

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

Psalm 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 ὅντος σὺν
G3588 by G3588 of Asia the coasts we launched being with
G2596 G773 G5117 G321 G5607 G4862

ἡμῖν Ἀριστάρχου Μακεδόνος 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.

