

Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 190 – July 9th – Acts 27:1-20

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Acts

Bruce, FF, *The Acts of the Apostles*, London, 2nd ed. 1952

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Verse 1

Ὡς δὲ ἐκρίθη τοῦ ἀποπλεῖν ἡμᾶς εἰς τὴν Ἰταλίαν, παρεδίδουν τὸν τε Παῦλον καὶ τινὰς ἑτέρους δεσμώτας ἑκατοντάρχη ὀνόματι Ἰουλίῳ σπειρίῳ Σεβαστῆς.

ἐκρίθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s κρίνω here = decide

ἀποπλεω set sail, sail away
παραδίδωμι hand or give over

The subject here is not specified. 'They' probably means the Roman authorities. The Western text includes a number of expansions aimed at relieving the abruptness of the text.

τινας Pronoun, m & f acc pl τις
ἕτερος, α, ον other
δεσμώτης, ου m prisoner
ἑκατονταρχῆς, ου m centurion
ὄνομα, τος n name
σπειρα, ης f cohort (tenth part of a Roman legion having about 600 men), band of soldiers
σεβαστος, η, ον belonging to the emperor, imperial

Ramsay suggests a corps of officer-couriers detailed for communication service between the Emperor and his armies.

Verse 2

ἐπιβάντες δὲ πλοῖῳ Ἀδραμυττηνῶ μέλλοντι πλεῖν εἰς τοὺς κατὰ τὴν Ἀσίαν τόπους ἀνήχθημεν ὄντος σὺν ἡμῖν Ἀριστάρχου Μακεδόνοιο Θεσσαλονικέως.

ἐπιβαίνω go on board, embark
πλοῖον, ου n boat, ship

Ἀδραμυττηνῶ "Of Adramyttium, in Mysia, opposite Lesbos. The ship was a coasting vessel, and Julius no doubt expected to find a ship bound for Rome at one of the ports in Asia at which the Adramyttian ship touched." Bruce

μελλω be going, be about, intend
πλεω sail

τοπος, ου m place
ἀνήχθημεν Verb, aor pass indic, 1 pl ἀναγω midd or pass set sail

"It has generally been supposed, with reason, that Aristarchus accompanied Paul to Rome (cf. Col 4:10; Philem 24); it is possible, however, that he was at this time on his way home to Thessalonica." Bruce

Verse 3

τῇ τε ἑτέρῳ κατήχθημεν εἰς Σιδῶνα, φιλανθρώπως τε ὁ Ἰούλιος τῷ Παύλῳ χρησάμενος ἐπέτρεψεν πρὸς τοὺς φίλους πορευθέντι ἐπιμελείας τυχεῖν.

τῇ τε ἑτέρῳ 'on the next day'
κατήχθημεν Verb, aor pass indic, 1 pl
καταγω bring down; pass put in (εἰς) at
φιλανθρώπως considerately, kindly
χρησάμενος Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m nom s
χραομαι act, behave
ἐπιτρεπω let, allow, permit
φίλος, ου m and φίλη, ης f friend

Harnack suggested that οἱ φίλοι may have been another name by which Christians knew each other (cf. 3 Jn 15).

πορευθέντι Verb, aor pass dep ptc, m dat s
πορευομαι
ἐπιμελεια, ας f care, attention

Here alone in NT, although the cognate verb is used of medical attention in Lk 10:34f.

τυχεῖν Verb, aor act infin τυγχανω obtain, receive, experience

Verse 4

κάκειθεν ἀναχθέντες ὑπεπλεύσαμεν τὴν Κύπρον διὰ τὸ τοὺς ἀνέμους εἶναι ἐναντίους,

κάκειθεν and from there – formed from και ἐκειθεν

ἀναχθέντες Verb, aor pass ptc, m nom pl
ἀναγω see v.2

ὑποπλεω sail under the shelter of
ἀνεμος, ου m wind
ἐναντιος, α, ον against, opposed to

Verse 5

τό τε πέλαγος τὸ κατὰ τὴν Κιλικίαν καὶ Παμφυλίαν διαπλεύσαντες κατήλθομεν εἰς Μύρα τῆς Λυκίας.

πέλαγος, ους n depths (of the sea); open sea

Κιλικία, ας f Cilicia

διαπλεύσαντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl

διαπλεω sail across

κατερχομαι come down, disembark

Myra was one of the chief ports of the Egyptian service.

Verse 6

κάκει εὐρῶν ὁ ἑκατοντάρχης πλοῖον Ἀλεξανδρῖνον πλέον εἰς τὴν Ἰταλίαν ἐνεβίβασεν ἡμᾶς εἰς αὐτό.

κάκει (καὶ ἐκεῖ) and there, there also

πλοῖον see v.2

πλέον Verb, pres act ptc, n nom/acc s πλεω

see v.2

ἐνεβίβασεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἐμβιβαζω put aboard

Probably a ship carrying grain (see v.38). "Egypt was the chief granary of Rome, and the corn-trade between Rome and Egypt was of the greatest importance." Bruce

Verse 7

ἐν ἱκαναῖς δὲ ἡμέραις βραδυπλοοῦντες καὶ μόλις γενόμενοι κατὰ τὴν Κνίδον, μὴ προσεῶντος ἡμᾶς τοῦ ἀνέμου, ὑπεπλεύσαμεν τὴν Κρήτην κατὰ Σαλμώνην,

ἱκανος, η, ον large, great, much

βραδυπλοεω sail slowly

μολις adv with difficulty

γενόμενοι Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m nom pl γινομαι

Cnidus was a Peloponnesian colony on the Carian promontory of Tropium – between the islands of Cos and Rhodes.

προσεαω allow to go further

ἀνεμος see v.4

ὑποπλεω see v.4

Verse 8

μόλις τε παραλεγόμενοι αὐτὴν ἦλθομεν εἰς τόπον τινὰ καλούμενον Καλοὺς Λιμένας ὧ ἐγγὺς ἦν πόλις Λασαία.

παραλεγομαι sail or coast along

τοπος see v.2

καλος, η, ον good, fine, beautiful

λιμνην, ενος m harbour

A harbour sheltered by small islands but not a good winter harbour.

ἐγγυς adv near

πολις, εως f city, town

Verse 9

Ἰκανοῦ δὲ χρόνου διαγενομένου καὶ ὄντος ἤδη ἐπισφαλοῦς τοῦ πλοῦς διὰ τὸ καὶ τὴν νηστείαν ἤδη παρεληλυθέναι, παρήγει ὁ Παῦλος

ἱκανος, η, ον large, great, much

χρονος, ου m time, period of time

διαγενομένου Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m & n

γεν s διαγινομαι pass (of time)

ἤδη adv now, already

ἐπισφαλοῦς Adjective, m & n gen s

ἐπισφαλής, ες dangerous, risky

πλους, πλοος m voyage

νηστεια, ας f fasting, the Fast (of the Day of Atonement)

ἤδη adv now, already

παρεληλυθέναι Verb, perf act infin

παρερχομαι pass, pass by

From the information given, Bruce reckons that the year was 59 and the date would have been a little later than the first week in October. The dangerous season for navigation apparently lasted from mid September to mid November.

παραινεω advise, urge

Verse 10

λέγων αὐτοῖς: Ἄνδρες, θεωρῶ ὅτι μετὰ ὕβρεως καὶ πολλῆς ζημίας οὐ μόνον τοῦ φορτίου καὶ τοῦ πλοίου ἀλλὰ καὶ τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν μέλλειν ἔσσεσθαι τὸν πλοῦν.

θεωρεω see, observe

ὑβρις, εως f injury, damage (of ships)

ζημια, ας f loss

μονος, η, ον adj only, alone

φορτιον, ου n burden, load

πλοιον, ου n boat, ship

ψυχη, ης f life, 'soul', living being, person

μελλω (before an infin) be going, be about

ἔσσεσθαι Verb, fut infin ειμι

πλους see v.9

Verse 11

ὁ δὲ ἑκατοντάρχης τῷ κυβερνήτῃ καὶ τῷ ναυκλήρῳ μάλλον ἐπειθετο ἢ τοῖς ὑπὸ Παύλου λεγομένοις.

ἑκατονταρχης, ου m centurion

κυβερνητης, ου m (uncertain meaning)

captain, navigator

ναυκληρος, ου m ship owner, captain

"The ναυκληρος was a merchant-shipowner, who usually acted as captain of his own ship.

As the ship was part of a state-service (see on v.6), the ναυκληρος ... was thus a contractor for the state transport of corn." Bruce

μάλλον rather, instead, more than that

πειθω persuade; pass obey, listen to

ἢ or, than

Verse 12

ἀνευθέτου δὲ τοῦ λιμένος ὑπάρχοντος πρὸς παραχειμασίαν οἱ πλείονες ἔθεντο βουλήν ἀναχθῆναι ἐκεῖθεν, εἴ πως δύναιτο καταντήσαντες εἰς Φοίνικα παραχειμάσαι, λιμένα τῆς Κρήτης βλέποντα κατὰ λίβα καὶ κατὰ χῶρον.

ἀνευθετος, ον unsuitable

Because its entrance was open to the prevailing wind.

λιμνη, ενος m harbour
 ὑπαρχω be (equivalent to εἰμι)
 παραχειμασια, ας f wintering
 πλειων, πλειον ορ πλεον most, the majority
 ἔθεντο Verb, aor midd indic, 3 pl τιθημι
 midd set, decide, resolve
 βουλη, ης f intention, plan, decision
 ἀναχθῆναι Verb, aor pass infin ἀναγω midd
 ορ pass set sail
 ἐκειθεν from there
 εἰ πως if perhaps, if maybe
 δύναιτο Verb, pres midd pass dep opt, 3 pl
 δυναμαι

εἰ πως δύναιτο 'in order that, if possible, they might'

καταντήσαντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl
 κατανατω come, arrive, reach, attain
 Φοίνικα Proper name, acc s Φοινιξ
 παραχειμαζω spend the winter
 βλεπω see, look; here 'look out', 'face'
 λίβα Noun, acc s λιψ m the south west
 wind (κατα λ. facing southwest).
 χωρος, ου m northwest wind (κατα χ.
 facing northwest)

The exact location is uncertain, but is thought to be what is known today as Phineka Bay, a bay on the west side of Cape Mourous about 33 miles east of the western extremity of southern Crete. It faces northwest and southwest, just as Acts describes Phoenix.

Verse 13

Ἵποπνεύσαντος δὲ νότου δόξαντες τῆς προθέσεως κεκρατηκέναι ἄραντες ἄσσον παρελέγοντο τὴν Κρήτην.

ὑποπνεω blow gently
 νοτος, ου m south wind, south
 δόξαντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl δοκεω
 think, suppose
 προθεσις, εως f purpose, plan, will
 κεκρατηκέναι Verb, perf act infin κρατεω
 hold, hold fast, sieze

'They thought that they had obtained what they wanted' NIV

ἄραντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl αἶρω
 take, take up; here = 'set out', set sail'

ἄσσον adv as close as possible
 παραλεγομαι sail or coast along

Verse 14

μετ' οὐ πολὺ δὲ ἔβαλεν κατ' αὐτῆς ἄνεμος τυφωνικός ὁ καλούμενος Εὐρακύλων·

μετ' οὐ πολὺ 'after not much', i.e. 'shortly after'

βαλλω trans throw; intrans sweep down
 (of a storm)

ἔβαλεν κατ' αὐτῆς 'there rushed down from it' i.e. from Crete.

ἄνεμος, ου m wind
 τυφωνικος, η, ον whirlwind-like (τ. ἄνεμος
 a very strong wind)
 Εὐρακυλων, ωνος m north-east wind,
 Euraquilo

The word is not found elsewhere, though the wind is well known. The oddity of the compound word led to a number of textual variants.

"The wind was actually E.N.E, and blowing down from Mt. Ida, would be very dangerous to a ship with one large sail; if it did not capsized her, it would probably drive her to the Syrtis." Bruce

Verse 15

συναρπασθέντος δὲ τοῦ πλοίου καὶ μὴ δυναμένου ἀντοφθαλμεῖν τῷ ἀνέμῳ ἐπιδόντες ἐφερόμεθα.

συναρπασθέντος Verb, aor pass ptc, m gen s
 συναρπαζω seize, drag
 πλοιον, ου n boat, ship
 ἀντοφθαλμεω head into, face
 ἐπιδόντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl
 ἐπιδίδωμι give, hand over, give up
 φερω bring, carry, bear

ἐπιδόντες ἐφερόμεθα 'we scudded before it'

Verse 16

νησίον δὲ τι ὑποδραμόντες καλούμενον Καῦδα ἰσχύσαμεν μόλις περικρατεῖς γενέσθαι τῆς σκάφης,

νησιον, ου n small island
 ὑποδραμόντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl
 ὑποτρεχω run under the shelter of

There are a number of variant spellings of the name Καῦδα. Today the island is known as Gozzo.

ἰσχύσαμεν Verb, aor act indic, 1 pl ισχυω be
 strong, be able
 μολις adv with difficulty, hardly, scarcely
 περικρατεῖς Adjective, m/f gen s περικρατης,
 ες in control of
 σκαφη, ης f ship's boat

'we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure' NIV. Bruce translates the phrase, "we were able with difficulty to secure the boat" and goes on to comment, "The dingy was normally towed at the stern, not kept on deck. The 1st person ισχυσαμεν suggests that Luke himself helped (any landlubber could haul on a rope), and μολις has been thought to hint at the painful memory of his blisters."

Verse 17

ἦν ἄραντες βοθηθείαις ἐχρῶντο ὑποζωννύντες τὸ πλοῖον· φοβούμενοί τε μὴ εἰς τὴν Σύρτιν ἐκπέσωσιν, χαλάσαντες τὸ σκεῦος, οὕτως ἐφέροντο.

ἄραντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl αἰρω
take, take up

βοηθεια, ας f help, support; perhaps rope, cable

ἐχρῶντο Verb, imperf midd/pass dep indic, 3 pl χραομαι use, make use of

ὑποζωννύντες Verb, pres act ptc, m nom pl ὑποζωννυμι undergird, strengthen (a ship with cables during a storm)

φοβεομαι fear, be afraid (of)

Συρτις, εως f the Surtis

"The Syrtes are quicksands off the Libyan coast. They were still far distant, but the wind might blow for days, and it was driving them right in the direction of the greater Syrtis, west of Cyrene." Bruce

ἐκπέσωσιν Verb, aor act subj, 3 pl ἐκπιπτω
fall off, fall away

χαλαω lower, let down

σκευος, ους n object, thing

There seem to be two possible meanings to this ambiguous phrase:

- i) 'dropping a sea anchor' – something which trailed in the water and acted as a brake.
- ii) 'Lowering the rigging' i.e. stowing all sails and spars on deck.

φέρω bring, carry, bear, lead

οὕτως ἐφέροντο 'in such a state they drifted'

Verse 18

σφοδρῶς δὲ χειμαζομένων ἡμῶν τῇ ἐξῆς ἐκβολὴν ἐποιούντο,

σφοδρως adv violently, greatly
χειμαζομαι be storm-tossed, undergo bad weather

ἐξῆς on the next day

ἐκβολη, ης f throwing overboard

Cf. Jonah 1:5.

Verse 19

καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ αὐτόχειρες τὴν σκευὴν τοῦ πλοίου ἔρριψαν.

τρίτος, η, ον third

αὐτοχειρ, ος with one's own hand(s)

σκευη, ης f tackle, gear (of a ship)

The precise meaning is unclear. It might be ships tackle in general, though Smith supposes that the main yard is meant, "an immense spar, probably as long as the ship, which would require the united efforts of passengers and crew to launch overboard."

ἔρριψαν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl ῥιπτω
throw down, put down

Verse 20

μήτε δὲ ἡλίου μήτε ἄστρον ἐπιφανόντων ἐπὶ πλείονας ἡμέρας, χειμῶνός τε οὐκ ὀλίγου ἐπικειμένου, λοιπὸν περιηρεῖτο ἐλπὶς πᾶσα τοῦ σφύζεσθαι ἡμᾶς.

μητε and not; μητε ... μητε neither ... nor
ἡλιος, ου m the sun

ἄστρον, ον n star, constellation

ἐπιφαινω appear, give light

Thus they were ignorant of their course.

πλειων, πλειον οτ πλεον more, many

χειμων, ωνος m storm, bad weather

ὀλιγος, η, ον little, small

ἐπικειμαι lie upon, press hard

λοιπος, η, ον rest: (το) λοιπον adv. finally, from now on

περιηρεῖτο Verb, imperf pass indic, 3 s

περιαιρω take away, remove

"The imperfect implies that the situation was continually getting worse." Bruce

ἐλπὶς, ιδος f hope, ground of hope

σωζω save, rescue, heal