

Acts 25:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Festus answered, that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself would depart shortly thither.

Analysis

Festus answered, that Paul should be kept at Caesarea—The new procurator (ἡγεμών, *hēgemōn*) immediately resisted Jewish pressure to relocate Paul to Jerusalem. This decision reflects either Festus's commitment to Roman legal procedure or his early suspicion of Jewish motives. The Greek verb 'tereitai' (kept, guarded) emphasizes Paul's continued protective custody, not imprisonment for proven guilt.

Festus's pledge to **depart shortly thither** demonstrates administrative efficiency while maintaining judicial neutrality. His decision to keep proceedings in Caesarea—the Roman administrative capital—rather than the religiously charged atmosphere of Jerusalem protected both Roman jurisdiction and Paul's safety.

Historical Context

Porcius Festus succeeded Felix as procurator around AD 59-60. He inherited Paul's case after two years of Felix's political procrastination. Caesarea Maritima, built by Herod the Great, served as the Roman administrative headquarters for Judea, making it the proper venue for cases involving Roman citizens.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Festus's immediate decision-making contrast with Felix's two-year delay, and what does this teach about decisive justice?
2. In what ways does God use even pagan officials' commitment to proper procedures to protect His servants?

Interlinear Text

ο	μὲν	οὗν	Φῆστος	ἀπεκρίθη	τηρεῖσθαι	τὸν	Παῦλον
G3588	But	G3767	Festus	answered	should be kept	G3588	that Paul
G3303		G5347		G611		G5083	
ἐν	Καισαρείᾳ	ἐαυτὸν	δὲ	μέλλειν	ἐν	τάχει	
at	Caesarea	that he himself	and	would	at	shortly	
G1722	G2542	G1438	G1161	G3195	G1722	G5034	
ἐκπορεύεσθαι.							
depart							
G1607							