

Acts 25:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove.

Analysis

The Jews... stood round about—The Greek 'periestēsan' suggests a hostile encircling, creating an intimidating atmosphere. They brought **many and grievous complaints** (πολλὰ καὶ βαρέα αἰτιώματα, *polla kai barea aitiōmata*) —'many and weighty accusations'—language suggesting serious criminal charges, possibly capital offenses.

Yet the devastating phrase: **which they could not prove** (ἀποδείξαι, *apodeixai*). Despite two years to prepare, coordinated efforts by powerful religious leaders, and numerical superiority, the accusers produced no evidence. This judicial failure exposes the emptiness of religious opposition to the gospel. Truth requires no conspiracy; lies require coordination that eventually unravels under legal scrutiny.

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin had been plotting Paul's death since his arrest (Acts 23:12-15). Their 'grievous complaints' likely recycled earlier charges: profaning the temple, teaching against Moses, and sedition. Roman law required witnesses and evidence, not mere accusation. Their failure to prove charges vindicated Paul completely.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the accusers' inability to prove charges despite overwhelming resources demonstrate God's protection of His servants?
2. What does this scene teach about the eventual failure of all false accusations against Christ's church?

Interlinear Text

παραγενομένου	δὲ	αὐτοῦ	περιέστησαν	οἱ	ἀπὸ		
was come	And	when he	stood round about	G3588	from		
G3854	G1161	G846	G4026		G575		
Ἱεροσολύμων	καταβεβηκότες	Ἰουδαῖοι	πολλὰ	καὶ	βαρέα		
Jerusalem	which came down	the Jews	many	and	and grievous		
G2414	G2597	G2453	G4183	G2532	G926		
αἰτιάματα	φέροντες	κατὰ	τοῦ	Παῦλου,	ἃ	οὐκ	ἴσχυον
complaints	laid	against	G3588	Paul	which	not	they could
G157	G5342	G2596		G3972	G3739	G3756	G2480
ἀποδείξαι							
prove							
G584							

Additional Cross-References

Acts 24:13 (Parallel theme): Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me.

Acts 25:24 (References Jerusalem): And Festus said, King Agrippa, and all men which are here present with us, ye see this man, about whom all the multitude of the Jews have dealt with me, both at Jerusalem, and also here, crying that he ought not to live any longer.

Luke 23:2 (Parallel theme): And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.

Luke 23:10 (Parallel theme): And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.