

Acts 23:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Lysias reports **I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him**, using epignonai (ἐπιγνῶναι)—to know thoroughly or investigate. The phrase **I brought him forth into their council** reveals the commander's attempt to resolve the matter through Jewish channels before assuming jurisdiction. This demonstrates Roman policy of respecting local governance where possible. Lysias' investigation methodology—allowing the Sanhedrin hearing—shows administrative prudence, though it nearly cost Paul his life (Acts 23:10). The commander's report frames Paul's case as an internal Jewish dispute, not Roman criminality.

Historical Context

Roman governors preferred delegating religious disputes to local authorities. Lysias' action reflects standard provincial administration—investigate first, intervene only when necessary to maintain order or protect Roman citizens.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How should authorities balance respect for local customs with protection of justice?
2. What does Lysias' investigative approach teach about gathering facts before rendering judgment?

Interlinear Text

βουλόμενός δὲ γνῶναι τὴν αἰτίαν δι' ἦν
I would **And** **have known** G3588 **the cause** G1223 **wherefore**
G1014 G1161 G1097 G156 G3739

ἐνεκάλουν αὐτῶν κατήγαγον αὐτῶν εἰς τὸ συνέδριον
they accused **him** **I brought** **him** **into** G3588 **council**
G1458 G846 G2609 G846 G1519 G4892

αὐτῶν

him
G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 22:30 (Parallel theme): 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.