

Acts 21:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

Analysis

The Greek 'zetountōn' (were about) indicates the mob intended to kill Paul, showing the rage religious jealousy can produce. The Roman garrison's intervention prevented Paul's death, demonstrating God's providential protection through unlikely means. The 'chief captain' (chiliarch, commanding 1000 soldiers) represented Roman authority that would preserve Paul's life and enable his testimony.

Historical Context

The Fortress of Antonia, adjacent to the temple, housed Roman troops specifically to monitor temple activities and prevent riots during festivals. The quick military response shows the garrison's readiness to intervene in temple disturbances.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How has God used unlikely or even hostile authorities to protect and advance your life's mission?

2. What does this teach about trusting God's protection even when circumstances seem deadly?

Interlinear Text

ζητούντων	δὲ	αὐτὸν	ἀποκτεῖναι	ἀνέβη	φάσις	τῷ
as they went about	And	him	to kill	came	tidings	
G2212	G1161	G846	G615	G305	G5334	G3588
χιλιάρχῳ	τῆς	σπείρης	ὅτι	ὅλη	συγκέχυται	
unto the chief captain	G3588	of the band	that	all	was in an uproar	
G5506		G4686	G3754	G3650		G4797

Ἰερουσαλήμ

Jerusalem

G2419

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