

Acts 21:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syria, and landed at Tyre: for there the ship was to unlade her burden.

Analysis

We left it on the left hand (εὐώνυμον, euōnymon)—The nautical detail of passing Cyprus to port (left side) while sailing to Syria reflects Luke's eyewitness precision. **Landed at Tyre** marks a significant stop where the ship would 'unlade her burden' (ἀποφορτίζομαι, apophortízomai), meaning to discharge cargo. Tyre, once denounced by prophets (Isaiah 23, Ezekiel 26-28), now harbored a Christian community—a powerful testimony to the gospel's transforming reach into formerly pagan strongholds.

Historical Context

This voyage occurred around AD 57 during Paul's final journey to Jerusalem. Tyre was a major Phoenician seaport approximately 100 miles north of Caesarea. The shipping route from Asia Minor to Judea regularly followed the Levantine coast, making Tyre a natural port of call.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do seemingly mundane travel details in Scripture remind us that biblical events occurred in real history with real people?
2. What does the presence of believers in Tyre teach about the gospel's power to transform cities once under God's judgment?

Interlinear Text

ἀναφάναντες	δὲ	τὴν	Κύπρον	καὶ	καταλιπόντες		
when we had discovered	Now	G3588	Cyprus	and	we left		
G398	G1161		G2954	G2532	G2641		
αὐτὴν	εὐώνυμον	ἐπλέομεν	εἰς	Συρίαν	καὶ	κατήχθημεν	
it	on the left hand	and sailed	at	Syria	and	landed	
G846	G2176	G4126	G1519	G4947	G2532	G2609	
εἰς	Τύρον·	ἐκεῖσε	γὰρ	ἦν	τὸ	πλοῖον	ἀποφορτιζόμενον
at	Tyre	there	for	was	G3588	the ship	to unlade
G1519	G5184	G1566	G1063	G2258		G4143	G670
τὸν	γόμον						
G3588	her burden						
	G1117						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 21:16 (Parallel theme): There went with us also certain of the disciples of Caesarea, and brought with them one Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple, with whom we should lodge.

Acts 12:20 (Parallel theme): And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.

Acts 4:36 (Parallel theme): And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

Matthew 4:24 (Parallel theme): And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

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