

Acts 23:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the governor had read the letter, he asked of what province he was. And when he understood that he was of Cilicia;

Analysis

Felix's question about Paul's province determined legal jurisdiction. Discovering Paul was from Cilicia (under Syrian provincial governance) meant Felix could legally hear the case, as Judean governors handled cases from nearby provinces. This detail shows Luke's accurate knowledge of Roman administrative law and how God arranged proper legal jurisdiction for Paul's defense.

Historical Context

Roman law carefully defined provincial jurisdictions. Felix's inquiry followed proper protocol for determining whether to hear the case or transfer it to Paul's home province's governor.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God work through complex administrative systems to ensure His servants receive appropriate treatment?
2. What does this teach about the importance of understanding legal rights and procedures in serving God's purposes?

Interlinear Text

ἀναγνοὺς δὲ ὁ ἡγεμὼν, καὶ ἐπερωτήσας ἐκ
had read And G3588 when the governor And he asked of
G314 G1161 G2232 G2532 G1905 G1537

ποίας ἐπαρχίας ἐστὶν καὶ πυθόμενος ὅτι ἀπὸ²
what province he was And when he understood that he was of
G4169 G1885 G2076 G2532 G4441 G3754 G575

Κιλικίας

Cilicia
G2791

Additional Cross-References

Acts 21:39 (Parallel theme): But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.

Acts 25:1 (Parallel theme): Now when Festus was come into the province, after three days he ascended from Caesarea to Jerusalem.