

Study Guide The Chaos You Encounter Acts 27:1-44

These world events are prophesied and predictable. It is chaos for the unbeliever and can be worrisome for the believer if our hope is on any government or individual other than Jesus Christ. Ref: Romans 8:38,39

Our Lord Jesus loved us so much that he died for us and is coming soon for His church. We don't know the day or the hour, but we know that He is coming for us. That's our blessing and our future.

What do you do when it seems like the world comes crashing down upon you? _____

Today we'll talk about confronting a different kind of chaos. I'm talking about the chaos we encounter that is not of our doing, but is a result of this crazy, mixed-up, fallen world in which we live.

This chaos in Paul's life was the result of the f_____ world in which Paul lived, and a g_____ hostile to the teachings of Jesus Christ. As is _____.

Three general truths that you need to keep in mind.

1. The chaos will never f___ itself. Neither can you count on others to do it for you.

The second law of thermodynamics is about the inevitability of entropy — that things go from order to disorder. Our problems certainly fit into this category: left unattended they go from bad to w_____.

There are three phrases in this part of the story that jump out at you.

9 Much time had been lost.

Isn't that what chaos does? It's the ultimate time-killer. Until you find a way to confront the chaos, you just keep losing time.

15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.

How many times have we been in the same situation? We just give up and give way to the problem, and let it drive us along — too tired to fight back, too discouraged to resist, we just let the situation drive us along.

12 Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on...

There are certain situations — especially crisis situations — when the majority is the *last* group you want to listen to. The hive-mind mentality of the majority rarely moves you in the direction of wise decision-making.

2. Acknowledge that God is in c_____ of even the most out-of-control situations.

God is not the author of chaos. He is the *r*_____ of chaos. God is not the author of disorder or destruction. He is the redeemer of disorder and destruction.

God did not create the chaos in the Louisiana and Florida and the Caribbean. But he is there — in the presence of his people — to redeem the situation.

The best thing you can do in the midst of an out-of-control situation is to acknowledge that — above and beyond everything else — God is still in control. Ref: Acts 27:35

His being in control doesn't mean that we will never face hard times or that we will never encounter chaos. It means that, in spite of the disorder all around us... Ref: Isaiah 59:1

God is in control of even the most out-of-control situations. If you want to learn to keep your head about you — if you want to learn to stand strong — remind yourself of this truth every day of your life, every moment of every day.

3. Take charge w_____ and whenever you can take charge.

Based on what takes place in this story, here are three things I would advise you to do.

- First, I encourage you to take care of yourself. (V33)**
- Second, I encourage you to lighten your load (V38)**
- Third, I encourage you to get ready to do your part. (V41)**

God can get you through any chaotic situation — and you can be sure that he will, because you are i_____ until your work on earth is done — but you can also be sure that, in order to get through the chaos, you're going to have some skin in the game.

