

# Acts 23:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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The violence grew so intense that the chief captain feared Paul would be 'pulled in pieces' by the disputing parties. Roman military intervention again preserved Paul's life, demonstrating how God uses secular authority to protect His servants. The Greek 'diaspao' (torn asunder) suggests Paul faced literal dismemberment from the frenzied religious leaders.

## Historical Context

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The Fortress Antonia's proximity to the temple courts allowed rapid Roman response to disturbances. The commander's repeated interventions showed Roman concern for maintaining order during volatile festival periods.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How has God used unexpected sources to protect you from danger, even when danger came from religious people?
2. What comfort comes from knowing God's sovereignty extends even over hostile authorities and circumstances?

## Interlinear Text

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Πολλῆς δὲ γενομένης στάσεως εὐλαβηθεὶς ὁ  
a great And when there arose dissension fearing G3588  
G4183 G1161 G1096 G4714 G2125

χιλίαρχος μὴ διασπασθῇ ὁ Παῦλος ὑπ'  
the chief captain lest should have been pulled in pieces G3588 Paul of  
G5506 G3361 G1288 G3972 G5259

αὐτῶν ἐκέλευσεν τὸ στράτευμα καταβὰν ἀρπάσαι  
him commanded G3588 the soldiers to go down and to take G726  
G846 G2753 G4753 G2597

αὐτῶν ἐκ μέσου αὐτῶν ἄγειν τε εἰς τὴν  
him from among him to bring and him into G3588  
G846 G1537 G3319 G71 G5037 G1519

παρεμβολήν  
the castle  
G3925

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 22:24** (Parallel theme): The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him.

**James 1:19** (Parallel theme): Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

