

# Acts 16:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

## Analysis

**And from thence to Philippi**—Luke's use of 'we' signals his presence on this second missionary journey, making this eyewitness testimony. Philippi was named after Philip II of Macedon (Alexander the Great's father). Luke emphasizes it is **the chief city of that part of Macedonia** (πρώτη τῆς μερίδος Μακεδονίας πόλις) —'first city of the district,' indicating regional prominence though not the provincial capital (Thessalonica held that honor).

Critically, Philippi was **a colony** (κολωνία)—a Roman colonia established by Augustus after the Battle of Philippi (42 BC). Coloniae enjoyed ius Italicum (Italian rights): exemption from tribute, Roman citizenship for inhabitants, and governance under Roman law. This context illuminates Paul's later claim to Roman citizenship (16:37) and the church's call to citizenship in heaven (Philippians 3:20). The city's Roman character explains why Paul found no synagogue (16:13)—the Jewish population was minimal.

## Historical Context

Philippi lay on the Via Egnatia, Rome's military highway connecting the Adriatic to Byzantium, making it strategically vital. Founded as a Roman colony in 42 BC after Mark Antony and Octavian's victory over Brutus and Cassius, it was settled by military veterans. Paul arrived circa AD 49-50 during his second missionary journey, making this Christianity's first European foothold.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Philippi's status as a Roman colony with heavenly citizenship parallels inform Paul's later teaching to the Philippian church about being 'citizens of heaven' (Phil 3:20)?
2. What does the 'we' passage reveal about Luke's role as both historian and participant in the gospel's advancement into Europe?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐκειθέν from thence	τε And	εἰς to	Φιλίππους Philippi	ἥτις which	ἐστὶν is	πρώτη the chief	τῆς G3588
G1564	G5037	G1519	G5375	G3748	G2076	G4413	
μερίδος of that part	τὴς G3588	Μακεδονίας of Macedonia	πόλει city	κολωνία and a colony	ἡμεν G1510	δὲ and	ἐν G1161 G1722
G3310		G3109	G4172	G2862			
ταύτη G3778	τῇ G3588	πόλει city	διατρίβοντες abiding	ἡμέρας days	τινάς certain		
		G4172	G1304	G2250	G5100		

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Thessalonians 2:2** (Parallel theme): But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

**Acts 20:6** (Parallel theme): And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.

**Philippians 1:1** (Parallel theme): Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

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