

# Acts 20:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And we sailed thence, and came the next day over against Chios; and the next day we arrived at Samos, and tarried at Trogyllium; and the next day we came to Miletus.

## Analysis

**And we sailed thence**—Luke's precise travelogue continues with characteristic nautical detail. The itinerary from Assos traces Paul's third missionary journey's final leg toward Jerusalem: **Chios** (Greek island opposite Smyrna), **Samos** (birthplace of Pythagoras), **Trogyllium** (promontory between Samos and Miletus), and **Miletus** (major Ionian port 30 miles south of Ephesus).

This seemingly mundane geographical catalog serves theological purpose—it demonstrates the gospel's westward march through the Greco-Roman world's cultural centers. Paul's urgency (*speudō*, v. 16—'hastening') to reach Jerusalem by Pentecost drives this rapid coastal hopping. The mention of Miletus foreshadows verses 17-38's emotional farewell address to Ephesian elders, one of Acts' most theologically rich passages on pastoral ministry and apostolic succession.

## Historical Context

Written circa AD 60-62, Luke documents Paul's spring AD 57 voyage. These were major Mediterranean ports along established trade routes. Miletus, though declining from its classical glory, remained strategically important. Paul's choice to summon Ephesian elders to Miletus rather than revisit Ephesus (v. 16) suggests both time constraints and possibly security concerns after the silversmith riot (19:23-41).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Luke's attention to geographical detail demonstrate the historical reliability and eyewitness nature of Acts?
2. What does Paul's urgency to reach Jerusalem 'at all costs' reveal about apostolic priorities and obedience to the Spirit's leading?

## Interlinear Text

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κάκεῖθεν ἀποπλεύσαντες τῇ ἐπιούσῃ κατηντήσαμεν

And we sailed the next and came  
G2547 G636 G3588 G1966 G2658

ἀντικρύ Χίου τῇ δὲ ἐτέρᾳ παρεβάλομεν εἰς Σάμον  
day over against Chios and the next day we arrived at Samos  
G481 G5508 G3588 G1161 G2087 G3846 G1519 G4544

καὶ μείναντες ἐν τρωγυλλίῳ, τῇ ἔχομένη ἥλθομεν εἰς  
and tarried at Trogylgium and the next day we came at  
G2532 G3306 G1722 G5175 G3588 G2192 G2064 G1519

Μίλητον

Miletus  
G3399

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 20:17** (Parallel theme): And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

**2 Timothy 4:20** (Parallel theme): Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

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