

Acts 27:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

Analysis

Entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia. Adramyttium was a port in Mysia (northwest Asia Minor). The Greek *mellontos pleein* (μέλλοντος πλεῖν, "meaning to sail") indicates intended coastal route—safer than open sea but slower. Ancient ships hugged coastlines for navigation and emergency shelter. **One Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.** Aristarchus's presence exemplifies costly discipleship—accompanying Paul as fellow-prisoner or attendant (Colossians 4:10, Philemon 24).

This Thessalonian believer first appears in Acts 19:29, seized during Ephesian riot. His loyalty through years of danger illustrates gospel friendship transcending self-interest. Luke's inclusion of Aristarchus by name honors faithful companions often overshadowed by apostolic giants. The plural "we" throughout chapter 27 emphasizes community—Paul wasn't a solitary hero but one member of Christ's body, supported by brothers who risked their lives for the gospel.

Historical Context

Aristarchus of Thessalonica appears in Acts 19:29, 20:4, 27:2, Colossians 4:10, and Philemon 24—one of Paul's most enduring companions. Thessalonica was Macedonia's capital, a major Roman city and port. The ship from Adramyttium (modern Edremit, Turkey) was likely returning home after trading in eastern

Mediterranean ports. Ancient merchant vessels often carried passengers alongside cargo to offset costs.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does Aristarchus's multi-year, dangerous companionship with Paul teach about the nature of true Christian friendship?
2. How does Luke's careful record of Paul's companions challenge individualistic understandings of ministry?

Interlinear Text

ἐπιβάντες	δὲ	πλοίῳ	Ἀδραμυττηνῷ	μέλλοντες	πλεῖν		
entering	And	into a ship	of Adramyttium	meaning	to sail		
G1910	G1161	G4143	G98	G3195	G4126		
τοὺς	κατὰ	τὴν	Ἀσίαν	τόπους	ἀνήχθημεν	ὄντος	σὺν
G3588	by	G3588	of Asia	the coasts	we launched	being	with
	G2596		G773	G5117	G321	G5607	G4862
ἡμῖν	Ἀριστάρχου	Μακεδόνης	Θεσσαλονικέως				
us	one Aristarchus	a Macedonian	of Thessalonica				
G2254	G708	G3110	G2331				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 19:29 (Parallel theme): And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

