

# Acts 25:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had tarried among them more than ten days, he went down unto Caesarea; and the next day sitting on the judgment seat commanded Paul to be brought.

## Analysis

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**More than ten days**—Luke's precise timeframe emphasizes the brief courtesy visit to Jerusalem before returning to governmental duties. Festus's quick action contrasts with Felix's two-year neglect. **Sitting on the judgment seat** (βήματος, bēmatos) refers to the official tribunal where Roman magistrates rendered legal decisions, symbolizing imperial authority.

The phrase **commanded Paul to be brought** initiates formal legal proceedings. The 'bema' (judgment seat) appears throughout Paul's trials and later in his theology (Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10), where he applies the image to Christ's final judgment. Paul's earthly trials become types of ultimate accountability before God.

## Historical Context

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The judgment seat was a raised platform in Caesarea's praetorium where the procurator heard cases. Archaeological remains at Caesarea show the elaborate administrative complex where these proceedings occurred. The ten-day visit allowed Festus to assess the volatile political situation in Jerusalem.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Paul's experience before earthly judgment seats prepare him (and us) to think rightly about standing before Christ's judgment?
2. What does the contrast between Felix's delay and Festus's promptness teach about different forms of injustice?

## Interlinear Text

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Διατρίψας	δὲ	ἐν	αὐτοῖς	ἡμέρας	πλείους	ἢ	δέκα
when he had tarried	And	among	them	days	more	than	ten
G1304	G1161	G1722	G846	G2250	G4119	G2228	G1176
καταβὰς	εἰς	Καيسάρειαν	τῇ	ἐπαύριον	καθίσας	ἐπὶ	
he went down	unto	Caesarea	G3588	and the next day	sitting	on	
G2597	G1519	G2542		G1887	G2523	G1909	
τοῦ	βήματος	ἐκέλευσεν	τὸν	Παῦλον	ἀχθῆναι		
G3588	the judgment seat	commanded	G3588	Paul	to be brought		
	G968	G2753		G3972	G71		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 25:17** (Judgment): Therefore, when they were come hither, without any delay on the morrow I sat on the judgment seat, and commanded the man to be brought forth.

**Acts 25:10** (Judgment): Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest.

**Matthew 27:19** (Judgment): When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

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