

Acts 23:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Paul's nephew's discovery of the plot demonstrates God's providential protection through natural means. The detail that Paul's sister's son 'heard of their lying in wait' suggests either divine revelation or the young man's access to Jewish circles discussing the conspiracy. God's sovereignty orchestrated protection through family connections and timely intelligence.

Historical Context

This is the only biblical mention of Paul's sister or nephew, suggesting Paul maintained family ties in Jerusalem despite his conversion. His nephew's access both to the conspiracy's details and to Paul in the fortress shows Providence at work.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How has God protected you through unexpected sources or family connections you hadn't anticipated?

2. What does this teach about God's care for details in preserving His servants for their appointed work?

Interlinear Text

Ἄκούσας δὲ ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀδελφῆς Παύλω τό^{τον}
heard And G3588 son G3588 sister's G79 Paul G3588
G191 G1161 G5207 G79 G3972 G3588
ἔνεδρον παραγενόμενος καὶ εἰσελθὼν εἰς τὴν
of their lying in wait he went and entered into G3588
G1749 G3854 G2532 G1525 G1519 G3588
παρεμβολὴν ἀπήγγειλεν τῷ Παύλῳ
the castle and told Paul G3588
G3925 G518 G3972

Additional Cross-References

Acts 23:10 (References Paul): 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.

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