

Acts 21:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And finding a ship sailing over unto Phenicia, we went aboard, and set forth.

Analysis

And finding a ship sailing over unto Phenicia, we went aboard, and set forth—The simplicity of Luke's 'we' narrative (indicating his personal presence) masks the significance: Paul's final journey to Jerusalem despite prophetic warnings of imprisonment (Acts 21:4, 11). The Greek ἀνεύροντες (aneurontes, 'finding') suggests providential discovery—not chance but divine orchestration of Paul's path toward suffering.

Phoenicia (modern Lebanon) represented the coastal route to Judea. This maritime leg bypassed overland dangers but couldn't evade the spiritual destination: chains awaited in Jerusalem. Paul's resolute **we went aboard** demonstrates how knowing God's will (including suffering) doesn't paralyze but propels obedience. The journey's mundane details—ships, ports, embarkation—frame profound spiritual courage: Paul sailed toward imprisonment as steadily as toward any missionary field.

Historical Context

This occurred circa AD 57 during Paul's third missionary journey, following three years in Ephesus and travels through Macedonia and Greece. The 'we' sections of Acts (16:10-17, 20:5-21:18, 27:1-28:16) indicate Luke's eyewitness presence. Phoenician ports like Tyre and Sidon had significant Christian communities by this time, descended from Hellenistic Jewish believers scattered after Stephen's

martyrdom (Acts 11:19). Paul's route traced early Christianity's geographic expansion.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's willingness to sail toward prophesied suffering challenge your approach to obedience when God's path leads through hardship?
2. What 'ships' is God providing for your journey—ordinary means for extraordinary purposes?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εὐρόντες	πλοῖον	διαπερῶν	εἰς	Φοινίκην	ἐπιβάντες
And	finding	a ship	sailing over	unto	Phenicia	we went aboard
G2532	G2147	G4143	G1276	G1519	G5403	G1910

ἀνήχθημεν
and set forth
G321