

Acts 20:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he met with us at Assos, we took him in, and came to Mitylene.

Analysis

And when he met with us at Assos—Paul rejoined Luke and the traveling party at Assos after walking alone approximately 20 miles from Troas while his companions sailed. The Greek verb συμβάλλω (symballō, "met with") suggests a planned rendezvous, indicating Paul's deliberate choice to travel by land while the ship made its coastal voyage.

We took him in (ἀναλαβόντες, analabontes)—literally "having taken him up" aboard the ship. **Came to Mitylene**—a significant port city on the island of Lesbos, approximately 30 miles south of Assos. This verse marks the resumption of the "we" sections in Acts (16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16), indicating Luke's eyewitness participation. Paul's solitary walk may have provided time for prayer and reflection as he journeyed toward Jerusalem and the suffering he knew awaited him (Acts 20:22-23).

Historical Context

This occurred in AD 57 during Paul's third missionary journey as he hastened to reach Jerusalem by Pentecost (Acts 20:16). Assos was a major port in the Roman province of Asia with a harbor on the Adramyttian Gulf. The coastal route from Troas to Assos by sea was shorter than the land route, but Paul chose to walk, possibly to maximize his time with the Ephesian elders or for private devotion.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why might Paul have chosen to walk alone to Assos rather than sail with his companions, and what does this reveal about his preparation for suffering?
2. How does Luke's resumption of the "we" narrative enhance the credibility of Acts as eyewitness testimony?

Interlinear Text

ώς	δὲ	συνέβαλεν	ἡμῖν	εἰς	τὴν	Ἄσσον	ἀναλαβόντες
when	And	he met	with us	at		Assos	in
G5613	G1161	G4820	G2254	G1519	G3588	G789	G353
αὐτὸν	ἥλθομεν	εἰς	Μιτυλήνην				
him	and came	at	Mitylene				
G846	G2064	G1519	G3412				

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