

Acts 16:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

Analysis

The Macedonian vision—'Come over into Macedonia, and help us'—demonstrates God's method of supernatural guidance at strategic junctures. The immediate interpretation 'assuredly gathering' that God called them suggests corporate confirmation of individual vision. This clear direction launched Christianity's European mission with world-historical consequences.

Historical Context

At Troas (AD 50), Paul received this night vision redirecting his ministry from Asia toward Europe. Philippi became the first European city evangelized, establishing churches in Macedonia (Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea) that became Paul's most supportive partners.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God provide clear guidance at crucial decision points in ministry?

2. What role do visions and supernatural direction play in contemporary missionary calling?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὄραμα διὰ τῆς νυκτὸς ὥφθη τῷ Παύλῳ ἀνὴρ
And a vision in the night appeared to Paul
G2532 G3705 G1223 G3588 G3571 G3700 G3588 G3972 G435

τις ἦν Μακεδών ἐστὼς παρακαλῶν αὐτὸν καὶ
a man There stood of Macedonia and prayed him And
G5100 G2258 G3110 G2476 G3870 G846 G2532

λέγων, Διαβάς εἰς Μακεδονίαν βοήθησον ἡμῖν
saying Come over into Macedonia and help us
G3004 G1224 G1519 G3109 G997 G2254

Additional Cross-References

Acts 19:21 (References Paul): After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

Acts 18:5 (References Paul): And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

Romans 15:26 (Parallel theme): For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

Acts 20:1 (References Paul): And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia.