

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

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

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

κάκειθεν ἀποπλεύσαντες τῇ ἐπιούσῃ κατηντήσαμεν
And **we sailed** ^{G3588} **the next** **and came**
G2547 G636 G1966 G2658

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

καὶ μείναντες ἐν τρωγυλλίῳ, τῇ ἐχομένῃ ἦλθομεν εἰς
and **tarried** **at** **Trogyllium** ^{G3588} **and the next** **day we came** **at**
G2532 G3306 G1722 G5175 G2192 G2064 G1519

Μίλητον
Miletus
G3399

Additional Cross-References

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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