

Theme: It is God’s intention that blessing will flow to the nations through the life and ministry of the followers of Christ – because His servants are *never* without hope.

Introduction & Background:

- Shipwrecks – you know for a *long time* that you are in trouble!
- Traveling late in the season on an Egyptian freighter with 276 passengers.

I. Storm Driven Lives – How Hope Is Lost

A. Ignoring the Warnings! (10)

1. Paul’s warning.
 - Great loss is in store for *us*.
 - Why believe Paul?
2. Weighing anchor.
 - Looking for a better offer.

B. Driven Along by the storm. (15)

1. Caught in the storm
2. Desperate Measures

C. **All Hope is Lost!** (20)

- the inevitable result of a life that is carried along by the storms.

II. Life Amidst the Storms – How *Real* Hope Sustains (21-23)

The “anchors” of real hope?

A. God’s *Presence* (Hebrews 13:5; John 14:16)

- The appearance of the Angel of the Lord

B. God’s Covenant *Promise*

- “To whom I belong and whom I worship”
- “I will be your God and you will be my people”
(Exodus 6:7; Jeremiah 32:38; Ezekiel 36:28)

C. God’s Glorious *Purpose* – you must stand before Caesar!

1. Not promise of smooth sailing to get there.
2. Just promise that he will take him there
 - peace in the storm - v.24 “Do not be afraid”

III. Calming the Storms – How Hope is Found

A. Bringing Hope in the Storm. God uses Paul to bring hope to the hopeless!

1. “Take Heart” (22, 25)

- They are not lost!
- They may not have faith in God – *But Paul Does!* v.25

2. Deliverance Promised

- Answer to his prayers??
- They must stay together (31)

3. Eat! Take nourishment. (33,34)

- Paul gave thanks and ate.

B. Bringing Hope to the Nations

1. Deliverance Accomplished

2. A Picture of Deliverance!

- a. Grace by association
- b. Apostle to the Gentiles
 - Grace of God being extended to whole world

IV. In The Storms of Life Today

1. Will the unbelieving world be blessed because they knew us? Will we be an instrument of blessing, grace, mercy to them?
2. Do you have the same peace, faith, hope-filled strength that Paul had? Assured of: His Presence! His Promise! His Purpose!
3. God’s Promise is not “Smooth sailing” - it is “I will be with you!” Trials may very well mean we’re on the right path! (Matthew 14:22-33)
4. Grace by Association?
 - in our families?
 - In our communities?
 - In our culture?