

Acts 28:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together: and when they were come together, he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

Analysis

Paul's immediate action—**after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together**—demonstrates his 'to the Jew first' priority (Romans 1:16). His self-defense—**I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers**—refutes charges of apostasy from Judaism. Paul maintained that faith in Messiah Jesus represented true Judaism's fulfillment, not abandonment. The phrase 'customs of our fathers' (τὰ ἔθη τὰ πατρώα) refers to ancestral traditions, which Paul honored where they didn't contradict Christ. His appeal to Rome resulted from Jewish opposition, not anti-Jewish sentiment.

Historical Context

Rome's Jewish community (40,000-50,000 people) had been expelled under Claudius (AD 49) but returned after his death (AD 54). Paul approached them diplomatically, explaining his situation before opponents could poison opinion against him.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Paul model engaging critics with grace while maintaining doctrinal clarity?
2. What does Paul's insistence that Christianity fulfills Judaism teach about continuity between Old and New Testaments?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγένετο δὲ μετὰ ἡμέρας τρεῖς συγκαλέσασθαι τὸν
it came to pass And that after days three called
G1096 G1161 G3326 G2250 G5140 G4779 G3588

Παῦλον τοὺς ὄντας τῶν Ἰουδαίων πρώτους·
Paul G3588 G5607 G3588 of the Jews the chief
G3972 G2453 G4413

συνελθόντων δὲ αὐτούς ἔλεγεν πρὸς αὐτούς ἄνδρες
were come together And them he said unto them Men
G4905 G1161 G846 G3004 G4314 G846 G435

ἀδελφοί Ἐγώ οὐδὲν ἐναντίον ποιήσας τῷ λαῷ
and brethren though I nothing against have committed G3588 the people
G80 G1473 G3762 G1727 G4160 G2992

ἢ τοῖς ἔθεσιν τοῖς πατρώοις δέσμιος ἐξ
or G3588 customs G3588 of our fathers prisoner from
G2228 G1485 G3971 G1198 G1537

Ἱεροσολύμων παρεδόθην εἰς τὰς χεῖρας τῶν
Jerusalem yet was I delivered into the hands G3588
G2414 G3860 G1519 G5495 G3588

Ἐρωμαίων
of the Romans
G4514

Additional Cross-References

Acts 25:8 (Parallel theme): While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all.

Acts 6:14 (Parallel theme): For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

Acts 25:10 (References Paul): Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org