

Acts 23

Chapter 23 of 28 · 35 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Paul Before the Council

¹ And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

² And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.

³ Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?

⁴ And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest?

⁵ Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.

⁶ But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

⁷ And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided.

⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

⁹ And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God.

10 And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle.

11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

A Plot to Kill Paul

12 And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

13 And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy.

14 And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

15 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.

16 And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.

17 Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

18 So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

19 Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and went with him aside privately, and asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?

20 And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would enquire somewhat of him more perfectly.

21 But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

22 So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.

Paul Sent to Felix

23 And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night;

24 And provide them beasts, that they may set Paul on, and bring him safe unto Felix the governor.

25 And he wrote a letter after this manner:

26 Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix sendeth greeting.

27 This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, having understood that he was a Roman.

28 And when I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him forth into their council:

29 Whom I perceived to be accused of questions of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds.

30 And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what they had against him. Farewell.

31 Then the soldiers, as it was commanded them, took Paul, and brought him by night to Antipatris.

32 On the morrow they left the horsemen to go with him, and returned to the castle:

33 Who, when they came to Caesarea, and delivered the epistle to the governor, presented Paul also before him.

34 And when the governor had read the letter, he asked of what province he was. And when he understood that he was of Cilicia;

35 I will hear thee, said he, when thine accusers are also come. And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's judgment hall.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Angel — ἄγγελος (Angelos)

Angel, messenger

The Greek **angelos** (ἄγγελος) means angel or messenger. Angels announced Christ's birth (Luke 2:9-14), ministered to Him (Matthew 4:11), and will accompany His return (Matthew 25:31).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Hope — ἐλπίς (Elpis)

Hope, expectation

The Greek **elpis** (ἐλπίς) denotes hope—confident expectation of good. This hope is 'an anchor of the soul' (Hebrews 6:19), grounded in Christ's resurrection and the believer's future inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Law — νόμος (Nomos)

Law

The Greek **nomos** (νόμος) denotes law—particularly the Mosaic law. While believers are not under law but under grace (Romans 6:14), Christ fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17) and wrote it on believers' hearts (Hebrews 8:10).

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Resurrection — ἀνάστασις (Anastasis)

Resurrection, rising

The Greek **anastasis** (ἀνάστασις) means resurrection—rising from death to life. Christ's resurrection is the 'firstfruits' (1 Corinthians 15:20), guaranteeing believers' future bodily resurrection and victory over death.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

CROSS REFERENCES

Acts 23:1

References God: Acts 24:16; 2 Corinthians 1:12; 4:2; 2 Timothy 1:3. **Good:** Hebrews 13:18.

Parallel theme: Acts 22:5; Proverbs 28:1; 1 Corinthians 4:4. **References Paul:** Acts 23:6

Acts 23:2 **Parallel theme:** Acts 24:1; 1 Kings 22:24; Micah 5:1; John 18:22

Acts 23:3 **Judgment:** John 7:51

Acts 23:5 **Evil:** Exodus 22:28; 2 Peter 2:10. **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 10:20

Acts 23:6 **Resurrection:** Acts 24:15; 24:21; Philippians 3:5. **Hope:** Acts 28:20

Acts 23:7 **Parallel theme:** Acts 14:4; Psalms 55:9; Matthew 10:34

Acts 23:8 **Resurrection:** Matthew 22:23; Mark 12:18; Luke 20:27

Acts 23:9 **Parallel theme:** Acts 22:7; 23:29; 25:25; 26:31; Proverbs 16:7; John 12:29.

Resurrection: Mark 2:16

Acts 23:10 **Parallel theme:** Acts 22:24; James 1:19

Acts 23:11

References Lord: Acts 18:9; Isaiah 41:14; 2 Timothy 4:17. **References Paul:** Acts 19:21. **Good:** Matthew 9:2; 14:27. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 41:10; 43:2; 46:10; Philippians 1:13

Acts 23:12

Parallel theme: Acts 23:21; 23:30; 25:3; 1 Kings 19:2; 2 Kings 6:31; Psalms 31:13; Jeremiah 11:19; Matthew 26:4; 1 Corinthians 16:22. **Curse:** Acts 23:14

Acts 23:13 **Parallel theme:** John 16:2

Acts 23:14 **Curse:** Acts 23:12. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 8:12

Acts 23:15 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 21:11; Proverbs 1:16; 4:16; Isaiah 59:7

Acts 23:16 **References Paul:** Acts 23:10

Acts 23:17 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 22:3

Acts 23:18 **References Paul:** Ephesians 3:1

Acts 23:21 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 23:2

Acts 23:24 **References Paul:** Acts 24:10; 25:14. **Parallel theme:** Acts 23:26

Acts 23:26 **Parallel theme:** Acts 15:23; 24:3; 26:25; Luke 1:3

Acts 23:28 **Parallel theme:** Acts 22:30

Acts 23:29 **Parallel theme:** Acts 25:25; 26:31. **Word:** Acts 18:15

Acts 23:30 **Parallel theme:** Acts 23:20; 23:35; 24:19; 25:16

Acts 23:34 **Parallel theme:** Acts 21:39; 25:1

Acts 23:35 **Parallel theme:** Acts 23:30; 24:1; 24:19; 24:22; 25:16; Matthew 2:3; 2:16; 27:27.

Judgment: Acts 24:10; John 18:28

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