

Acts 22:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

On the morrow, because he would have known the certainty wherefore he was accused of the Jews, he loosed him from his bands, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down, and set him before them.

Analysis

On the morrow, because he would have known the certainty wherefore he was accused of the Jews—Unable to torture Paul, the tribune seeks *θὸ ἀσφαλὲς* (to asphales, 'the certainty, reliable information') about the Jewish accusations (*κατηγορεῖται*, *katēgoreitai*, 'he is accused'). The phrase *βουλόμενος γνῶναι* (*boulomenos gnōnai*, 'wanting to know') shows genuine desire to understand the charges, which seem religious rather than criminal.

He loosed him from his bands, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear—The tribune *ἔλυσε* (*elyse*, 'released') Paul from chains and convened the Sanhedrin. Commanding (*ἐκέλευσε*, *ekeleuse*) Jewish leadership to assemble shows Roman authority over local religious courts. **And brought Paul down, and set him before them**—Paul transitions from Roman custody to a kind of legal hearing before the Sanhedrin, though still under Roman protection. This sets up Paul's strategic declaration 'I am a Pharisee' (23:6), which divides the council and further demonstrates the theological nature of the opposition.

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin was the highest Jewish court, composed of 71 members including chief priests (Sadducees), scribes, and elders (Pharisees). Rome allowed it

jurisdiction over religious matters but retained control of capital punishment. The tribune's convening of the Sanhedrin was within his authority as garrison commander—he needed to determine if the charges against Paul were criminal (Roman jurisdiction) or religious (Jewish jurisdiction). This hearing (c. AD 57) becomes another opportunity for Paul to testify before Jewish leaders, fulfilling Jesus's prediction (Acts 9:15).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the tribune's desire for 'certainty' about the charges contrast with the Jewish leaders' willingness to kill Paul without clear legal grounds?
2. What does Paul's movement from Roman military custody to the Sanhedrin hearing teach about God's sovereignty over all earthly authorities?
3. In what ways does this passage illustrate that opposition to the gospel is often fundamentally theological/spiritual rather than genuinely legal or ethical?

Interlinear Text

Τῇ	δὲ	ἐπαύριον	βουλόμενος	γινῶναι	τὸ	ἀσφαλὲς	τὸ
G3588	G1161	On the morrow	because	have known	G3588	the certainty	G3588
		G1887	G1014	G1097		G804	
τί	κατηγορεῖται	παρὰ	τῶν	Ἰουδαίων	ἔλυσεν	αὐτούς	
wherefore	he was accused	of	G3588	the Jews	he loosed	him	
G5101	G2723	G3844		G2453	G3089	G846	
ἀπὸ	τῶν	δεσμῶν,	καὶ	ἐκέλευσεν	ἐλθεῖν	τούς	
from	G3588	his bands	and	commanded	to appear	G3588	
G575		G1199	G2532	G2753	G2064		
ἀρχιερεῖς	καὶ	ὅλον	τὸ	συνέδριον	αὐτούς	καὶ	
the chief priests	and	all	G3588	council	him	and	
G749	G2532	G3650		G4892	G846	G2532	
καταγαγὼν	τὸν	Παῦλον	ἔστησεν	εἰς	αὐτούς		
brought	G3588	Paul	and set him	before	him		
G2609		G3972	G2476	G1519	G846		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 23:28 (Parallel theme): And when I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him forth into their council:

Acts 21:33 (Parallel theme): Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.

Acts 21:11 (References Paul): And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

Acts 23:15 (Parallel theme): Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to morrow, as though ye would enquire

something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.

Acts 22:5 (Parallel theme): As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

Acts 5:21 (Parallel theme): And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

Acts 26:29 (References Paul): And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.