

Acts.



After Acts...

August

WITH JESUS

MATTHEW 11

Sept-Nov

THE UPPER ROOM

JOHN 13-17

December

ADVENT

GOSPELS



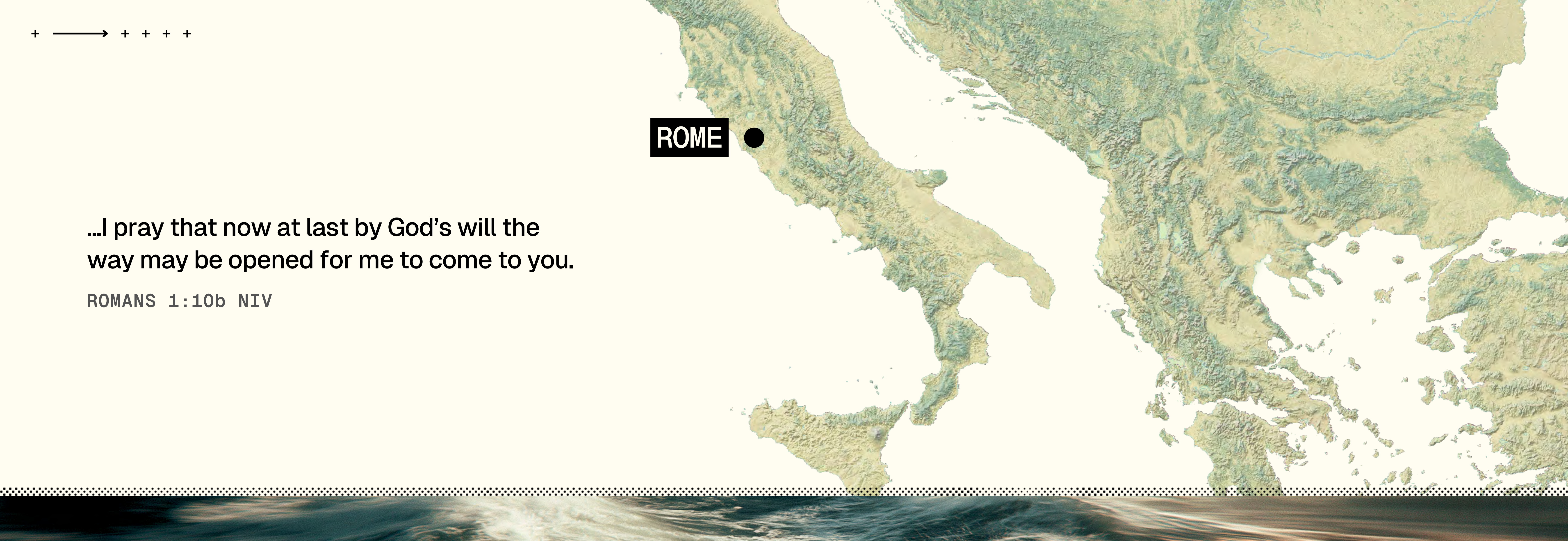


ROME



...I pray that now at last by God's will the
way may be opened for me to come to you.

ROMANS 1:10b NIV





Paul's Trials

ARREST
CH. 21

JEWISH CROWD
CH. 22

SANHEDRIN
CH. 23

FELIX
CH. 24

FESTUS
CH. 25

AGRIPPA
CH. 26



If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. **I appeal to Caesar.**¹² Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, **“To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”**

ACTS 25:11-12 ESV



When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment.

ACTS 27:1 NIV



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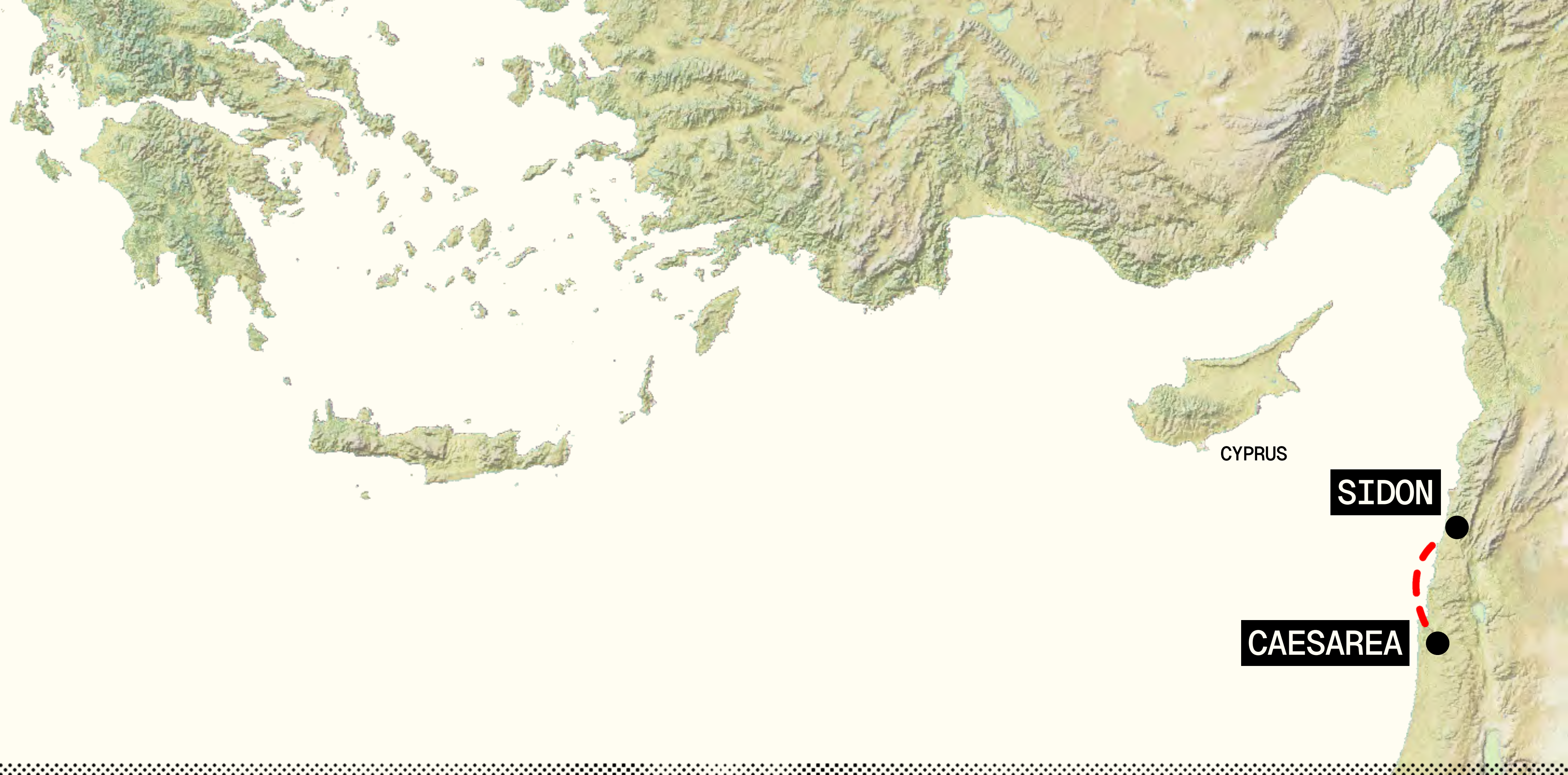
ACTS 27:1 NIV



Smooth Sailing

We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us. ³ The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs.

ACTS 27:2-3 NIV



Ship Change

From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us.⁵ When we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.⁶ There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board.

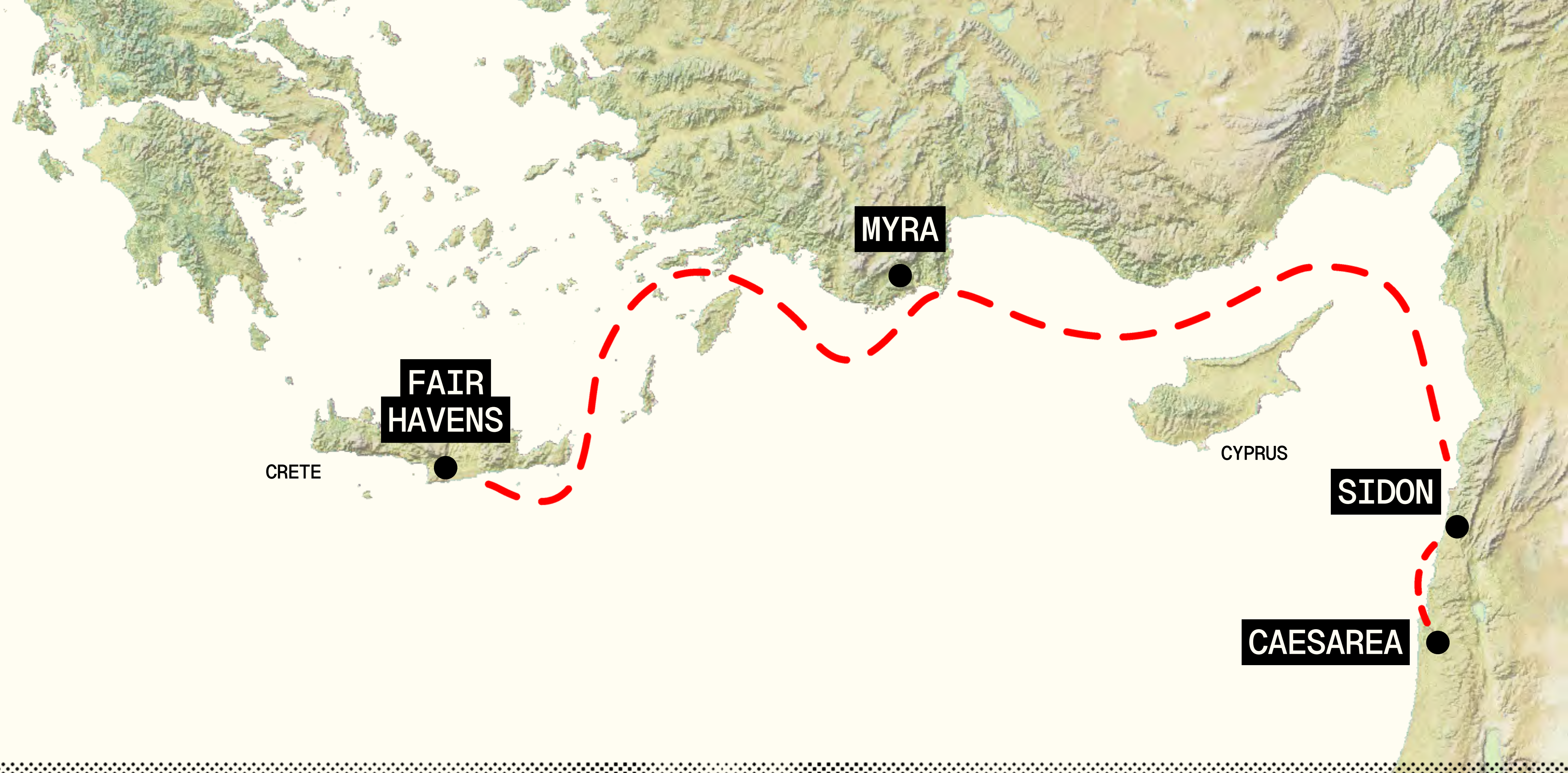
ACTS 27:4-6 NIV



Rough Conditions

We made **slow headway** for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone. ⁸ We **moved along the coast with difficulty** and came to a place called **Fair Havens**, near the town of Lasea.

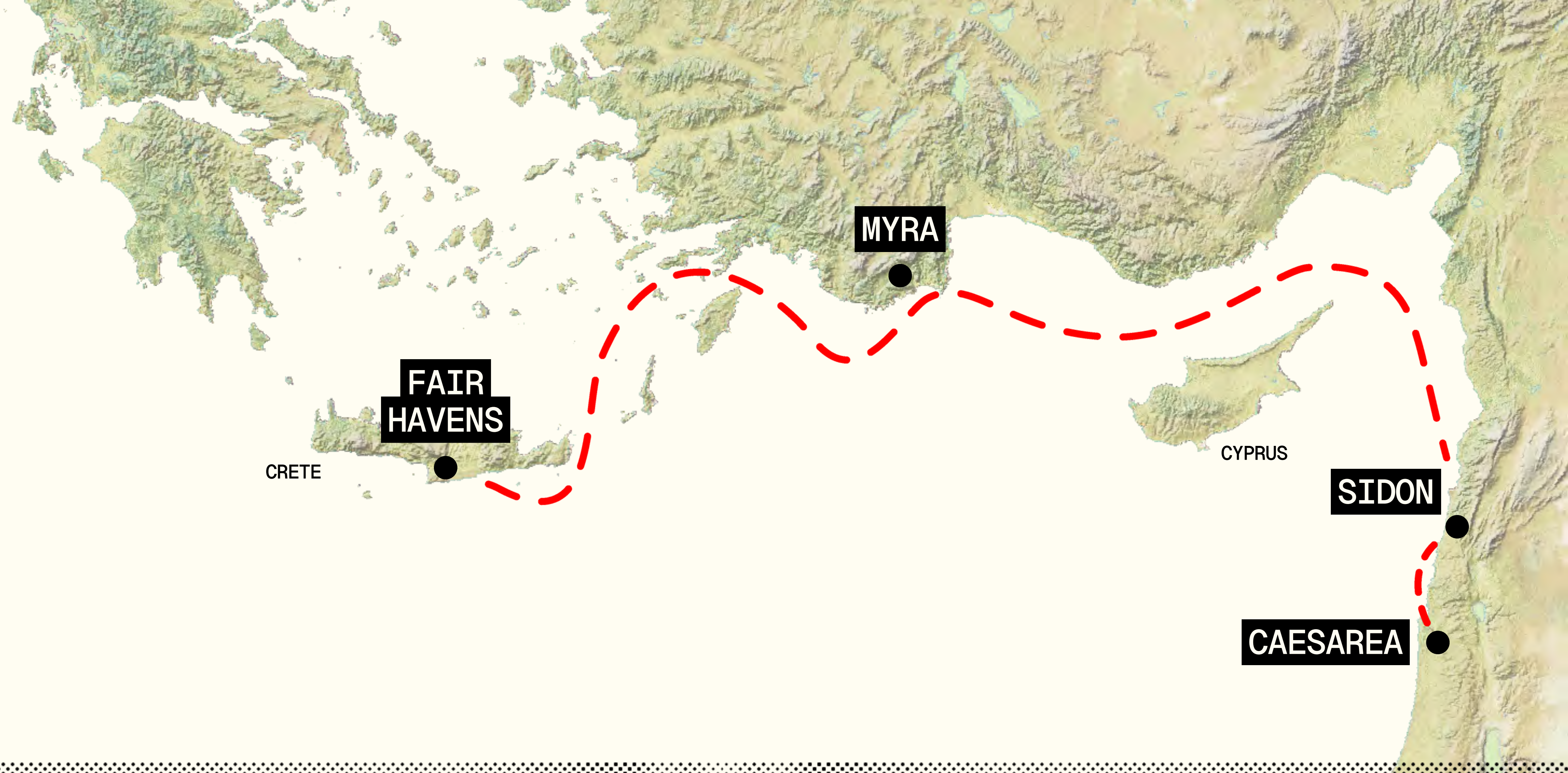
ACTS 27:7-8 NIV



Paul's Plea

Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Day of Atonement. So Paul warned them,
¹⁰ “Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.”

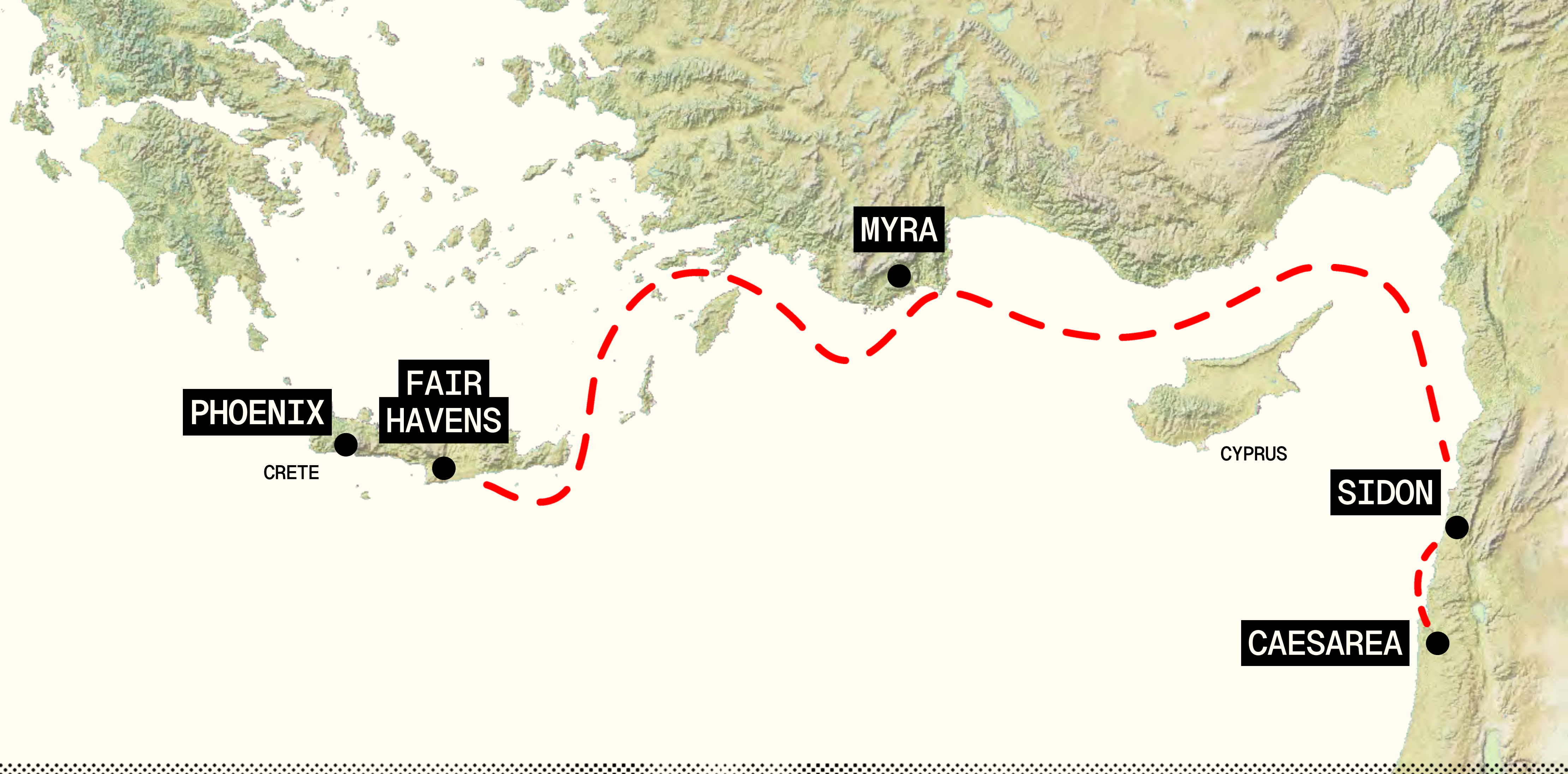
ACTS 27:9-10 NIV



Outranked & Outvoted

But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship.¹² Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.

ACTS 27:11-12 NIV



The Northeaster

When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete.¹⁴ Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the **Northeaster**, swept down from the island.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.**

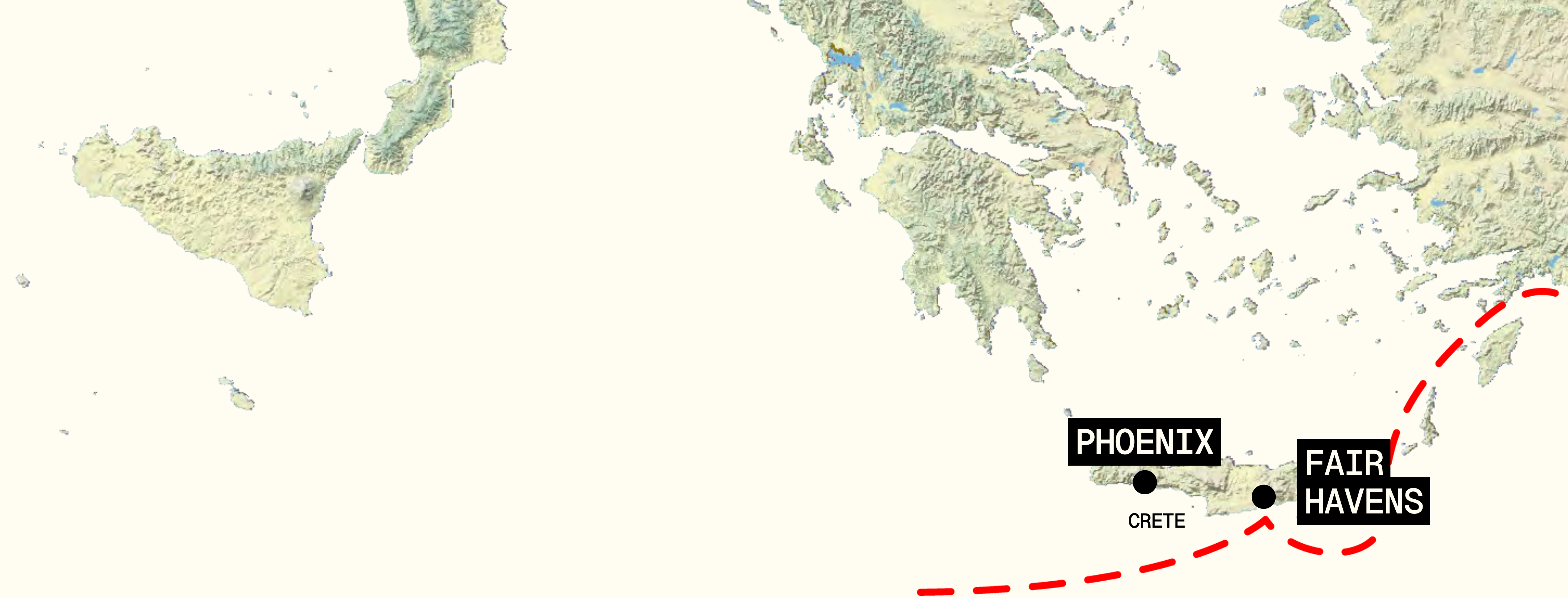
ACTS 27:13-15 NIV



Survival Mode

As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure,¹⁷ so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along.¹⁸ We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard.¹⁹ On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

ACTS 27:16-19 NIV

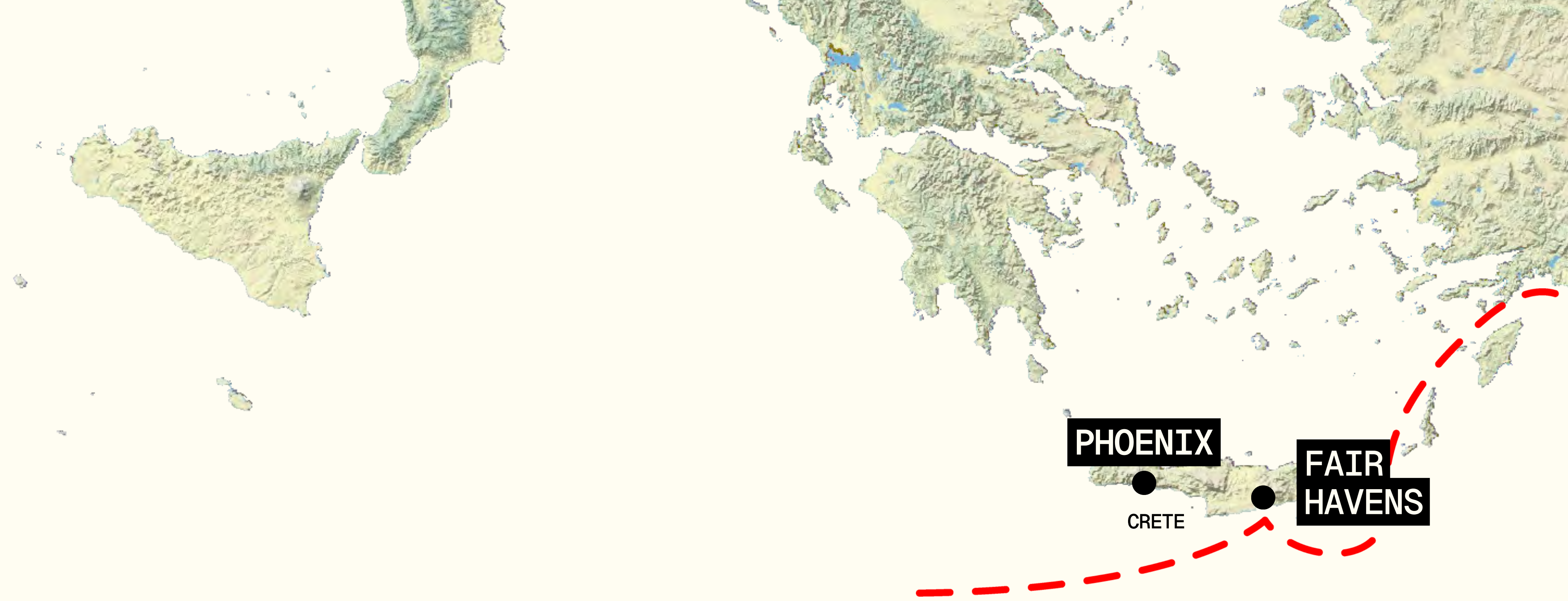


No Hope

When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

²¹ After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: “Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. ²² But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.”

ACTS 27:20-22 NIV

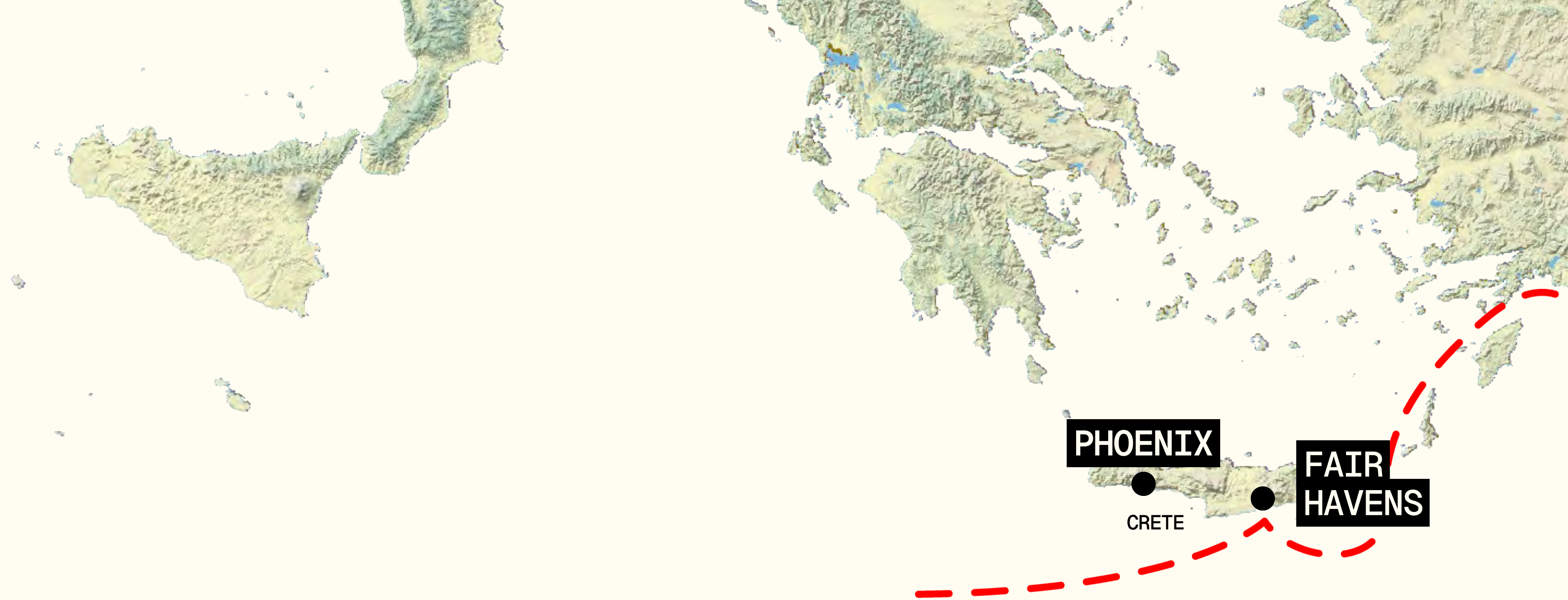


~~No Hope~~ Paul's Hope

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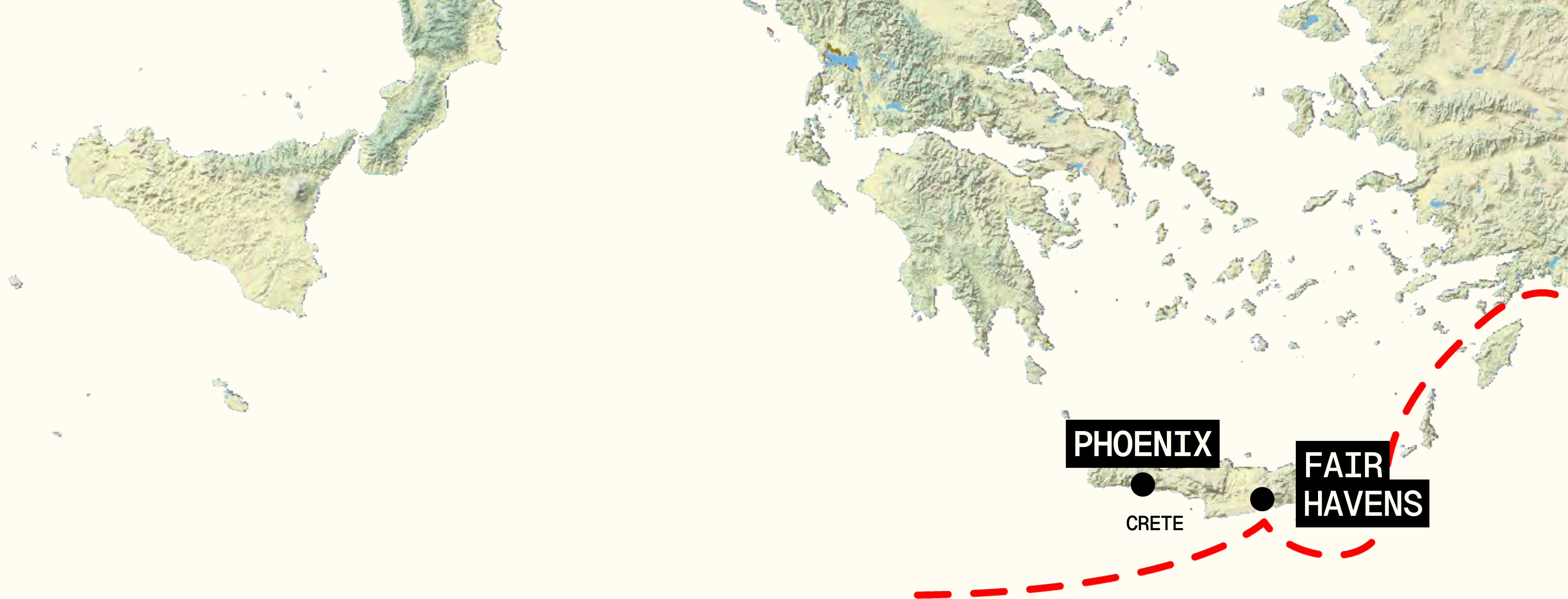
ACTS 27:20-22 NIV



The Promise

Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me ²⁴ and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ ²⁵ So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. ²⁶ Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

ACTS 27:23-26 NIV



Land Approaching

On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land.²⁸ They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep.²⁹ Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight.

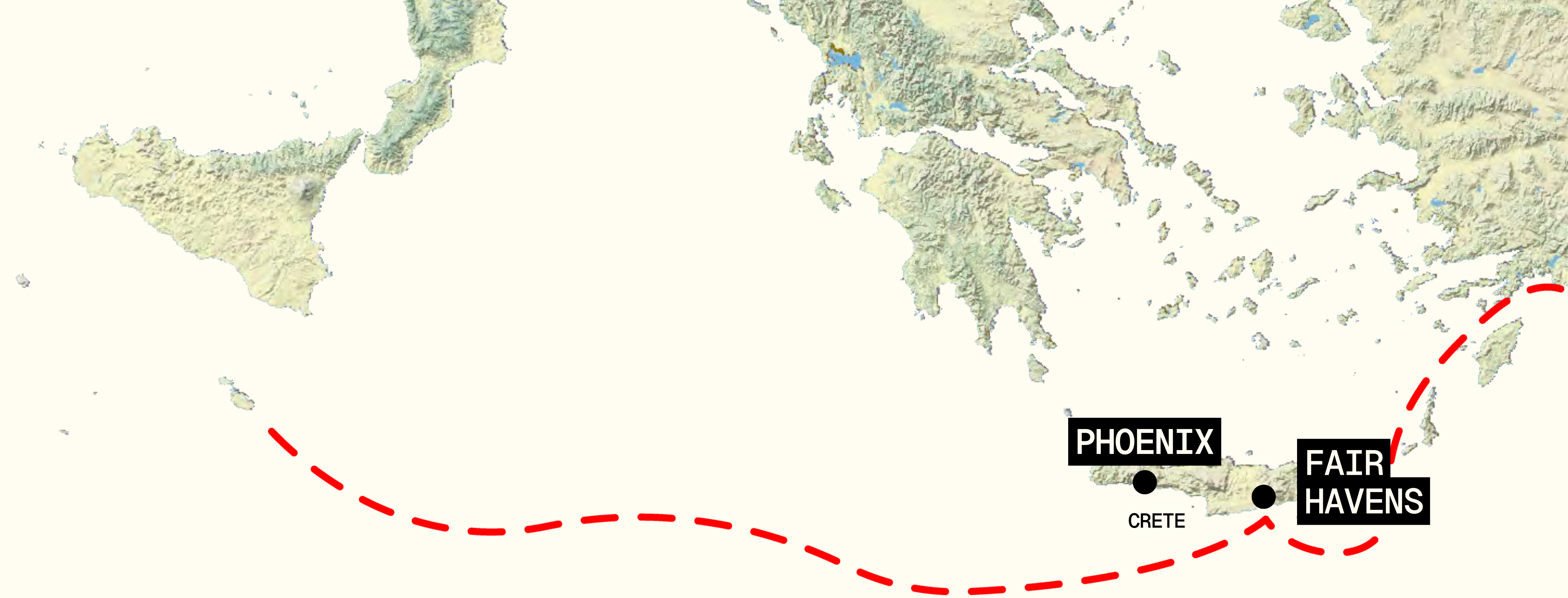
ACTS 27:27-29 NIV



Sailors' Plot Foiled

In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow.³¹ Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved.”³² So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away.

ACTS 27:30-32 NIV



The Final Meal

Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. “For the last fourteen days,” he said, “you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven’t eaten anything.”³⁴ Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head.”³⁵ After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat.³⁶ They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.³⁷ Altogether there were 276 of us on board.³⁸ When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

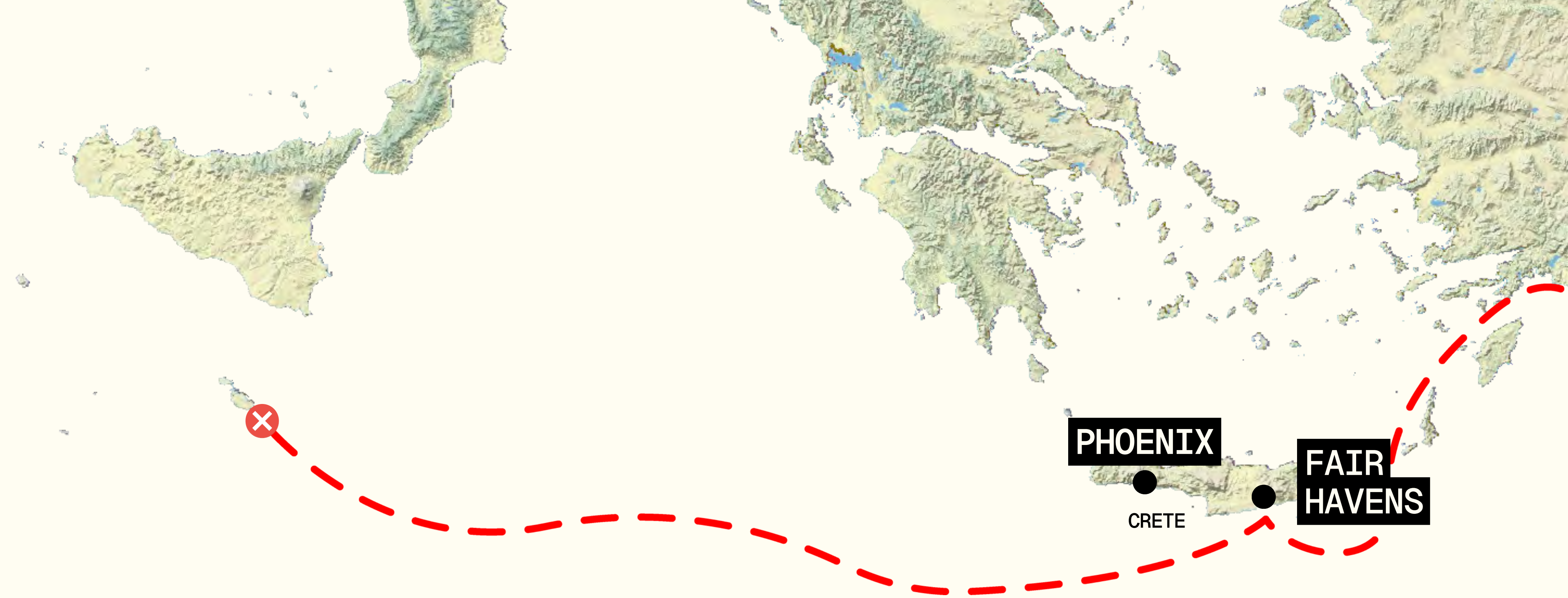
ACTS 27:33-38 NIV



Shipwrecked

When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could.⁴⁰ Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach.⁴¹ But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.

ACTS 27:39-41 NIV



Soldiers' Plot Foiled

The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping.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.⁴⁴ The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.

ACTS 27:42-44 NIV



Made it to Malta

Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta.² The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold.³ Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat fastened itself on his hand.

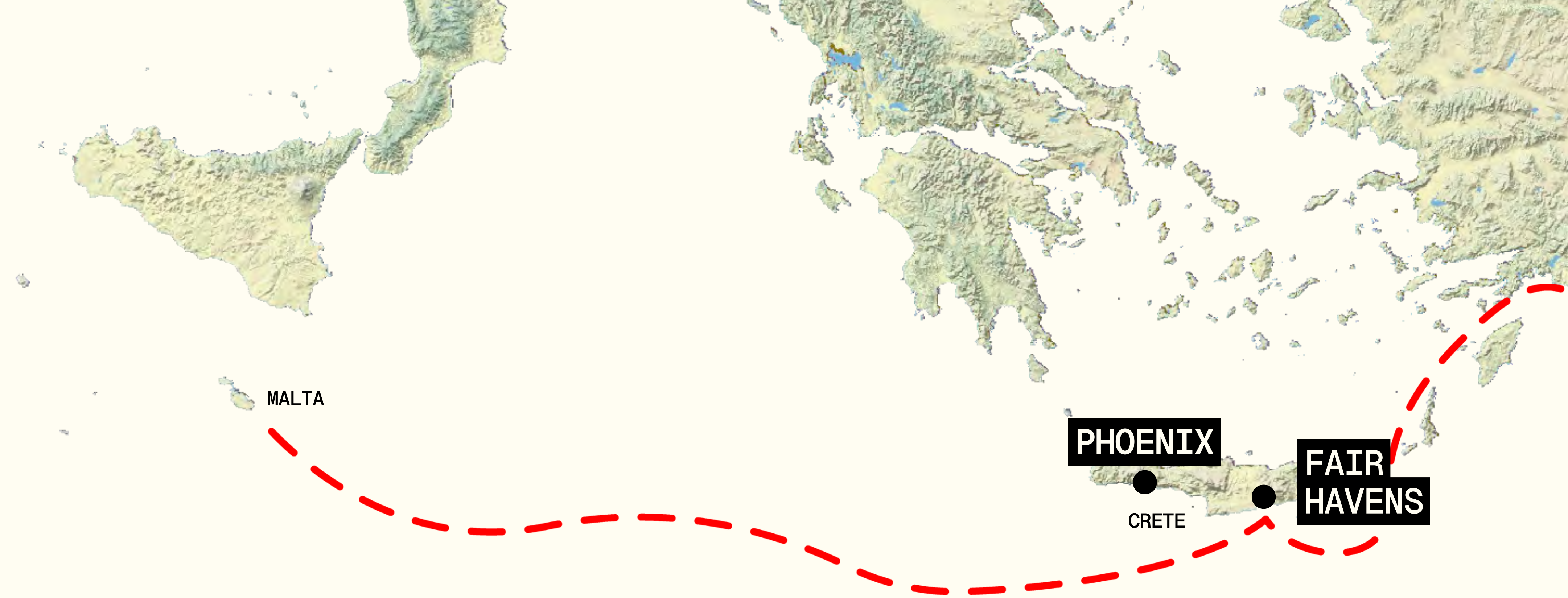
ACTS 28:1-3 NIV



The Snakebite

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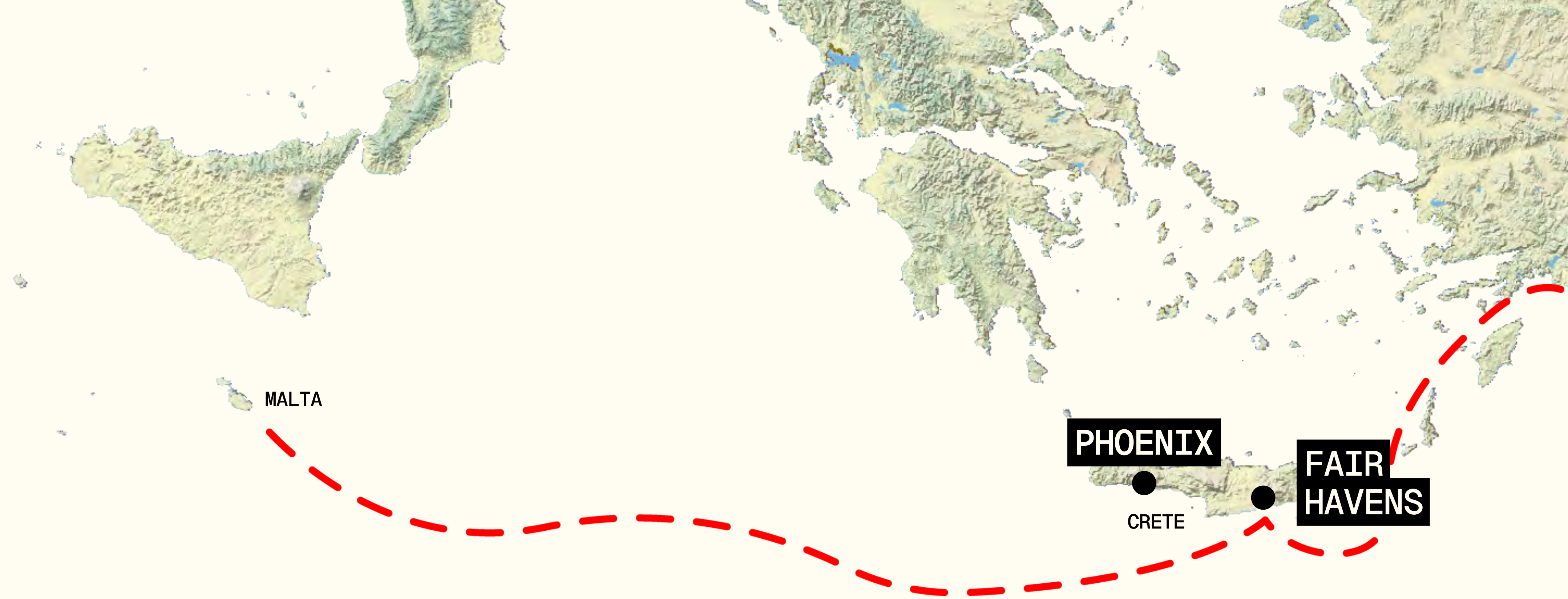
ACTS 28:1-3 NIV



Malta Miracle #1

When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, “This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live.”⁵ But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects.⁶ The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead; but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

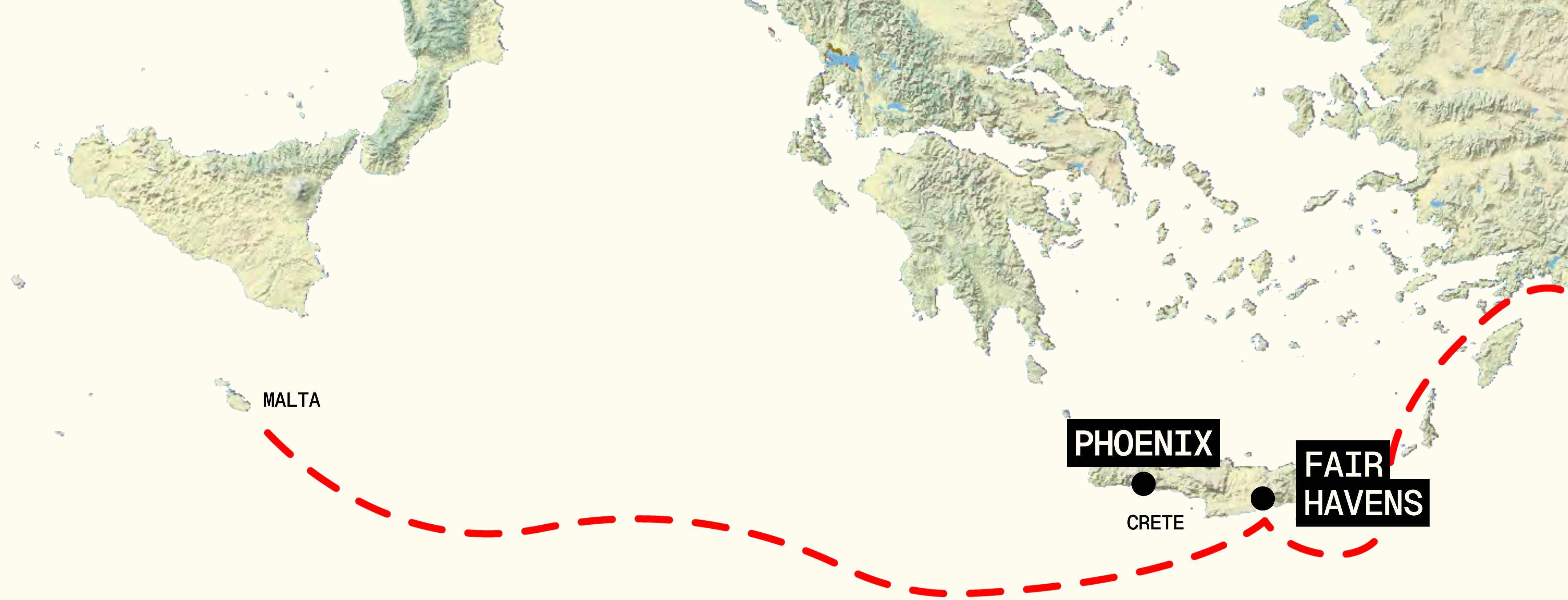
ACTS 28:4-6 NIV



Malta Miracle #2

There was an estate nearby that belonged to **Publius, the chief official of the island.** He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days.⁸ **His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.**⁹ When this had happened, **the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.**¹⁰ They honored us in many ways; **and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.**

ACTS 28:7-10 NIV



ROME

CAESAREA



ROME

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: **Rejoice!**

Do not be anxious about anything...

I have **learned to be content** in all circumstances.

PHILIPPIANS 4 NIV

CAESAREA



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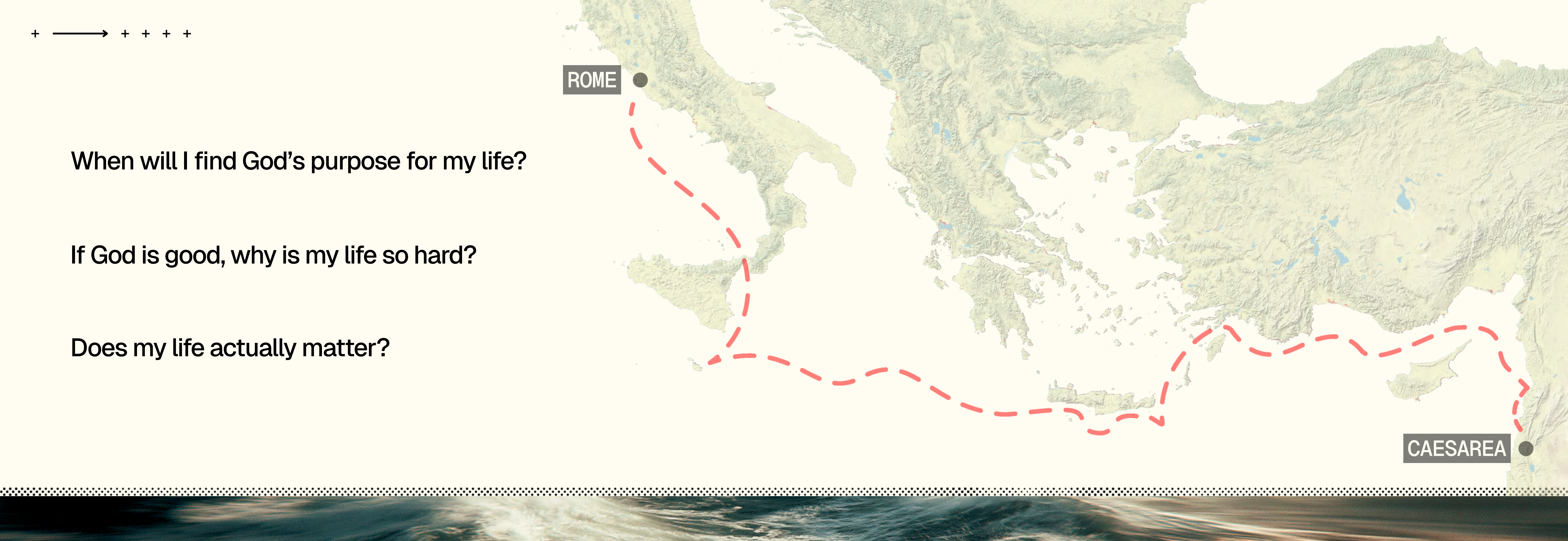
ROME

When will I find God's purpose for my life?

If God is good, why is my life so hard?

Does my life actually matter?

CAESAREA



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When will I find God's purpose for my life?

→ If you follow Jesus, you've found it.

If God is good, why is my life so hard?

Does my life actually matter?



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When will I find God's purpose for my life?

→ If you follow Jesus, you've found it.

If God is good, why is my life so hard?

→ Pain & chaos often open doors for God to work.

Does my life actually matter?



+ Jonah

Jonah went on to tell them that **he was running away from the Lord.** The sailors were terrified, and said to him, **“That was an awful thing to do!”**

¹⁵ Then they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea, and it calmed down at once.

JONAH 1:10,15 GNT

+ Paul

For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship came to me ²⁴ and said, **‘Don't be afraid, Paul! You must stand before the Emperor.** And God in his goodness to you has spared the lives of all those who are sailing with you.

ACTS 27:23-24 GNT



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ACTS 27:23-24 GNT



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When will I find God's purpose for my life?

→ If you follow Jesus, you've found it.

If God is good, why is my life so hard?

→ Pain & chaos often open doors for God to work.

Does my life actually matter?

→ Obedient Christians have preserving impact.





“ The past is an old country to which I can never return.
I cannot change it.

The future is a distant melody beyond my hearing.
I cannot control it.

The only place I might dwell is here and now, in this present moment.
So let me rest and abide, this moment, in you Jesus.”

- EVERY MOMENT HOLY

