

Acts 25:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go.

Analysis

When he had conferred with the council (συλλαλήσας μετὰ τοῦ συμβουλίου, syllalēsas meta tou symbouliou)—Festus consulted his advisory council (consilium), composed of military officers and legal experts. This shows the appeal's gravity: once accepted, it was irrevocable. The Latin legal maxim 'provocatio ad Caesarem' removed the case from provincial jurisdiction entirely.

Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go—Festus's formal acknowledgment follows required legal protocol. The rhetorical question and declarative response create official record. Festus's problem is now solved: Paul is no longer his responsibility. But God's purpose advances: Paul will proclaim Christ before Caesar's household (Philippians 4:22).

Historical Context

The advisory council (consilium) helped procurators navigate complex legal and political situations. Once an appeal was formally accepted, the provincial governor lost jurisdiction entirely. Nero was emperor (AD 54-68), and Paul would eventually appear before his tribunal—though tradition suggests Paul was released before Nero's violent persecution of Christians began in AD 64.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How did Paul's legal knowledge serve gospel purposes without compromising spiritual priorities?
2. What does this teach about God's sovereignty in using even pagan legal systems to accomplish His purposes?

Interlinear Text

τότε	ό	Φῆστος	συλλαλήσας	μετὰ	τοῦ	συμβουλίου
Then	G3588	Festus	when he had conferred	with	G3588	the council
G5119		G5347	G4814	G3326		G4824
ἀπεκρίθη	Καίσαρα	ἐπικέκλησαι	ἐπὶ	Καίσαρα		
answered	Caesar	Hast thou appealed unto	unto	Caesar		
G611	G2541	G1941	G1909	G2541		
πορεύσῃ						
shalt thou go						
G4198						

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