

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

Psalm 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 οὐτε γράμματα
G3588 And unto him they said We neither letters
G1161 G4314 G846 G2036 G2249 G3777 G1121

περὶ σοῦ ἐδεξάμεθα ἀπὸ τῆς Ἰουδαίας οὐτε
concerning thee received out of G3588 Judea neither
G4012 G4675 G1209 G575 G2449 G3777

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

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

