

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Acts 16: 9-15

9. And lo! a vision appeared suddenly to Paul in the night, for verily he had eaten much cheese, and else besides, which, Theophilus, are too many to name in this book; There stood a man who prayed him, saying, Come over into Spain, and help us. And Paul said, Surely thou art a Macedonian, and the man did cough and look at his script and say, Ah! You're right. So, come over into Macedonia and help us.

10. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we (1) endeavoured to go unto Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them, but it was night and had to wait until the rising of the sun, and breakfast.

[And we did go down to the dockside at Troas and seek passage on a ship bound for Macedonia, and had to inquire of many sailors as to their heading and orientation, and there was much confusion and explaining. As happens on docksides.] (2)

11. Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia where we provisioned and bought oddly-shaped carvings, imitation sundials, and divers trinkets from the sellers in the market, and the next day to Neapolis where we found entertainment (let the reader understand) in the souk;

12. And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days recovering from the motions of the boat upon the rough seas. For there had been much heaving, and imploring of the Lord.

13. And it came to pass, as did many things, dear Theophilus, that on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. However, we got no business with them for they were engaged in their offerings. And expensive.

14. And a certain woman named Lydia (3), a seller of purple, that is, cloth from which garments were made without seam, woven from the top throughout, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended with super-diligence unto the things which were spoken of Paul, though much of his speaking was rambling and convoluted so that it was difficult for the scribe to note down. For his nibs were poor. And behold, Lydia did desire to be baptised,

15. And when she was washed and clothed again, and her household with her which numbered five children, three maidservants, four manservants, a cook and bottle washer, a trimmer of wicks and a laundress, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us so that despite our misgivings that our residence with her might be misconstrued by the neighbours, we did go in and stay for several nights. And it was evening and it was morning several times, and we saw that it was good.

Notes

(1) This change to the first person indicates that Paul was not spending the night alone, but this fact is ignored by many commentators.

(2) This verse is omitted from all major translations and is only found in a Syriac version of Acts.

(3) In some ancient manuscripts here is added the song "Lydia, O Lydia, O have you seen Lydia; Lydia the tattooed lady?" (Attributed to Timothy, but some scholars believe it was a dockside shanty.)