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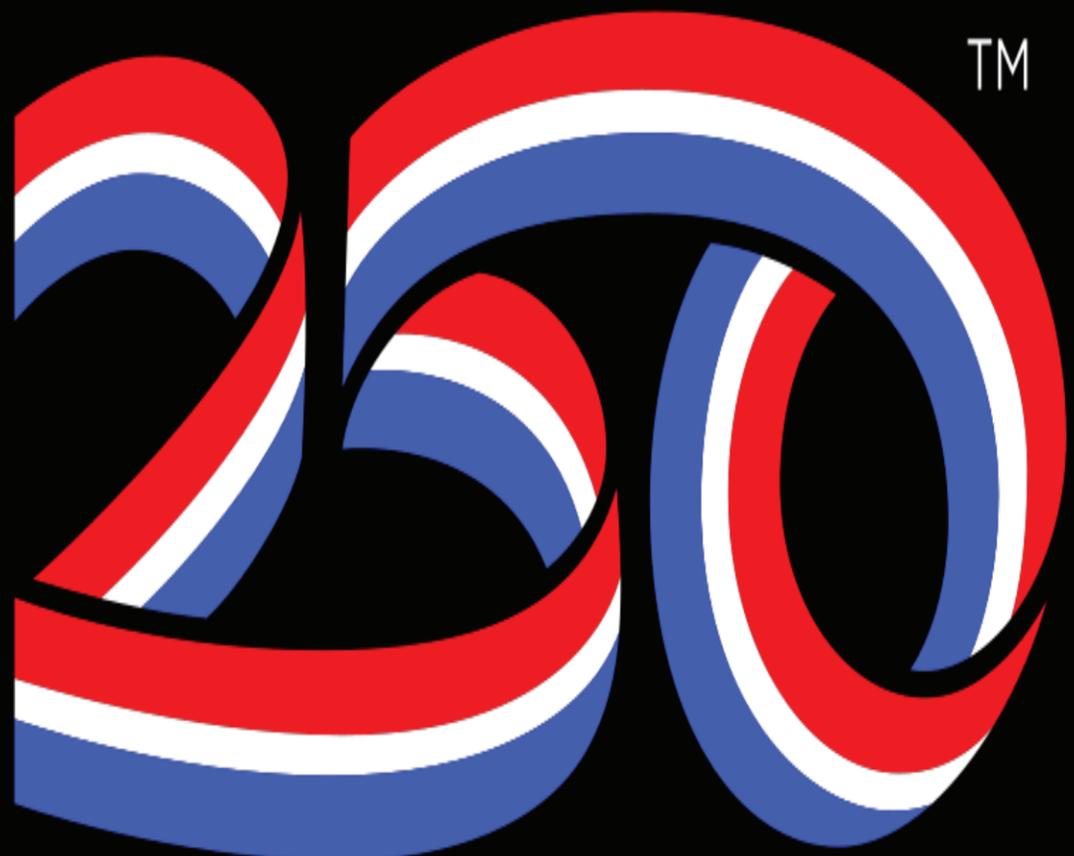
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— In Loving Memory —

David Francis Rogers, 81 United States Army Veteran



David Francis Rogers, 81, passed away on December 21, 2025, at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He was born on February 22, 1944, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and raised in Coalfield, Tennessee. A lifelong resident of Coalfield, he carried the spirit of his community with him throughout his life, grounded in the values and connections formed in the place he always called home.

David proudly served his country in the United States Army from November 15, 1966, to November 14, 1972. He achieved the rank of Sergeant while serving in Battery A, 15th

Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division. His service included a deployment to Korea from November 29, 1967, to October 31, 1968, where he fulfilled his duties with dedication and honor.

Following his military service, David built a distinguished 35-year career at ORNL, K25, and Y12, where he held a variety of roles and responsibilities. He retired in 1999 as a Maintenance Supervisor from the Y12 National Security Complex, remembered for his strong work ethic, steady leadership, and commitment to those he worked alongside.

He was a Master Mason with Faith Masonic Lodge #756 F&AM in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and a devoted member of the Church of Christ in Oliver Springs, Tennessee. His faith and fellowship were important parts of his life and the values he carried with him.

David was a skilled electrician, carpenter, and mason—talents

he used generously to help others, solve problems, and build things that lasted. His craftsmanship was matched only by his patience and willingness to lend a hand whenever someone needed him.

He enjoyed a wide range of hobbies, including Amateur Radio, shooting, hunting, fishing, gardening, woodworking, and working on automobiles. Whether tending a garden, repairing an engine, or connecting with others over the airwaves, David found joy in working with his hands and sharing his knowledge.

David was preceded in death by his father, Johnny Rogers; his mother, Carrie Jackson Rogers; his brother, Lincoln Rogers; and his sister, Carol Joan Rogers Sloat.

He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Janet Toney Rogers; his daughter, Kimberly Rogers Jones, and son-in-law, Dan Jones; his grandson, Nich-

olas Jones, and fiancée, Helen Wagner; his brother, Paul Rogers; and his sisters, Mary Stewart, Catherine Holbrook, Carla Gant, and Karen Griffin.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 26, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home from 4:00-5:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 5:00 p.m. Gravesides services will be Monday, December 29, 2025 in the Roane Memorial Gardens at 2:00 p.m.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of David Rogers.



— In Loving Memory —

Joshua Roy Shelton, 36



Joshua Roy Shelton
December 1, 1989 – December
16, 2025

Joshua Roy Shelton, 36, of Alexander, North Carolina, passed away unexpectedly on December 16, 2025. Joshua was born on December 1, 1989 in Lenoir, North Carolina, Caldwell County.

Joshua was the son of Frederick and Janine Shelton. Joshua was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Roy and Georgia Shelton; his maternal grandparents, Lloyd and Anne Blunt; his aunt, LeDema Griffith; and his uncles, Lloyd Blunt Jr. and Michael Blunt.

Joshua was known to his family—especially to his niece and nephew—as “Joshie.” Though it was a nickname he wasn’t particularly fond of, he wore it like a badge of honor, a quiet reflection of the love he had for his family.

Josh was a hardworking, blue-collar man who took pride in working with his hands. He had a deep love for the outdoors and cherished time spent on his grandpa’s land in Tennessee. He especially enjoyed hunting and fishing, finding peace and joy in nature. He also had a passion for dirt bike riding and was an avid video gamer, often spending late nights gaming with his brother, Ryan—memories that will be forever treasured.

In addition to his loving parents, Joshua is survived by his sister, Elaine Hensley (Jimmie) along with their children Sarah and Lukas, of Leicester, North Carolina; and brother, Ryan Shelton, (Erica) of Alexander, North Carolina;

Joshua is also survived by his aunts Sandra Helton (James), of Oakdale, Tennessee; Tabitha Hamby (Dennis), of Wartburg, Tennessee; and Andrea Merida, of Barbourville, Kentucky. Joshua was also deeply loved by a host of cousins.

Joshua will be remembered for his strong work ethic, his love of family, and the quiet loyalty he showed to those closest to him. He leaves behind a legacy of shared memories, laughter, and love that will never be forgotten.

Pallbearers will be Ryan Shelton, Jimmie Hensley, Kinley Hamby, Kyle Ruppe, Elijah Ruppe, Eric Goldston, Lyndell Goldston, and Chad Ellege.

The visitation and funeral service will be held at Schubert Funeral Home, 1318 Knoxville Hwy, Wartburg, TN 37887. His family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 21, at the funeral home, followed by the funeral service, officiated by Rev. Dr. Keith Hutchinson, at 2:00 p.m. The burial will then take place at Camp Austin Cemetery, 1976 Camp Austin Rd, Oakdale, TN 37829.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Joshua Roy Shelton.

Gloria Jean Redmon, 73



It is with great sadness that the family of Gloria Jean Redmon announces that she has passed away. Gloria Jean Redmon, age 73 of Lansing, TN, passed away at Methodist Medical Center peacefully while surrounded by her family on December 23, 2025.

She was born in Scottsbluff, NE on March 29, 1952 to parents Nicholas and Maggie Reyes. She worked at Wartburg Middle School in food service for 25 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nicholas and Maggie Reyes; brothers: Senovio Reyes, Carmelo Reyes, Marshall Reyes, and Jesse Reyes; and sisters: Kathe Reyes and Virginia Ojeda.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 43 years, Wendell Redmon; children: Jonathan (Meagan) Redmon, Christopher (Whitney) Redmon, and Sarah; grandchildren: Gabriel Redmon, Landon Redmon, Coton Isham, Emery Redmon, Kara Redmon, Ariadne Martin, and Maddox McGhee; brothers: Angel Reyes (Darlene Fiest) and children: Michael and Mario along with their spouses and kids; Nick (Bea) Reyes and children: Nikki, Stephan and Patrick, along with their spouses and kids, and Jesse Reyes; sister, Victoria Reyes; many nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family will receive friends Wednesday December 31, 2025 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg with a memorial service at 7:00.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Gloria Jean Redmon.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.





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Historically Speaking

Bob Benjamin Part Two

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Benita Albert brings us part two of the two-part series on the career of Bob Benjamin. His career interest in astronomy began soon after graduating from Oak Ridge High School. You will find it interesting to learn that Bob was instrumental in creating a map of the Milky Way! Get ready to be amazed...

When Bob Benjamin, 1983 Oak Ridge High School graduate, was given an assignment in his undergraduate course in astronomy at Carleton college, he chose a research study that focused on the 'galactic fountain.' It was a study that would shape his early research interests and lead him to an amazing career in astrophysics and astronomy. He describes that early work below.

"In my one astrophysics class as an undergraduate, we were supposed to pick an astronomy topic from Scientific American and do a class presentation on it. At random, I picked an article on "The Coronae of the Galaxy," by Klaus de Boer and Blair Savage. Just like the Sun is surrounded by a million degree 'corona' of hot gas, there was evidence that our Milky Way was surrounded by an envelope of superheated gas. One model for the origin of this gas is a galactic fountain, where stars in the Milky Way Galaxy explode in supernova explosions and heat up the interstellar gases. These gases expand out of the disk of the galaxy, cool, condense, and 'rain' back in. It was a fascinating picture, sort of like those images of the hydrological cycle of the Earth where water vapor rises, and rain falls back to the Earth."

"When I arrived at the University of Texas (for graduate studies), I found that a professor there, Prof. Paul Shapiro, was one of the original developers of the idea of the galactic fountain. My thesis was developing new models of this process and then testing them using data from the Hubble Space Telescope (which was launched while I was in graduate school). Some years later, I would come to the University of Wisconsin (Madison), and I had the opportunity to work with Blair Savage whose writing had inspired me as an undergraduate."

In an online bio, Bob describes his primary research interests: "I work on the global structure of the Milky Way Galaxy, studying the distribution of stars and gas in order to determine the structure of the bulge, bar, disk, spiral arms, and warp. I also work on large-scale models of the interstellar medium (ISM) and high velocity clouds (HVCs)."

The ISM encompasses the matter and radiation that exist in the space between stars in the galaxy, a medium that is primarily gas and dust. Raw materials in the ISM provide a medium conducive to star formation when dense regions within the space collapse.

HVCs are clouds of gas which are observed to be moving at speeds significantly higher than expected in relationship to the rotation of the Milky Galaxy. An area of active research, HVCs are considered important to understanding the evolution of galaxies.

The Milky Way is a large spiral bar galaxy which appears as the combined light of countless stars and interstellar gas and dust concentrated into a flattened rotating disk. Bob's research studies and consultant work with NASA's space probe missions and telescopes have provided exciting new discoveries.

I asked him to highlight a few of his important findings.

"When I reached Wisconsin, I got involved in an observational program to map the



Bob Benjamin

Galaxy using NASA's new infrared telescope, the Spitzer Space Telescope. I was able to make several discoveries using data from this telescope, including finding that the bar of the Milky Way was much longer than previously thought and that some of the spiral arms were more prominent than others."

Subsequently, in 2008 Bob was the driving force, along with a NASA artist, in the creation of a map of the Milky Way, an oft-cited online image. <https://www.spitzer.caltech.edu/image/ssc2008-10b-a-roadmap-to-the-milky-way-annotated>

"Probably the most important discoveries of my career have to do with the structure of the Galaxy: the length of the bar, the nature of the spiral arms, and a press release coming out soon about mapping the ionized nebulae around the sun in 3D. And that continues to be my passion."

"I have a lot of questions about the Galaxy with more and more data piling up to answer those questions. But the most surprising discovery? Twenty years ago, a colleague and I found a two-degree long, very straight line of ionized gas across the sky. (It sort of looked like the interstellar version of a jet contrail. We published a paper about it in 2001.) Fast forward to twenty years later, and two young astronomers in Europe found it again, but showed it was a 30 degree-long, perfectly circular, arc in the sky. I helped them with the analysis. We think it's due to the explosion of a very nearby star in the direction of the Big Dipper. If you extend the arc into a full circle, it would completely encircle the Big Dipper! We named it the 'Ursa Major Arc,' and there's still a lot we don't know about it. But after twenty years, progress!"

I asked Bob to speak to the challenges facing today's astronomers. He replied, "The biggest challenge is getting paid to do astronomical research, something that has become a lot harder recently. But for those of us who have (or had) jobs, one of the biggest challenges is the overwhelming amount of data we are now obtaining."

He cited the just announced launch of the Legacy Survey of Space and Time via the NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory, a ten-year survey of the night sky using the biggest digital camera ever made which will capture an ultra-wide, ultra-high-definition, time-lapse record of the universe. And the proposed Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope (to be launched in September 2026) is a NASA project designed to investigate dark energy, exoplanets, and infrared physics. Bob proudly noted that Nancy Grace Roman is a Tennessean whose NASA career included her

pivotal work in planning and developing the Hubble Space Telescope.

Bob concluded that, "Every astronomer now also needs to be a computer scientist." His comment led me to another of my questions, namely, advice for students who want to study astronomy. He advised, "Two things: learn to love math, and it's never too early to get involved in research. One of the hardest things about getting into research is learning what the questions are. But the more you do, the more it draws you in. During my first postdoc, I mentored a high school student in a project, and now he's a very successful professor of astronomy at the University of Arizona. He is grateful for his early start in research."

After completion of his PhD in astronomy from UT Austin and two, three-year postdoctoral studies, Bob accepted academic assignments in the physics departments of The University of Wisconsin at Madison and Whitewater. Joining the staff of UW-Whitewater as an Assistant Professor of Physics in 2003, he assumed the Chairmanship of the Physics Department from 2013-2018, and retired in 2024 to assist in caring for his ailing mother.

As I mentioned in Part One of Bob's story, I knew him as a keenly perceptive student in my ORHS classes, AP Calculus BC and Calculus 2. In fact, I enlisted his talents as a mentor in those classes when I was absent, and he was given rave reviews by students. Later, his teaching skills were expanded via his involvement in such programs as a Teaching Assistant for an NSF Teacher Workshop in Astronomy for Middle School Teachers, Instructor for a University of Minnesota graduate-level course in Extragalactic Astronomy, and an instructor in the University of Wisconsin (Madison) Physics Learning Program.

He served as a Director for UW-Madison's Astrophysics Research Experiences for Undergraduates (Astronomy and Physics) from 2002-2015. When he accepted the faculty position at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, he taught four courses each semester alongside his active research studies. His teaching opportunities have extended into his research work. He said, "One of the things I have loved about my connection with NASA projects is that public education and inspiration are baked in."

I could not resist asking Bob to comment on special teaching moments.

He answered, "Regarding tales of being a professor, as you might imagine, I was always animated in my classroom. Even if students forget Gauss's Law, they will always remember how excited their professor was about Gauss's Law. I mostly taught intro physics to our majors and some upper-level classes. It's odd to look back over my 20-year career and think of the lives I influenced. It seems like an awesome responsibility. I involved dozens of students in my research. For over a decade, I would take two or more of my students each year to observe at the Kitt Peak National Observatory. There's nothing like having a key that allows you to go through those doors marked 'Authorized Personnel Only'."

"One story that I have frequently told was of grading student exams at a local coffeeshop early in my time as a professor. The owner saw me and helpfully suggested, "Just give them all A's and let the free-market sort them out." Without a moment's thought I replied, "Well one day one of these students could be designing your airplane." He looked at me, paused, and then replied, "Oh, in that case, grade them really hard!" Years later, I can now say that I actually do have a former student designing airplanes; she's become the leader of her group at Boeing."

Historically Speaking

Bob Benjamin Part Two

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Bob's consultant work with NASA is ongoing and includes, among many plans, his desire to update the above-cited online map of the Milky Way Galaxy. In the less than two decades since he published the 2008 map, the understanding of our galaxy has grown exponentially due to advances in technology and data analysis. Reflecting on the astronomer's lifestyle of his early years, Bob said, "Early in my career I was traveling to mountains and staying up all night to operate telescopes, fix broken equipment, and curse the clouds. But as of late I am finding that I am just proposing observations and having the data shipped to me, usually from space. So, a bit of the romance of astronomy has been lost. I still remember the thrill of getting a set of keys that allowed me access to various ground-based observatories."

He followed the above comments with, "It really never stops being fun." The "it" to which he now refers is how rapidly our understanding of the universe is expanding. Recent data from the

European Space Agency observatory Gaia and multiple other telescopes and surveys have gathered images and spectra for millions of stars.

Bob's dreams of 'seeing the Milky Way from outside the Galaxy' are manifesting as to the structure of our galaxy and to its evolution over time. Consider this quote from the February 2024 Scientific American article, "Our Turbulent Galaxy:" "(The new) maps show not the Milky Way in static equilibrium as researchers expected, but rather the galaxy's departure from it."

Bob Benjamin serves as the tour guide/character for the above article as well as the cheerleader for the emerging results. His enthusiasm is contagious as he discusses his cross interests in stars and gas clouds, the two sides described as largely nonoverlapping communities. Bob identifies more with the gas people saying, "I think of a galaxy as alive and breathing."

The article concludes by mentioning the potential of new maps, stating: "We can see how constellations have warped and shifted with time and how the galaxy has and will continue to change." Or as Bob observed: "We can run the movie forward and backward. We can do that with certainty."

I was captivated by the quote from Eden Phillpotts that Bob used as an introduction to his curriculum vita. It is a most fitting mantra for his life's work: "The universe is full of magical things, patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper." My thanks to Bob for sharing some of his inspiring insights into the 'magic of our universe.' Be assured that he is not done 'sharpening his wits.'

Thank you, Benita, what an amazing story and I agree, Bob is not done... He is doing research that explains what is happening in our Milky Way galaxy. I find it interesting that he says information is now being provided to him from space rather than ground-based telescopes. We are living in such an astonishing time!



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Acts 27



Melvin Howard

(Acts 27:1-8) Departure for Rome: In this chapter are the harrowing details of Paul's voyage to Rome. What is the significance of this narrative as it relates to the book as a whole? Sir William Ramsay noted: [the record] is highly important as illuminating the character of Paul and showing how, even as a prisoner and a landsman at sea, he became the dominating personage in a great ship's company as soon as danger threatened; and

it also draws the reader's attention to the central and critical importance of the scene towards which it leads up, viz. The trial of Paul in Rome."

The details of the voyage and shipwreck of Paul have been minutely investigated by competent scholars. These studies establish that Luke, through not a professional seaman, was a close and accurate observer of the winds and storms and the management and movements of a ship. He furnishes more information of ancient navigation in chapters twenty-seven than any single document of antiquity.

The ship had other prisoners on board. A centurion named Julius was in charge of these. Paul had two friends accompanying him---Luke (see "we" [v. 1] and Aristarchus from Thessalonica (cf. 19:29; 20:4). The ship sailed northward along the coast, stopping at Sidon some sixty miles away. Julius allowed Paul to go ashore where friends gave him attention; he may have been ill (v. 3). The ship sailed northward, then westward, on the northern side of Cyprus (sheltered from the winds). Finally, they landed at Myra (a grain port) on the southern coast of Lycia (in Asia Minor). Here they changed ships, catching a vessel from Alexandria headed for Italy (v. 6). It contained 276 passengers (v. 37). After many days, they came near Cnidus, about one hundred miles west of Myra. The winds were strong and they were forced to turn southward, where they obtained some protection from the mountainous island of Crete. They struggled around the eastern promontory and along the southern coast till they came to Fair Havens.

(Acts 27:9-26) Driven in a Stormy Sea; The ship remained at Fair Havens for a while, but it was an open harbor and it was dangerous to winter there; yet it was hazardous to go forward. It was the well-known dangerous season (ca. September 14 to November 11). A meeting was conducted to determine what to do, to which Paul (with his sailing experience [2 Cor. 11:25-26]) was invited. Paul urged the ship's owner (or captain) not to venture forward, but his advice was ignored (v. 10-11). They would attempt to reach Phoenix (forty miles to the west), which would afford better winter protection.

As they sailed off, a fierce wind roared down out of Crete's mountainous region. The ship could not be guided and they were forced to turn to the southwest and ride with the force of the storm. They ran under the protected side of a small island, Cauda, which provided some relief, allowing them to secure a lifeboat and strengthen the ship by winding ropes about the hull (v. 16-17). As they fought the storm, they became fearful of sinking and began to throw cargo overboard, and later even pieces of the ship's furniture (v. 18-19). They saw neither sun nor stars for days and all hope of surviving was lost. Paul reminded them that he had warned them not to venture forward as they had; doubtless he was preparing them for further instruction out of his rich sea experience. Their lives depended on heeding his advice!

They had gone a good while without food and were sore discouraged, but God's apostle had good news. An angel of the Lord had stood by him and told to stop being afraid. "You will appear before Caesar, and God will give you the lives of all that sail with you" (v. 23-24). Paul declared that he had every confidence that this prophecy would be realized. There was a footnote, however: the ship would be lost and they would be "cast upon an island" (v. 26). There is but one significant island between southern Sicily (the "toe" of Italy's "boot") and northern Africa---Malta. This small island is only seventeen by nine miles. What are the odds of predicting that the ship would be thrust on this tiny island in that vast sea?

(Acts 27:27-44) Shipwreck: For two weeks the ship had been driven "to and fro," more than four hundred seventy miles from Crete to Malta. Finally, there was a suspicion that land was near, so the sailors "sounded" (threw a lead weight with a line attached into the water) to measure the depth. The water was about one hundred twenty feet deep. After a while, they measured again and obviously were closer. They began to fear they would be swept upon a rocky coast and killed. They dropped four anchors from the stern to stabilize the vessel. In the dark, some of the crewmen decided to attempt an escape by letting down a rowboat. Paul discovered the plot and reported it to the soldiers, warning: "Except these remain in the ship, you cannot be saved" (v. 31). Their "salvation" from this danger would not occur unless they heeded Paul's inspired instruction. (There is a principle here to be mastered!) The escape plan thus was foiled.

The passengers had not eaten substantially for fourteen days and were weak, so Paul encouraged them to take nourishment and promised not one of them would die (v. 34). As a token of confidence in his message, Paul took some bread, gave public thanksgiving to God, and ate. His courageous example was effective; others took food, and embraced hope---a commentary on how Paul's influence had grown with these 276 souls (v. 37). As it dawned, they saw a beach and attempted to go for it, casting cargo overboard, cutting the rear anchors, and raising a foresail to catch the wind. They were swept forward but became stuck in sand prematurely and the ship began to break up.

Some soldiers recommended killing the prisoners lest they escape; but Julius, "desiring to save Paul," prevented such. Other prisoners lived because of Paul! A bond clearly had formed between captain and captive. The apostle was a powerful personality! The order to abandon ship was given; some swam to shore, others floated on planks or other items from the ship. "All" escaped; not a soul perished (v. 44). Prophecy fulfilled. Paul vindicated. God glorified!

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