

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* (ἐπιγινῶναι)—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	γινῶναι	τὴν	αἰτίαν	δι'	ἣν
I would G1014	And G1161	have known G1097	G3588	the cause G156	G1223	wherefore G3739
ἐνεκάλουν	αὐτῶν	κατήγαγον	αὐτῶν	εἰς	τὸ	συνέδριον
they accused G1458	him G846	I brought G2609	him G846	into G1519	G3588	council 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.