

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 θò 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 γνῶναι τὸ ἀσφαλὲς τὸ
G3588 G1161 **On the morrow** because have known G3588
G1887 G1014 G1097 G804
the certainty G3588

τί κατηγορεῖται παρὰ τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἔλυσεν αὐτούς
wherefore he was accused of the Jews he loosed him
G5101 G2723 G3844 G2453 G3089 G846

ἀπὸ τῶν δεσμῶν, καὶ ἐκέλευσεν ἔλθεῖν τοὺς
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.

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