

# 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 ἁγίους, tous hagiois)—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** (ἐξουσίαν...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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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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

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

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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