



A TRIUMPHAL ARRIVAL

Slide 1

We find **Slide 2** the apostle Paul who has traveled **Slide 3** thousands of kilometers to announce the Gospel. He went to **Slide 4** Syria, **Slide 5** Turkey, **Slide 6** Greece, and now wicked men had him **Slide 7** jailed. They want to sentence him to death. Paul, who is a Jew but also a roman citizen **Slide 8** asks to be tried by the Emperor of Rome. Do you know who this Emperor is? **Slide 9** It is Nero! You've certainly heard of Nero. **Slide 10** Roman soldiers will lead the prisoner Paul to Rome. We will discover **Slide 11** some stages of this long and very perilous journey from Palestine to Italy. You will find this story **Slide 12** in the Book of Acts of the Apostles in chapter 27. And the question of the day: **Slide 13** How could this shipwreck have been avoided?

Slide 14 HOW COULD THIS SHIPWRECK HAVE BEEN AVOIDED?

Paul and **Slide 15** the other prisoners are entrusted to Julius, an officer of the Imperial Guard.

Slide 16 - We're heading for Italy! He tells them.

Slide 17 They set off on a big sailing ship, loaded with all kinds of goods. With the crew there are two hundred and seventy-six people on board. **Slide 18** The navigation is very slow because the winds are contrary. The sailors climb with agility up the tall masts. They fold and unfold its immense sails. They pull on the ropes and regularly probe the water depth. Finally, after much difficulty, **Slide 19** they approach the island of Crete and land in a place called Beaux-Ports.

Slide 20 - We must go further and find a place to shelter, the pilot says, because these strong winds prevent us from moving forward.

The trip has been longer than expected, winter will be here soon. **Slide 21** Paul warns them of a danger that threatens them.

Slide 22 - Listen to me, my friends. I see that navigation will not be done without danger, for the cargo and the ship but also for our lives. You must stay here.

The warning is given but will they listen? Discussions are lively.

Slide 23 - We don't want to stay here for the winter. The port of Phoenix is more pleasant, let's go!

Slide 24 - Yes, let's go, it's not far and we are used to sailing in any weather. We risk nothing, it's not this prisoner who's going to tell us what to do!

Finally, the decision is made.

Slide 25 - Everyone at his post! The pilot says .Let's weigh anchor! We will sail along the coast **Slide 26** to Phoenix.

Julius decides to listen to him rather than Paul.

Slide 27 A light wind has just picked up. **Slide 28** It's pushing the ship in the right direction.

Slide 29 Everything is fine. They can already imagine themselves in Phoenix.

But suddenly, the weather **Slide 30** changes. A violent whirlwinds are blowing hard. A kind of typhoon coming down from the mountains to the sea. The ship is out of control. It is drifting away further and further from the shore. **Slide 31** All night long it is violently beaten by powerful waves.

The next morning, **Slide 32** the storm is still raging.

Slide 33 - Throw the cargo into the sea! Orders the pilot. We have to lighten the ship.

Slide 34 They throw all the goods overboard. On the third day, **Slide 35** they throw in the lifting gear the, sails, the masts, the ropes. The big ship is like a nutshell lost in the middle of this raging sea. They no longer know if it is day or night. Neither the light of day nor the stars can be seen. They have lost all landmarks. **Slide 36** Men are desperate.

Slide 37 How long do they have left to live? Every moment the boat is going to capsize and they will all perish. Paul is very upset about this dramatic situation. He prays God to help them.

One morning, he addresses the whole crew:

Slide 38 - My friends! You would have done better to listen to me and not to leave Beaux-Ports. You would have avoided all these difficulties and losses. **Slide 39** But take heart, I tell you no one of you will perish. Only the boat will be lost.

The Men hear what Paul says but can **Slide 40** they believe it? **Slide 41** They know well that they are lost. Paul continues:

Slide 42 - That night, an angel of God appeared to me. He said to me, "Paul! Do not be scared! You won't die because you must appear before the Emperor and **Slide 43** all the men, who are with you, will be saved". So listen to me! Take heart, my friends! Everything

will happen as I was told. We will be stranded on an island.

Slide 44 In the middle of the fourteenth night, the sailors throw the sounding line:

Slide 45 - The sea is shallower! We are definitely approaching an island!

- The boat is in danger of crashing into a reef. **Slide 46** Drop the anchors! Orders the pilot.

Some sailors put **Slide 47** the lifeboat into the sea, they want to leave the ship in secret.

Slide 48 Paul warns Julius:

- If these men do not stay in the ship, you are lost!

Without hesitation, the soldiers **Slide 49** cut the ropes of the canoe which falls into **Slide 50** the sea. Then, Paul encourages everyone:

Slide 51 - My friends, it's been fourteen days since you ate something. Now you have to take strength, you are going to need it. We have to eat.

Slide 52 He takes bread, **Slide 53** thanks God and begins to eat. So these exhausted men emaciated, regain courage and begin to eat. Their strength is returning.

Slide 54 When day breaks, they see a bay with a beach.

Slide 55 - We don't recognize the place, the pilot says, but let's try to approach it.

Slide 56 But the ship violently collided into a tongue of land and comes to a complete stop. Under the force of the waves it breaks.

Slide 57 - Let all those who can swim jump into the water first to reach dry land, Julius says.

As for the rest of you, clutch to some planks or some piece of ship wreckage.

And what God said comes true. **Slide 58** They all make it to the shore unharmed.

Slide 59 They are on the island of Malta. The inhabitants welcome them with a lot of kindness and **Slide 60** Paul announces the love of God and of Jesus.

Much later, **Slide 61** he will appear before the Emperor.

Slide 62 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

Slide 63 *We're going to answer our question. He asked us how this shipwreck could have been avoided. Did you find?* **Slide 64** *Listening to Paul's warnings and staying in Beaux Ports.*

Slide 65 *Believe* **Slide 66** *and heed what God tells us* **Slide 67** *is the best thing we can do, you and me. If we do the opposite of what He tells us, what happens?* **Slide 68** *We suffer the consequences. Fortunately the Lord is good and patient with us. Often* **Slide 69** *He comes to our aid, He helps us and we learn to to know Him better and to trust Him more.*

Slide 70 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

Faced with the decision to be made, these men relied on their knowledge, their experience, their abilities while seeking the satisfaction of their desires, their personal interests. They preferred to take their destiny into their own hands rather than trust God who knows all things. This story challenges us and Slide 71 teaches us about the behaviors of human beings but also on the Love of God who always seeks the good of men.

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