

~PHOENIX (57)

(Phoe'nix) [from a root meaning, palm tree]

- **A harbor of Crete.**
- Now as the harbor was inconvenient for wintering, the majority advised setting sail from there, to see if they could somehow make it to **Phoenix** to winter, a harbor of Crete that opens toward the northeast and toward the southeast. (**Acts of Apostles 27:12**)
- The grain boat on which Paul was traveling as a prisoner to Rome attempted to sail from Fair Havens to **Phoenix** for winter anchorage. Seized by a storm, it was subsequently wrecked on the island of Malta.
- Moreover, when the south wind blew softly, they thought they had as good as realized their purpose, and they lifted anchor and began coasting inshore along Crete. (**Acts of Apostles 27:13**)
- And when we had made it to safety, then we learned that the island was called Malta. (**Acts of Apostles 28:1**)
- As to the location of **Phoenix**, the Acts narrative indicates only that it was West of Fair Havens, on the South side of Crete, and that it provided safe winter anchorage. Two sites have therefore been proposed.
- One is Loutro, on the East side of a cape, about 65 kilometers (40 miles) West of Fair Havens, and the other Phineka, on the opposite side of this cape. The literal **Greek** text describes the harbor at **Phoenix** as looking down, *ka-ta'* the southwest wind and down *ka-ta'* the northwest wind. Scholars favoring Loutro interpret this to mean looking along or toward *ka-ta'* the direction in which the Southwest and Northwest winds are blowing.
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Footnote

- By this understanding the harbor is said to open toward the Northeast and the Southeast, **RS, NW**, a description that could fit the large semicircular entrance to the harbor at Loutro.
- Phineka, because of its structure, is not used as a harbor today, though geologic changes in the vicinity may have affected its formation.
- However, Phineka does have two inlets, one **facing** Southwest and the other Northwest. Thus, those favoring this site understand the expression, **looking down** to mean facing the direction from which the winds **originate** rather than that in which they blow.