

Acts 23:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Lysias's account distorts the sequence - he didn't rescue Paul knowing he was Roman but discovered his citizenship after the arrest (Acts 22:25-29). This face-saving revision shows how even God's instruments have mixed motives. Yet divine providence used Lysias's self-interested report to advance Paul's case, demonstrating how God accomplishes His purposes through flawed human actions.

Historical Context

Roman military officers faced severe penalties for mistreating citizens. Lysias's revision protected his career while accurately reporting the essential facts of Jewish plots and Paul's innocence of Roman crimes.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God accomplish His purposes even through people's mixed or self-interested motives?

2. What does this teach about trusting God's sovereignty rather than requiring perfect human instruments?

Interlinear Text

Τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον συλληφθέντα ὑπ' τῶν Ἰουδαίων καὶ
G3588 **man** G435 **This** G5126 **was taken** G4815 **of** G5259 G3588 **the Jews** G2453 **and** G2532

μέλλοντα ἀναιρεῖσθαι ὑπ' αὐτὸν, ἐπιστὰς σὺν τῷ
should G3195 **have been killed** G337 **of** G5259 **him** G846 **then came I** G2186 **with** G4862 G3588

στρατεύματι ἐξειλόμην αὐτὸν, μαθὼν ὅτι Ῥωμαῖός
an army G4753 **and rescued** G1807 **him** G846 **having understood** G3129 **that** G3754 **a Roman** G4514

ἐστίν
he was
G2076