

Acts 26:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

Analysis

For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple (ἕνεκα τούτων με Ἰουδαῖοι συλλαβόμενοι)—Paul identifies the temple arrest (Acts 21:30-33) as the culmination of Jewish opposition. The Greek syllabomenoi (caught, seized) implies violent apprehension, not legal arrest. **These causes** refers to his preceding testimony: God's call to preach to Gentiles (v. 17-18), the risen Christ appearing to him (v. 13-16), and his message that Messiah would suffer and rise (v. 23). The irony is profound—Jews attacked Paul in the temple, God's dwelling place, for preaching the fulfillment of temple sacrifices in Christ.

Went about to kill me (ἐπειρῶντο διαχειρίσασθαι)—The imperfect tense indicates repeated, ongoing attempts at murder. This was not spontaneous mob violence but sustained murderous intent, confirmed by the forty-man assassination plot (Acts 23:12-15). Paul's defense before Agrippa shows that opposition to the gospel comes not from the message's falsity but from its truth—that Gentiles share equal access to God's promises through Christ alone, bypassing ethnic privilege.

Historical Context

Paul speaks before King Agrippa II, Bernice, and Roman governor Festus in Caesarea (circa AD 59-60), defending himself against Jewish accusations. The temple seizure occurred three years earlier when Asian Jews incited a riot, falsely claiming Paul brought Gentiles into the inner courts (Acts 21:27-28). This speech represents Paul's formal defense of his apostolic ministry.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What 'causes' in your testimony to Christ might provoke the strongest opposition from religious people?
2. How does Paul's experience show that faithfulness to the gospel may bring suffering even in 'holy' places?

Interlinear Text

ἕνεκα	τούτων	με	οἱ	Ἰουδαῖοι	συλλαβόμενοι	ἐν	τῷ
For	these causes	me	G3588	the Jews	caught	in	G3588
G1752	G5130	G3165		G2453	G4815	G1722	
ἱερῷ	ἐπειρῶντο	διαχειρίσασθαι					
the temple	and went about	to kill					
G2411	G3987	G1315					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 21:27 (Temple): And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,