

Acts 20:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia.

Analysis

'When the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia.' Jewish plot forced route change. Paul adapted plans to avoid danger while continuing mission. Flexibility in method preserved life and ministry.

Historical Context

The plot likely aimed to kill Paul on board ship during the Passover pilgrimage. Returning overland through Macedonia added significant travel but avoided assassination.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance faith with prudent avoidance of danger?
2. What does Paul's route change teach about flexible planning?

Interlinear Text

ποιήσας τε μῆνας τρεῖς· ἐγένετο αὐτῷ ἐπιβουλῆς

there abode **And** **months** **three** **he purposed** **for him** **wait**

G4160

G5037

G3376

G5140

G1096

G846

G1917

ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων μέλλοντι ἀνάγεσθαι εἰς

And when the Jews **G5259** **G3588** **G2453** **as he was about** **to sail** **into**

G321

G1519

τὴν Συρίαν ἐγένετο γνώμῃ τοῦ ὑποστρέφειν διὰ

G3588 **Syria** **he purposed** **G1106** **G3588** **to return** **through**

G4947

G1096

G3195

G5290

G1223

Μακεδονίας

Macedonia

G3109

Additional Cross-References

Acts 20:19 (Parallel theme): Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

Acts 25:3 (Parallel theme): And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to kill him.

2 Corinthians 11:26 (Parallel theme): In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;