

1. Open the Word of Truth to Acts 27:43. We are studying Paul's journey to Rome. Before we continue our Bible Study, you may want to take advantage of God's protocol for fellowship by silently naming your sins to God as we pray.
2. Last week I taught Acts 27:42 and when time expired we were about to begin the exegesis of Acts 27:43.
3. Before we start that analysis, I want us to take a look at a map of the journey to Rome and then review our expanded translation of Acts 27:39-42.

Expanded Translation

Acts 27:39 At morning's light they were able to see land, the name of which they did not know, but though they knew not the name of the island they did notice that the island had a small bay with what appeared to be a sandy beach; after conferring with his crew, the helmsman decided the best course of action was to guide the ship into the middle of the bay and onto the beach.

Acts 27:40 And after casting off the anchors there was no turning back, the ship was now at the mercy of the wind; at the same time the pilot ordered the loosing of the ropes holding the rudders in hopes of being able to somehow navigate the vessel; the pilot also ordered the foresail to be hoisted to the wind and then they made for the bay area and the sandy beach.

Acts 27:41 But unfortunately they encountered a sandbar where the ship ran aground; the prow of the ship became lodged--immovable; and though the crew did everything possible to dislodge the vessel, the bow remained firmly stuck while the aft section of the vessel was soon torn-apart by the violence of the waves.

Acts 27:42 The Roman guards decided they should execute Paul, and the other prisoners, they were fearful that some of them might swim away and escape;

4. And now for Acts 27:43 where Luke tells us how the Centurion intervened on behalf of Paul and the other prisoners.

KJV-Sentence continues

Acts 27:43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

NIV

Acts 27:43 But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land.

Introduction

1. The soldiers guarding the prisoners wished to follow the traditional Roman discipline and kill their charges rather than risk their escape.
2. But the centurion, who had become favorably disposed toward Paul ordered his men to stand down.
3. The centurion instead ordered those who could swim to enter the water and swim to shore. The rest he orders to get into the water, grab a plank and float to shore. Acts 27:44

Acts 27:44 The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety.

4. Now let's see what we can learn from the Greek of Acts 27:43.

KJV-Sentence continues

Acts 27:43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

BUT THE CENTURION, δε ο εκατοναρχης,

1. **De Ho Hekatonarches** is well translated "but the centurion, ..."
2. **De** is a conjunction used as an adversative followed by the monadic noun **Hekatonarches** declined as a nominative singular.
3. Vines in his Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words writes of **Hekatonarchos**: "**Hekatonarchos**, 'a centurion,' denotes a military officer commanding from 50 to 100 men."
 - 3.1 The size of the organization being commanded varied depending on the mission assigned. **Hekaton**, means "a hundred," and **Archo**, means "to rule," thus the compound **Hekatonarchos**.
 - 3.2 **Hekatonarches** has the same meaning as **Hekatonarchos**, Acts 10:1, and 22.

Acts 10:1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a **centurion** in what was known as the Italian Regiment.

Acts 10:2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

Acts 10:3 One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

Acts 10:4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel

answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

Acts 10:5 Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter.

Acts 10:21 Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?"

Acts 10:22 The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the **centurion**. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to have you come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say."

3.3 A legion was the principle unit of the Roman army. Usually a legion consisted of 3000 to 6000 soldiers with cavalry. There were 10 divisions or cohorts in a legion. Over each division was a centurion. The table of organization varied both with time and mission.

3.3.1 For example there were several centurions at Jerusalem under a chief captain. Acts 21:31."

Acts 21:31 And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain (**Chiliarchos**) of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

Acts 21:32 Who immediately took soldiers and **centurions**, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain (**Chiliarchos**) and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul.

Acts 22:25 And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the **centurion** that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?

Acts 22:26 When the **centurion** heard that, he went and told the chief captain (**Chiliarchos**), saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman.

Acts 23:17 Then Paul called one of the **centurions** unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain (**Chiliarchos**): for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

4. **Hekatonarchos/Hekatonarches** can be found several other places in the New Testament where each is always translated "centurion." For example:

Mat 8:5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a **centurion** came to him, asking for help.

Mat 8:6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering."

Mat 8:7 Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him."

Mat 8:8 The **centurion** replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

Mat 27:54 Now when the **centurion**, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

Mar 15:39 And when the **centurion**, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried

out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

Mar 15:44 And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the **centurion**, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

Mar 15:45 And when he knew it of the **centurion**, he gave the body to Joseph.

Acts 23:23 And he called unto him *two centurions*, saying, Make ready *two hundred soldiers* to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night;

Acts 24:23 And Felix commanded a **centurion** to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him.

Acts 27:1 And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a **centurion** of Augustus' band.

Acts 27:6 And there the **centurion** found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein.

Acts 27:11 Nevertheless the **centurion** believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul.

Acts 27:31 Paul said to the **centurion** and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

Acts 28:16 And when we came to Rome, the **centurion** delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

CHARTS MILITARY ILLUSTRATIONS

WILLING βουλευομαι

1. **Bouleuomai** is better "was desirous ..." or "decided it would be best ..."
2. **Bouleuomai** is a verb parsed as a present active participle.
3. Vines writes of the verb **Bouleuomai**, and I shall paraphrase:
3.1 **Boulomai** is rendered "(if) Thou be willing" in Luk 22:42; and "wishing" in 2Pe 3:9,

Luk 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be "**willing**," remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Luk 22:43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering toward us, not "**willing**" that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

3.2 **Boulomai** usually expresses the deliberate exercise of volition ..."

Mat 11:27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son "**will**" reveal him.

Jam 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore "**will**" be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Jam 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

Jam 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

3.3 A related word is **Bouleuomai** meaning essentially the same. For example:

Acts 27:39 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they "**were minded**," if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.

4. Let's see what we have so far by way of an expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

Acts 27:43 but the centurion decided it would be best ...

End Lesson Taught 8-30-09