

Acts 16:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;

Analysis

Therefore loosing from Troas—The "we" passage begins here (πλεύσαντες, pleusantes, "having sailed"), indicating Luke's personal presence on Paul's second missionary journey. This marks a pivotal geographic shift from Asia Minor to Europe.

We came with a straight course (εὐθυδρομήσαμεν, euthydromeō)—literally "to run a straight course," a nautical term indicating favorable winds. The 100-mile voyage from Troas to **Samothracia** (a mountainous island midpoint) and then to **Neapolis** (modern Kavala, the port city of Philippi) normally took several days against prevailing winds, but God's providence gave them swift passage. Compare the return journey (Acts 20:6), which took five days—highlighting divine assistance in answering the Macedonian call.

Historical Context

This verse records Christianity's entry into Europe (circa AD 50). Neapolis was the eastern port of the Via Egnatia, Rome's major east-west highway through Macedonia. Paul responded to the vision of the "man of Macedonia" (16:9), fulfilling God's plan to bring the gospel to Europe. Luke, the author, likely joined Paul's team at Troas.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What "straight course" might God be providing in your life to fulfill His calling, and are you recognizing His providential guidance?
2. How does the inclusion of "we" passages (Luke's eyewitness account) strengthen your confidence in the historical reliability of Scripture?

Interlinear Text

Ἄναχθέντες οὖν ἀπὸ τὴς Τρωάδος
loosing Therefore from G3588 Troas
G321 G3767 G575 G5174

εὐθυδρομήσαμεν εἰς Σαμοθράκην τῇ τε ἐπιούσῃ
we came with a straight course day to Samothracia G3588 and the next
G2113 G1519 G4543 G5037 G1966

εἰς Νεάπολιν
day to Neapolis
G1519 G3496

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