

Acts 25:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix:

Analysis

When they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king—Festus waited for proper timing to discuss his administrative dilemma. The verb 'anetheto' (declared, set forth) suggests formal presentation of a legal case. He introduces Paul as **a certain man left in bonds by Felix**, distancing himself from his predecessor's political cowardice while acknowledging the case's complicated history.

The phrase 'in bonds' (δέσμιος, desmios) emphasizes Paul's ongoing imprisonment without conviction. For two years under Felix, now continuing under Festus, Paul remained bound despite no proven charges. This prolonged injustice—protective custody becoming indefinite imprisonment—illustrates the corruption of even the 'superior' Roman legal system when political expediency trumps justice.

Historical Context

Paul had been imprisoned since AD 57, spending two years under Felix (Acts 24:27) before Festus arrived. His continued imprisonment without trial violated Roman legal principles, but political pressure from the Sanhedrin made releasing him politically dangerous. Festus's consultation with Agrippa sought both legal advice and political cover.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain faith when justice is 'delayed' by administrative cowardice?
2. What does Paul's patient endurance of unjust imprisonment teach about trusting God's timing over human systems?

Interlinear Text

ὥς	δὲ	πλείους	ἡμέρας	διέτριβον	ἐκεῖ	ὁ	Φῆστος	τῷ
when	And	many	days	they had been	there	G3588	Festus	G3588
G5613	G1161	G4119	G2250	G1304	G1563		G5347	
βασιλεῖ	ἀνέθετο	τὰ	κατὰ	τὸν	Παῦλον	λέγων,	Ἄνῆρ	
unto the king	declared	G3588	cause	G3588	Paul's	saying	man	
G935	G394		G2596		G3972	G3004	G435	
τίς	ἐστίν	καταλελειμμένος	ὑπὸ	Φήλικος	δέσμιος			
a certain	There is	left	by	Felix	in bonds			
G5100	G2076	G2641	G5259	G5344	G1198			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 24:27 (References Paul): But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.