, τὴν γῆν οὐκ ἐπεγίνωσκον, κόλπον δὲ τινα κατενόουν ἔχοντα αἰγιαλὸν εἰς ὃν ἐβουλεύοντο εἰ δύναιντο ἐξῶσαι τὸ πλοῖον.

ὅτε conj when, at which time
ἐγένετο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s γινομαι

ἐπιγινωσκω perceive, recognise

κόλπος, ου m chest, lap, bay

κατανοεω notice, observe

αἰγιαλος, ου m beach, shore

ἐβουλεύοντο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 pl
βουλομαι wish, intend, plan

δύναιντο Verb, pres midd pass dep opt, 3 pl
δυναμαι

"Classical use of opt. in historic sequence for ἔαν δυνώμεθα of direct speech." Bruce

ἐξῶσαι Verb, aor act infin ἐξῶθεω run aground (of ships)

The reading ἐκσωσαι 'to bring the ship safe to shore,' (B* C 88) apparently arose from an error in hearing.

πλοῖον, ου n boat, ship

Verse 40

καὶ τὰς ἀγκύρας περιελόντες εἶων εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν, ἅμα ἀνέντες τὰς ζευκτηρίας τῶν πηδαλίων, καὶ ἐπάραντες τὸν ἀρτέμωνα τῆ πνεύσῃ κατεῖχον εἰς τὸν αἰγιαλόν.

ἀγκυρα, ας f anchor

περιελόντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl
περιαιρω take away, remove

εἶων Verb, imperf act indic, 1 s & 3 pl εἶω
leave, let go

θάλασσα, ης f sea

ἅμα at the same time

ἀνέντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl ἀνημι
loosen, unlash

ζευκτηρια, ας f rope(s)

πηδαλιον, ου n rudder

ἐπάραντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl

ἐπαιρω raise, lift up

ἀρτεμων, ωνος m foresail

πνεω blow (of wind)

κατεχω hold fast, keep

Verse 41

περιπεσόντες δὲ εἰς τόπον διθάλασσον ἐπέκειλαν τὴν ναῦν, καὶ ἡ μὲν πῶρα ἐρείσασα ἔμεινεν ἀσάλευτος, ἡ δὲ πρύμνα ἐλύετο ὑπὸ τῆς βίας.

περιπεσόντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl
περιπιτω fall into the hands of, encounter

τοπος, ου m place

διθαλασσος, ον between the seas; τοπος δ.
sandbank, reef or cross-currents

ἐπέκειλαν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl ἐπικελλω
run aground

ναυς acc ναυ f ship

πῶρα, ης f bow (of a ship)

ἐρείσασα Verb, aor act ptc, f nom s ἐρειδω
stick fast

ἔμεινεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s μενω
remain, stay

ἀσαλευτος, ον immovable; unshakable

πρυμνα, ης f stern

λυω loose, release, set free

ἐλύετο 'began to be broken up'

βια, ας f force, violence

κ* A B omit τῶν κυματῶν (waves). Metzger, *Textual Commentary*, writes, "While it may be true, as Ropes points out, that 'the curtness of ὑπο τῆς βίας led to various expansions,' it is also true that the penchant of Alexandrian scribes for brevity of expression may account for the deletion of τῶν κυματῶν."

Verse 42

τῶν δὲ στρατιωτῶν βουλή ἐγένετο ἵνα τοὺς δεσμώτας ἀποκτείνωσιν, μὴ τις ἐκκολυβήσας διαφύγῃ.

στρατιωτης, ου m soldier

βουλη, ης f purpose, intention, plan

ἐγένετο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s γινομαι

δεσμοτης, ου m prisoner

ἀποκτεινω kill, put to death

ἐκκολυβήσας Verb, aor act ptc, m acc pl

ἐκκολυβαω swim away

διαφύγῃ Verb, aor act opt, 3 s διαφευγω
escape

"The concern of the soldiers that the prisoners might escape is understandable... Roman law held guards personally responsible for their charges, and those who allowed prisoners to escape could pay with their own lives (cf. 12:19)." Polhill.

Verse 43

ὁ δὲ ἑκατοντάρχης βουλόμενος διασῶσαι τὸν
 Παῦλον ἐκώλυσεν αὐτοὺς τοῦ βουλήματος,
 ἐκέλευσέν τε τοὺς δυναμένους κολυμβᾶν
 ἀπορίψαντας πρώτους ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν ἐξιέναι,

ἑκατονταρχης, ου m centurion

βουλομαι see v.39

διασῶσαι Verb, aor act infin διασωζω bring
 safely through, rescue

κωλυω hinder, prevent, forbid

βουλημα, τος n purpose, intention

κελευω order, command

κολυμβω swim

ἀπορίψαντας Verb, aor act ptc, m acc pl

ἀποριπτω leap off, jump overboard

πρωτος, η, ον first

ἐξιέναι Verb, pres infin ἐξιμι leave, head
 for

Verse 44

καὶ τοὺς λοιποὺς οὓς μὲν ἐπὶ σανίσιν οὓς δὲ
 ἐπὶ τινῶν τῶν ἀπὸ τοῦ πλοίου· καὶ οὕτως
 ἐγένετο πάντα διασωθῆναι ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν.

λοιπος, η, ον rest, remaining, other

σανις, ιδος f board, plank

ἐπὶ τινῶν τῶν ἀπὸ τοῦ πλοίου "'on some of the
 things from the ship'; or, conceivably, 'on some
 of the (people) from the ship', i.e. on the backs
 of the crew. Observe that τινῶν is gen., while
 σανισιν is dat.'" Bruce

οὕτως thus, in this way

ἐγένετο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s γινομαι

διασωθῆναι Verb, aor pass infin διασωζω

see v.43