

Acts 26:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them:

Analysis

And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them—After Paul's defense and appeal (26:1-29), the assembly ends. The verb ἀνέστη (anestē, 'rose up') indicates formal dismissal. Ὁ βασιλεὺς (ho basileus, 'the king') Agrippa leaves first (protocol), followed by ὁ ἡγεμὼν (ho hēgemōn, 'the governor') Festus, Bernice, and οἱ συγκαθήμενοι αὐτοῖς (hoi synkathēmenoi autois, 'those sitting with them'—the military tribunes and city leaders).

The scene's formality contrasts with its outcome: all this pomp and power assemble, hear the gospel, and disperse without conversion. Yet Paul has faithfully testified before kings as Jesus predicted (Acts 9:15). The rising of earthly authorities symbolizes their rejection and departure from the gospel, while Paul remains—bound but bearing eternal truth.

Historical Context

This gathering (c. AD 59-60) in Caesarea's audience hall brought together the last Herodian king, a Roman governor, military commanders, and civic leaders—the full spectrum of power in first-century Judea. Paul's testimony before them fulfilled biblical patterns: Joseph before Pharaoh, Daniel before Nebuchadnezzar, prophets before kings. The assembly's departure without decision leaves Paul's fate unchanged—he'll go to Rome as planned—but provides another testimony

recorded in Scripture for all generations. Agrippa's 'almost persuaded' (26:28) becomes history's cautionary tale of intellectual assent without faith.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What's the spiritual significance of the entire assembly rising and leaving after hearing Paul's testimony but not responding in faith?
2. How does this scene illustrate that even powerful, educated people can hear the gospel clearly yet reject it through indifference or delay?
3. In what ways does Paul's faithfulness to testify matter, regardless of the immediate response, and how should this inform our gospel sharing?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	ταῦτα	εἰπόντος	αὐτοῖς	Ἄνεστη	ὁ	βασιλεὺς	Καὶ
And	thus	spoken	them	rose up	G3588	the king	And
G2532	G5023	G2036	G846	G450		G935	G2532
ὁ	ἡγεμὼν	ἢ	τε	Βερνίκη	Καὶ	οἱ	συγκαθήμενοι
G3588	the governor	G3588	and	Bernice	And	G3588	they that sat with
	G2232		G5037	G959	G2532		G4775
αὐτοῖς							
them							
G846							

αὐτοῖς

them

G846