

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

III THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH Acts 13-28

LESSON 21 ~ Paul Before the Jewish Sanhedrin ~ Acts 22:30-23:35

KEY VERSE

... *'Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.'* (Acts 23:11)

PONDER¹

READ Acts 22:30-23:35.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. _____

THE SANHEDRIN DIVIDED

Paul, accused by the Jews, had been dragged from the temple in Jerusalem, bound in chains and taken to the barracks to be examined by Romans, under scourging. When they found out he was a Roman citizen, the commander was afraid because he had bound him. The following day, he released Paul from his bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all the council to appear so he would know exactly what Paul was accused of by the Jews (Acts 22:30).

READ Acts 22:30-23:10.

1. As Paul earnestly looked at the council, what did he say (Acts 23:1)? _____

2. What was the command from Ananias the high priest (vv. 2, 3)? _____

How did Paul reply? _____

3. What accusing question was directed to Paul from those who stood by (v. 4)? _____

¹ PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

4. How did Paul answer them (v. 5)? _____

5. What did Paul perceive and how did this cause him to address the crowd (vv. 6, 7)? _____

2 3

What was the result? _____

6. How did they differ in their beliefs (v. 8)? _____

7. Which group came to Paul's defense? What was their conclusion (v. 9)? _____

8. When a great dissension arose, what did the commander do and why (v. 10)? _____

PERSONAL

We see God's continued protection of Paul's physical life. Has there ever been a time when God has sent someone to intervene, or where He has delivered you from a violent or dangerous situation? Explain.

LOOK DEEPER

What do the following Scriptures say about God's protection against evil?

Psalms 50:15 _____

² Sadducees: materialistic party among the Jews denying the resurrection and existence of angels and spirits; they favored the written Law of Moses.

³ Pharisees: a legalistic party among the Jews that believed in the immortality of the soul, the resurrection of the body, and the existence of angels and spirits.

Psalm 91:1-16 _____

Jeremiah 33:3 _____

THE PLOT AGAINST PAUL
READ Acts 23:11-22.

1. How was Paul comforted and encouraged the following night (v. 11)? _____

2. For what purpose did the forty men band together under an oath that they would neither eat nor drink (vv. 12-15)?

Who did they go to? _____

What was their demand? _____

3. Who overheard their plot? What did he do (v. 16)? _____

4. What did Paul do (v. 17)? _____

5. What happened when the centurion took the boy to the commander (vv. 18, 19)? _____

6. After the boy told the commander of the plot against Paul, what advice did the boy give him (v. 20-22)?

What did the commander do? How did he warn the boy? _____

PAUL IS SENT TO FELIX

READ Acts 23:23-35.

1. What was the commander's strategy to protect Paul and deliver him safely to Felix (vv. 23, 24)?

2. What was Claudius Lysias⁴ message to Felix the governor (vv. 25-30)?

How did he address his letter? _____

How did he describe Paul's situation? _____

Why did he rescue him? _____

What did he learn of the accusations against him? _____

What was his action when he learned the Jews lay in wait for him? _____

⁴ Claudius Lysias: the name of the commander that dealt with Paul in this ongoing persecution.

3. What did the soldiers do (vv. 31, 32)? _____ 5

4. What happened in Caesarea (v. 33)? _____

5. How did the governor respond after understanding Paul was from Cilicia (vv. 34, 35)? _____

6

Paul was secure at last and in route to Rome; all was in the providence⁷ of God.

PERSONAL

How do you see God's providential hand working in your own life? _____

WRITE out the KEY VERSE. _____

*And they continued steadfastly
in the Apostles Doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
Acts 2:42*

⁵ Antipatris: about forty miles from Jerusalem; a small fortress halfway between Jerusalem and Caesarea. It was built by Herod the Great to guard an important spring, and named after his father.

⁶ Praetorium: Herod Agrippa's prison; the governor's residence and place of judgement.

⁷ providence: God controlling the affairs of man.

NOTES: _____

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Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

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