

Acts 28:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome.

Analysis

Where we found brethren—The gospel had already reached Puteoli, likely through Pentecost pilgrims (Acts 2:10) or Roman commerce. These believers **desired** (παρεκλήθημεν, pareklēthēmen, 'urged' or 'encouraged') Paul to stay **seven days**—remarkable given his prisoner status. Julius the centurion's permission demonstrates the respect Paul commanded even in chains.

And so we went toward Rome—After fellowship strengthening, Paul resumed his journey. This pattern recurs throughout Acts: Christian hospitality and community strengthen missionaries for trials ahead. The seven-day stay provided sabbath worship and mutual encouragement before Rome's uncertainties.

Historical Context

Puteoli's Christian community evidences rapid gospel spread through Roman trade networks. By AD 61, congregations existed throughout Italy. Julius' accommodation suggests Paul's Roman citizenship and Julius' witness to Paul's character during the shipwreck influenced his treatment.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Christian hospitality strengthen those facing uncertain or difficult circumstances?
2. What does Paul's seven-day rest teach about balancing mission urgency with community fellowship?

Interlinear Text

οὗ εύροντες ἀδελφοὺς παρεκλήθημεν ἐπ' αὐτοῖς
Where we found brethren and were desired with them
G3757 G2147 G80 G3870 G1909 G846

ἐπιμεῖναι ἡμέρας ἐπτά· καὶ οὕτως εἰς τὴν Ῥώμην
to tarry days seven and so toward G3588 Rome
G1961 G2250 G2033 G2532 G3779 G1519 G4516

ἵλθομεν
we went
G2064

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