

# 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

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**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

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