

Acts 28:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said unto him, We neither received letters out of Judaea concerning thee, neither any of the brethren that came shewed or spake any harm of thee.

Analysis

We neither received letters out of Judaea concerning thee—The Roman Jews' response reveals surprising ignorance of Paul's case. Their statement—**neither any of the brethren that came shewed or spake any harm of thee**—indicates Jerusalem's Jewish leaders hadn't poisoned Roman opinion against him. This providential circumstance gave Paul fresh opportunity to present the gospel. The phrase 'any harm' (περί σου πονηρόν) suggests they expected negative reports but received none. God's sovereignty orchestrated this clean slate for Paul's Roman testimony.

Historical Context

Communication between Jerusalem and Rome normally took weeks by ship. The lack of advance warning may indicate Jerusalem's Jewish leaders didn't consider Paul's Roman ministry worth opposing, or divine providence delayed their communications.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How has God prepared 'fresh starts' for your witness by preventing advance prejudice against you?
2. What does this teach about God's control over timing and circumstances in gospel advance?

Interlinear Text

οἱ δὲ πρὸς αὐτὸν εἶπον, Ἡμεῖς οὔτε γράμματα
G3588 **And** G1161 **unto** G4314 **him** G846 **they said** G2036 **We** G2249 **neither** G3777 **letters** G1121

περὶ σοῦ ἐδεξάμεθα ἀπὸ τῆς Ἰουδαίας οὔτε
concerning G4012 **thee** G4675 **received** G1209 **out of** G575 G3588 **Judaea** G2449 **neither** G3777

παραγενόμενός τι τῶν ἀδελφῶν ἀπήγγειλεν ἢ
that came G3854 **any** G5100 G3588 **of the brethren** G80 **shewed** G518 **or** G2228

ἐλάλησέν τι περὶ σοῦ πονηρόν
spake G2980 **any** G5100 **concerning** G4012 **thee** G4675 **harm** G4190

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 54:17 (Parallel theme): No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 50:8 (Parallel theme): He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.

Isaiah 41:11 (Parallel theme): Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.

