

Acts 26:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.

Analysis

Which thing I also did in Jerusalem—Paul confirms his zealous persecution was not hearsay but personal action. **Many of the saints did I shut up in prison** (τοὺς ἀγίους, tous hagious)—the early believers are called "saints" (holy ones), the same term applied to God's covenant people. Paul's use of this title while confessing his persecution reveals his transformed understanding.

Having received authority from the chief priests (ἔξουσίαν...παρὰ τῶν ἀρχιερέων)—official Sanhedrin authorization, likely similar to the letters mentioned in Acts 9:2. **When they were put to death, I gave my voice against them** (κατήνεγκα ψῆφον)—literally "cast my vote/pebble." Whether Paul was a Sanhedrin member or simply consented (as with Stephen, Acts 8:1) is debated, but the phrase indicates active, deliberate complicity in capital sentences. The chief persecutor became Christianity's chief apostle—demonstrating the radical power of Christ's transforming grace.

Historical Context

Paul speaks before King Agrippa II (c. AD 59-60) in Caesarea, defending himself against Jewish accusations. His persecution of Christians occurred roughly 25-30 years earlier (c. AD 32-34), during the volatile period after Jesus's crucifixion when

the Jerusalem church faced intense opposition from the Sanhedrin. Paul's authorization from the chief priests shows the persecution was systematic and officially sanctioned, not merely mob violence.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's testimony of God's grace transforming him from chief persecutor to chief apostle encourage you about God's power to redeem anyone?
2. What does Paul's use of the term "saints" for those he persecuted reveal about his changed perspective on who God's true people are?

Interlinear Text

ο	καὶ	ἐποίησα	ἐν	Ιεροσολύμοις	καὶ	πολλούς	
Which thing	also	did	in	Jerusalem	also	many	
G3739	G2532	G4160	G1722	G2414	G2532	G4183	
τῶν	ἀγίων	ἐγὼ	φυλακαῖς	κατέκλεισα	τὴν	παρὰ	τῶν
G3588	of the saints	I	in prison	did	G3588	from	G3588
	G40	G1473	G5438	G2623		G3844	
ἀρχιερέων	ἔχουσίαν	λαβών	ἀναιρουμένων	τε			
the chief priests	authority	having received	were put to death	and			
G749	G1849	G2983	G337	G5037			
αὐτῶν	κατήνεγκα	ψῆφον					
when they	I gave	my voice					
G846	G2702	G5586					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 8:3 (Parallel theme): As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

Acts 9:21 (References Jerusalem): But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

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