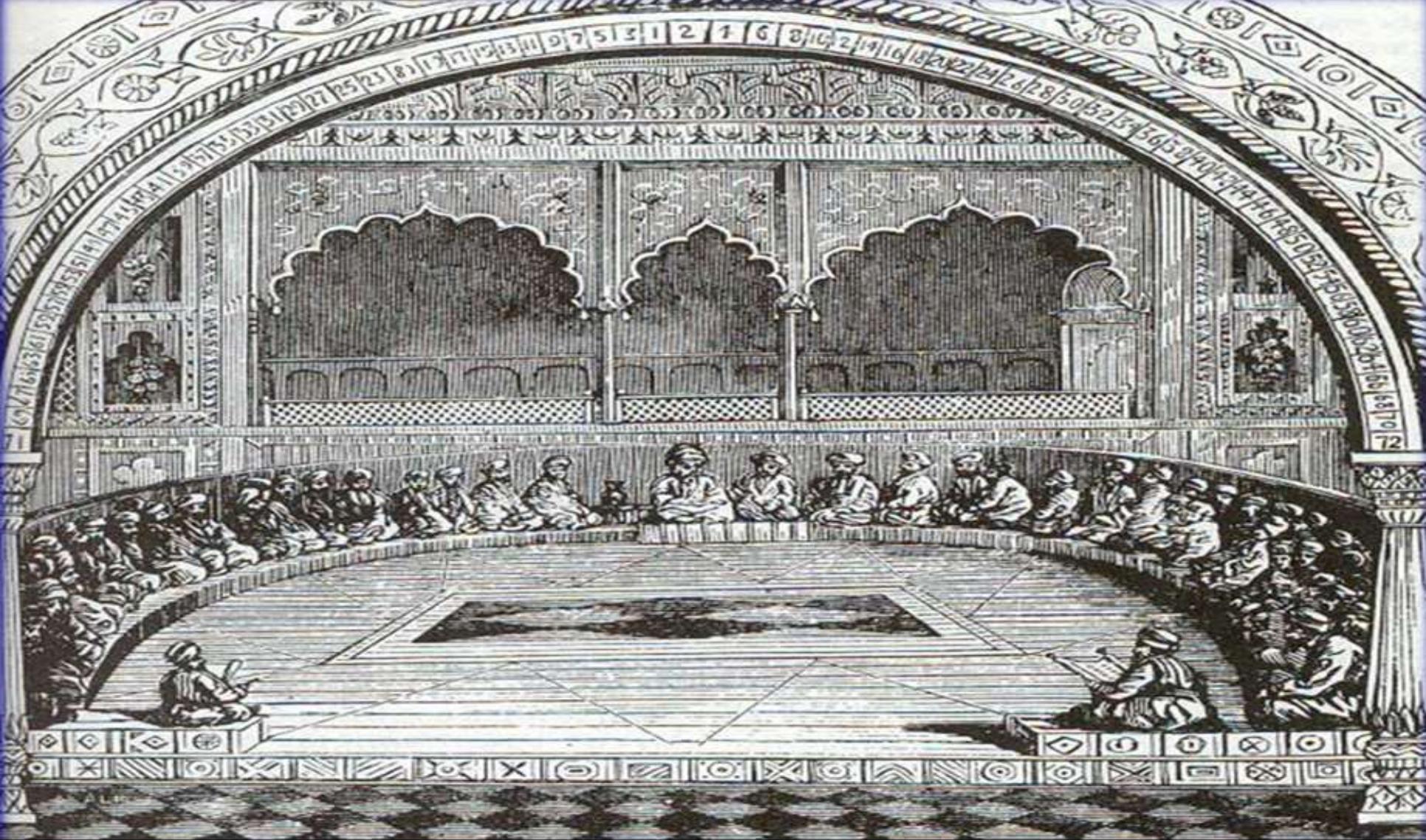


**Acts 21:1-17 to 23:30;  
Paul's Last Visit to Jerusalem.**

**Acts 23:1-35;  
Paul's Defence  
Before the Sanhedrin.  
An attempt at  
Paul's assassination.**





**Acts 23:1; "Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."**

Acts 23:1; *"Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."*

The **"next day"** is what the last verse in chapter 22 says, and that is exactly where we are.

Paul is looking at them.

**"Earnestly,"** means **intense**, to have his **eyes fixed** on all of them, **looked steadfastly** upon the council.

Was Paul trying to make a connection with them or else stare them down.

There is also a possibility that he was trying to see if he recognized any of his former acquaintances of twenty-five years ago.

Acts 23:1; "Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said,

"Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

Ezekiel 3:8-9; says "But now, I am making you as defiant as they are, and as obstinate as they are; I am making your resolution as hard as a diamond, harder than flint. So do not be afraid of them, **do not be overawed by them, for they are a tribe of rebels.**"

"Men and brethren"- again, this was **not "my brethren in Christ"** but those of the same nation.

**"I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day"**

The conscience is part of our inner being.

It either accuses us of doing wrong,

or excuses what we have done as acceptable.

Rom 2:15;

*Acts 23:1; "Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."*

**But, we know that Paul had Christians  
killed and imprisoned. 22:4;**

**That tells us that the **conscience**  
is not an error-free guide to make decisions by.**

**In addition the conscience can be REJECTED  
or SEARED AS WITH A HOT IRON if we choose to.**

**1 Tim 1:19; "keeping faith and a good conscience,  
which some have rejected and suffered  
shipwreck in regard to their faith."**

**"by means of the hypocrisy of liars  
seared in their own conscience  
as with a branding iron," 1 Tim 4:2;**

*Acts 23:1; "Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."*

Thus the conscience is a wonderful gift from God. However, **it must be EDUCATED by the word of God** in order for it to be effective as God intended it.

Is it possible for a person to live for so many years in error, believing that he is pleasing God?

*Acts 24:15; "having **a hope in God**, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked."*

**16. "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men."**



*Acts 23:2; "And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.."*

**What Paul is saying to them is:-**

**I was exactly like you all are right now, but I changed, I am not blind anymore- God saved me!**

**The high priest at this time is a man called Ananias.  
It is not Annas nor Caiaphas.**

**How does he react to Paul's statement?**

**He commanded that Paul be hit in the mouth!**

**Why?**

**He was offended when Paul mentioned that he had lived his life in a good conscience before God.**

*Acts 23:1; "Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said,  
"Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."*

**Remember that people will always react like this  
when they see differences between them and us.**

**The way we live and what we say  
is an offence to many of them!**

**1 King 22:24; Jer 20:2;**

**John 18:22; "When He had said this,  
one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus,  
saying,  
"Is that the way You answer the high priest?"**

*Acts 23:3; "Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall!  
For you sit to judge me according to the law,  
and yet you command me to be struck contrary to the law?"*

The law did not permit for anyone unless  
he is found guilty of a crime in a court of law.

**He could not be condemned before being examined.**

Lev 19:35; Exod 23:1,2; Deut 19:15-18;  
Prov 18:13; John 7:51;

Paul is now **fixing his eyes** on them  
in anger and in pain because of  
**how false they were towards God and men.**

Ananias was a whitewashed wall, in other words,  
**a hypocrite**, because he pretended to be following  
the law in his judgment of Paul but he broke it  
when he had Paul, an innocent man, struck.

# 1

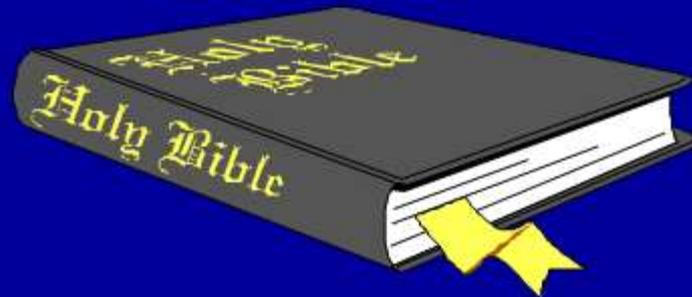
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Acts 23:3; "Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall!  
For you sit to judge me according to the law,  
and yet you command me to be struck contrary to the law?"

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,  
**you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs,**  
which look beautiful on the outside  
but on the inside are full of dead men's bones  
and everything unclean."

"on the **outside** you **appear to people**  
**as righteous** but on the **inside**  
you are **full of hypocrisy and wickedness.**"

**Matt 23:27-28**





**The picture is an artist's representation of the Jewish historian Josephus.**

*Acts 23:3; "Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall!  
For you sit to judge me according to the law,  
and yet you command me to be struck contrary to the law?"*

Paul's prediction that God would smite Ananias came true. **According to Josephus**, the Jewish historian, who was a witness of these things.

In 66 A.D. :-

**"Ananias was slain**, with Hezekiah his brother, during the agitation that occurred in Jerusalem when the robbers, or Sicarii, under their leader, Manahem, had taken possession of the city. . ."

He attempted to conceal himself in an aqueduct, but was drawn forth and killed." See Josephus, Jewish Wars, book 2, chapter 17, section 8.

*Acts 23:4; "And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?"*

**The bystanders were shocked at the way Paul spoke to the high priest, and they rebuked Paul for this outburst.**

**Those who stood by, might be servants or deputies in service of the court.**

**Why did they not complain about hitting an innocent man on the mouth?**

**Man's Justice is often like that – unfair and arbitrary.**

**In the Old Testament God had set up a system that was supposed to ensure that proper justice was carried out. Deut 17:8-12;**

***Acts 23:5; "Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, "You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.""***



**The High Priest.**

*Acts 23:4; "And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?"*

**The Sanhedrin** were based on the 70 who were chosen in the desert to assist Moses and the tribal leaders make policy decisions and adjudicate the more difficult questions of law and justice. (Numbers 11:16-17;)

The Sanhedrin were assemblies of either twenty-three or seventy-one elders brought into being around 516 BC

They were appointed to sit as a tribunal in every city in the ancient Land of Israel.

It was the only body that theoretically had the power to discipline kings and rulers of the nation.

Under the Romans it was limited in its power and restricted to making judgments concerning matters related to the religion and culture of the Jewish nation.

# Sanhedrin's Tombs – near Jerusalem.



*Acts 23:4; "And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?"*

**The Sanhedrin was the senate of the Jews.  
It was based on the council of seventy appointed  
by Moses in the Desert (Numbers 11:16-18;)**

**It was composed of the high priest, the other  
senior priests and the leading scribes and rabbis.**

**It also included many of the rich and powerful men  
among the Jews of the time.**

**Many positions in the Sanhedrin were hereditary.**

**It could exact the death penalty on Jewish  
lawbreakers but it could not crucify.**

**But under Rome in 6 AD it lost the power to apply  
the death penalty without Rome's consent.**

<http://hermeneutics.stackexchange.com/questions/5558/in-the-time-of-jesus-were-the-jewish-authorities-allowed-to-execute>

**Acts 23:5; "Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, "You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people."**

**These words have been given  
several interpretations:-**

**1) Some have supposed that Paul said them in Irony, as if saying, "Pardon me, brethren, I did not consider that this man with such an attitude was the high priest of the Lord"**

**2) Some have suggested that Paul is admitting that he spoke hastily.**

**3) Another has suggested that Paul, having been away from Jerusalem, was not aware of the changes of the priesthood.**

*Acts 23:5; "Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, "You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people."*

**There were almost 28 different high priests between 37 and 70 AD.**

**The Jewish priests, **all descendants of Aaron**, changed positions each year. (John 11:49-51; 18:13;)**

**It is logical to assume that Paul is telling the truth. He didn't know who was the high priest that year.**



*Acts 23:5; "Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, "You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people."*

**The Jewish law forbade speaking evil of a ruler of the people. (Exod 22:28;) Name calling and insults to a ruler of the people were serious offences for which the offender could be beaten with forty lashes.**

**If God told the people not to speak evil of their rulers, would it not be a good thing if our citizens showed more respect for our elected leaders?  
Assuming they earn our respect!**

**Our laws are soft on those who malign public figures, whereas libel and slander of private individuals can bring a heavy financial penalty in a court of law.**

*Acts 23:5; "Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, "You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people."*

**Paul did not only respected the prince of the people of God, but even more so, he wrote later that we need to learn how to respect the human laws and not to be disobedient but rather obedient whenever they commanded something, as long as it was not contrary to the law that came from God.**

**Romans 13:1; "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."**

**2 "Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves."**

**Acts 23:6; "when Paul saw that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!"**

**In 23:1; Paul had been studying the crowd.**

**Now, he noticed something in them.**

**Paul says: He noticed that the crowd was full of Pharisees and Sadducees.**

**Enough with the talking,**

**let me tell you who exactly I am.**

**I was a Pharisee, My father was a Pharisee,**

**I believe and have hope**

**in the resurrection of the dead.**

**"For this reason I am being judged right now..."**



**Acts 23:7; "And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided."**

**I think Paul saw that the inquisition was going unfavourably for him. So he injected the controversial "bone of contention" of the resurrection to divide the Sanhedrin and bring them to an indecisive standstill.**

**Paul knew that the Sanhedrin would not judge him with right judgement. He knew that they were divided into Pharisees and Sadducees.**

**Some try to say that Paul was trying to cause division, we cannot divide what is already divided and this is what happened in this case.**



Acts 23:8; "For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both."

**Matt 22:23-33; The Sadducees were materialistic like the modern Jehovah's Witnesses of today. They deny the immortality of the soul.**

**Why are so many men committed to denying the resurrection?**

**Because, if there is a resurrection, then there will also be a Judgement- that's why.**

**For the same reason, many deny there is a creator God, because if they confess that there is a God (as there is) then they will face judged for what they have done and this is not a pleasant thing.**

**Rom 1:18; "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."**

Acts 23:9; “Then there arose a loud outcry. And the scribes of the Pharisees' party arose and protested, saying, “We find no evil in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God.”

**What we have now is the result of what happens when people are not sure about what they believe and practice.**

**They start making noise and confusing one another.**

**The Pharisees were the first to speak in favour of Paul:- **We find no evil in this man.****

**Yet they had disagreed with Paul in 22:22;**

**“And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for **he is not fit to live!**”**

Acts 23:9; “Then there arose a loud outcry. And the scribes of the Pharisees' party arose and protested, saying, “We find no evil in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God.”

But, now that Paul is **speaking in their favour** concerning the resurrection, they said:-

“He is innocent!” They are saying this and will continue to, as long as they embarrass the Sadducees...

What were the **Pharisees** likely referring to when they talked about Paul seeing a spirit or an angel?

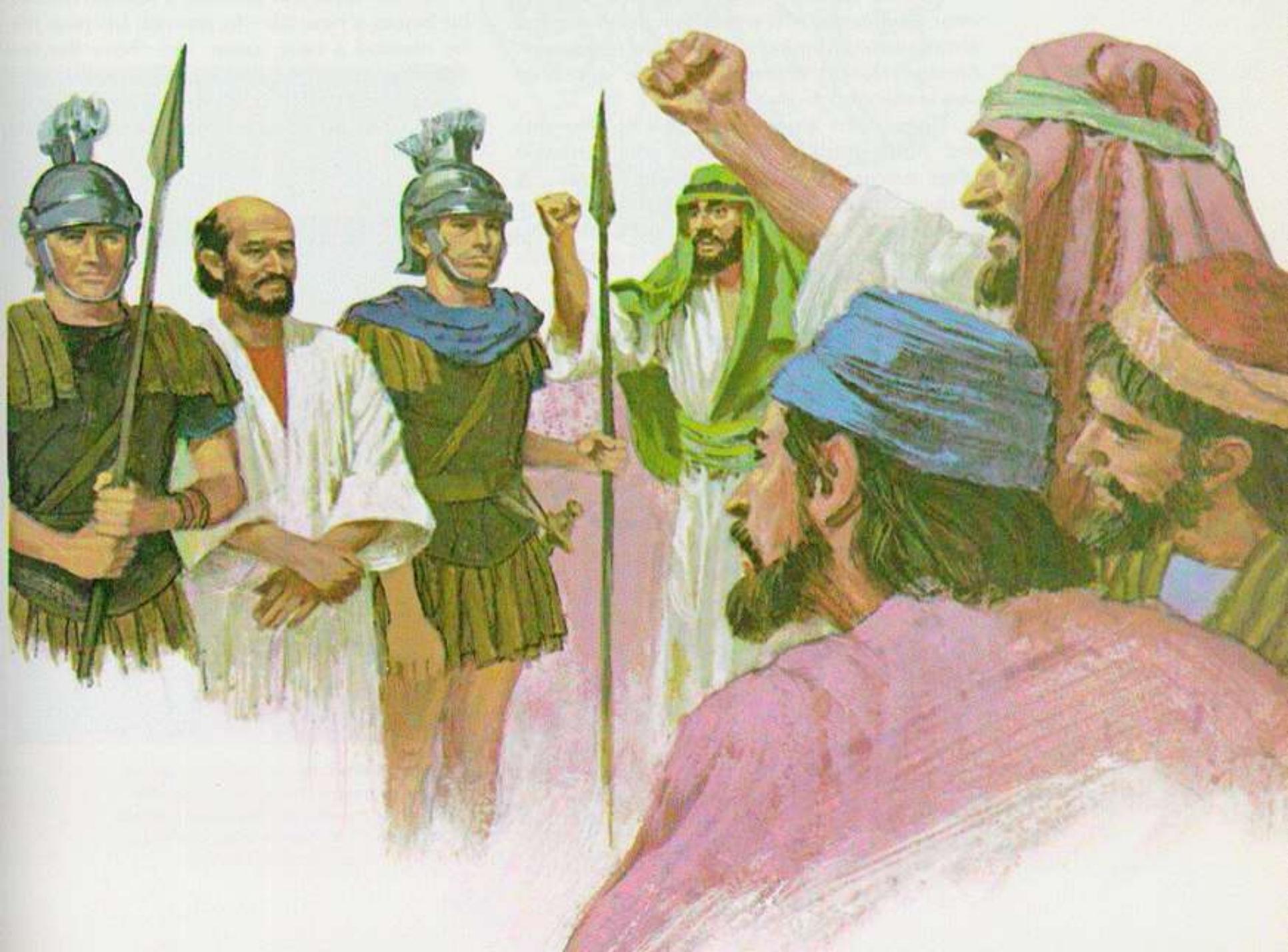
“About noon as I came near **Damascus**, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and **heard a voice say to me**, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’” Acts 9;

Acts 23:10; “Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks.”

Notice that the Sanhedrin are acting exactly like regular people, **they want to destroy Paul inside the place where they pretend to judge him.**

Even the commander noticed that **they want to kill the man of God.** He is basically taking Paul out of their hands before they tear Paul into pieces.

This group is not here to judge according to God **but to kill those who do not agree with them.**



**Acts 23:10; “Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks.”**

**Paul is again rescued  
from the murderous intentions of the Jews.**

**Paul will be kept in the barracks  
for his own protection  
until the commander  
can find a resolution to the case.**

Model of **Antonia Fortress**  
that contained **the Barracks**.



Acts 23:11; “The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said,  
“Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem,  
so you must also testify in Rome.”

**Paul** is not alone in all this.

The Lord is with us when we need it the most!

Acts 9:5; 18:9, 10; 22:17-21; 27:23; Heb 13:5;

**Take courage**, That is what Paul needed to hear.

**Paul is being abuse and betrayed**,  
but the **Holy Spirit** has plans for him:-

**YOU MUST TESTIFY IN ROME.**

19:21; 25:9-12; Rom 1:10-15;

This is why Paul ends up appealing  
to Rome and the Caesar.

**God has a purpose for him in Rome.**

**Acts 23:11; “The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said,  
“Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem,  
so you must also testify in Rome.”**

**God through His foreknowledge knows  
that what is happening is setting things up  
for Paul to be carried safely to Rome.**

**Paul will be protected by the resources  
of the greatest empire on earth.**

**Acts 23:12;** “And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.”

**The vow is not to eat or drink until they kill Paul.**

**These people are not people or God,  
they are killers who are thirsty for innocent blood.**

**1 King 19:2;** “Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.”

**1 Samuel 14:24;** “Now the men of Israel were hard-pressed on that day, for Saul had put the people under oath, saying, “Cursed be the man who eats food before evening, and until I have avenged myself on my enemies.” So none of the people tasted food.

**2 Samuel 3:35;** “Then all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was still day; but David vowed, saying, “May God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread or anything else before the sun goes down.

**Acts 23:13; “Now there were more than forty who had formed this conspiracy.”**

**With this we can believe and understand that it was not the whole group in the Sanhedrin who made this oath but some of them were involved.**

**Perhaps just the Sadducees and some of the younger men were the ones promising to destroy the man of God.**

**There will always be those who wish to stop us from proclaiming & defending the gospel of Christ.**

**Acts 23:14; “And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.”**

**The oath that these men are taking is a provocation against God and for this God punished these people in year 70 when the Romans came and destroyed them completely. Paul feels safe in the Roman army barracks, unaware of the Jews’ conspiracy to lure him out to assassinate him.**



**Acts 23:15; “Now you, therefore, together with the council, suggest to the commander that he be brought down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to make further inquiries concerning him; but we are ready to kill him before he comes near.”**

**They already plan how they are going to kill him.**

**1. Tell the council to bring him.**

**2. While you pretend to make future inquiries...**

**3. We are going to kill him while he comes near.**

**“Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men;  
Preserve me from violent men,  
Who plan evil things in their hearts;  
They continually gather together for war.”**

**Psalm 140:1-2;**

Acts 23:16; “So when Paul's sister's son heard of their ambush, he went and entered the barracks and told Paul.”

What destroys their whole plot was not the ‘**good luck**’ from Paul but the “**providence from God.**”

The young man was Paul's nephew, the son of Paul's sister who lived in Jerusalem.

He was the one who discovered the whole plot and went and told Paul in the barracks about what these men were planning to do against him.



**Acts 23:17; “Then Paul called one of the centurions to him and said, “Take this young man to the commander, for he has something to tell him.”**

**Paul is sending the young man to the commander, he did not want his nephew to talk to the centurions but to the main man, the commander.**

**Ps 118:6-8; “The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me? The LORD is for me among those who help me; Therefore I will look {with satisfaction} on those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man..”**

**Heb 13:6; “So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”**

**Acts 23:18; “So he took him and brought him to the commander and said,  
“Paul the prisoner called me to him and asked me to bring this young man to you.  
He has something to say to you.”**

**For some reason they listen to Paul and now  
they brought the young man to the commander  
and explain to him the reason for all of this.**

**Is this a young man or a child?**

**Some believe that we are talking about a child,**

**We don't know how old or all the circumstances  
but some believe that this is a child  
Because of the way the commander spoke to him.**

**Acts 23:19; “Then the commander took him by the hand, went aside and asked privately, “What is it that you have to tell me?”**

**The commander took him by the hand.**

**Yet judging from the language he uses as he explains the plot and gives his advice to the commander, it is obvious he is probably in his teens.**

**All we really know is that he has some important information that even the commander is willing to listen to.**

**Everyone is now interested with all that is happening in Jerusalem against Paul and even the commander is willing to listen to the story.**

**Acts 23:20; “And he said, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more fully about him.”**

**He is telling the commander the whole plot against his uncle. Let’s all keep in mind that the providence of God is with Paul in this occasion.**

**One of the members of his family is helping him through God’s hand to save his life and to move forward with the preaching of the gospel of Jesus.**



**Acts 23:21; “do not yield to them, for more than forty of them lie in wait for him, men who have bound themselves by an oath that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him; and now they are ready, waiting for the promise from you.”**

**Liars are many times found out, their plan has been discovered and now these men can (or will) face big problems for what they are doing at this point.**

**They want to take ‘justice’ into their own hands but now the authorities have been warned and they will be prepared to respond to it.**

Acts 23:22-23; “So the commander let the young man depart, and commanded him, “Tell no one that you have revealed these things to me. And he called for two centurions, saying, “Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at the third hour of the night.”

**The commander is taking all of this very serious, he is preparing many people in order to protect Paul.**

**Two Centurions: 100 soldiers each= 200  
70 horse men.  
200 spearmen.**

**All this is equal to: 470 men.**

**There were probably many Jews who would help the forty who had bound themselves with the oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul.**



Acts 23:24; “and provide mounts to set Paul on,  
and bring him safely to Felix the governor.”

Several horses were taken for Paul so he could change mounts when the ridden one was tired.

From Jerusalem they are taking Paul to Caesarea to the governor there, his name was Felix.

Felix was an unscrupulous ruler. In addition to having three wives, he considered free to commit any crime and avoiding punishment because of his influence with the courts.

Because of Felix's tyranny, a group of **Jewish revolutionaries**, known as the **Sicarii** ‘assassins,’ flourished. **Retaliation against the Sicarii** by the Roman government eventually **led to the downfall and destruction of Jerusalem.**

**Acts 23:25-26; “He wrote a letter in the following manner: Claudius Lysias,  
to the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings.”**



Acts 23:25-26; “He wrote a letter in the following manner: Claudius Lysias, to the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings.”

The letter speaks for itself. It is simply Lysias, the chief captain, relating the events and putting the case before the higher court of Felix the governor.

Remember we will be dealing with a corrupt man who is not interested in what is clean and fair but in doing all that is crooked and wrong.

**Claudius Lysias** is calling him “**most excellent**” but this is just formality among them, he was not excellent in any way.

**Acts 23:25-26; “This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them. Coming with the troops I rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman.”**

**The chief captain was apparently a man of honour, justice, and decency, a man committed to do the right thing.**

**When it came to understanding the charges against Paul, all he could say was that Paul was "accused of their law." (Acts 23:29;)**

**He did not understand the issue because he was ignorant of God's law and Word.**

- Acts 23:29-30
- ***29 I found that the accusation had to do with questions about their law, but there was no charge against him that deserved death or imprisonment. 30 When I was informed of a plot to be carried out against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also ordered his accusers to present to you their case against him.***

Acts 23:28-29; “And when I wanted to know the reason they accused him, I brought him before their council. I found out that he was accused concerning questions of their law, but had nothing charged against him deserving of death or chains.”

The only thing I know says Claudius, is that the whole problem in here is about **“their law”**

The problem is not a crime, he does not deserve death but religion is their problem.

Here is a **‘soldier’ a military man**, we are talking not about politics but about matters of religions.  
**Lysias admits that he is ignorant of the case...**

**Acts 23:25-26; “This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them. Coming with the troops I rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman.”**



Acts 23:30; “when it was told me that the Jews lay in wait for the man, I sent him immediately to you, and also commanded his accusers to state before you the charges against him. Farewell.”

**Paul was declared innocent by:-**

**Galio pro-consul** from Acaia Acts 18:14;

**Claudius Lysias** commander Acts 23:29;

**Festus** Roman Governor Acts 25:18;

**King Agrippa**, king of the Jews Acts 26:31;

There was nothing wrong done by this man,  
but still, they want to **‘examine him.’**

**Remember what happened to the Lord Jesus.**

**Matthew 27:19, 24;.**

Acts 23:30; “when it was told me that the Jews lay in wait for the man, I sent him immediately to you, and also commanded his accusers to state before you the charges against him. Farewell.”

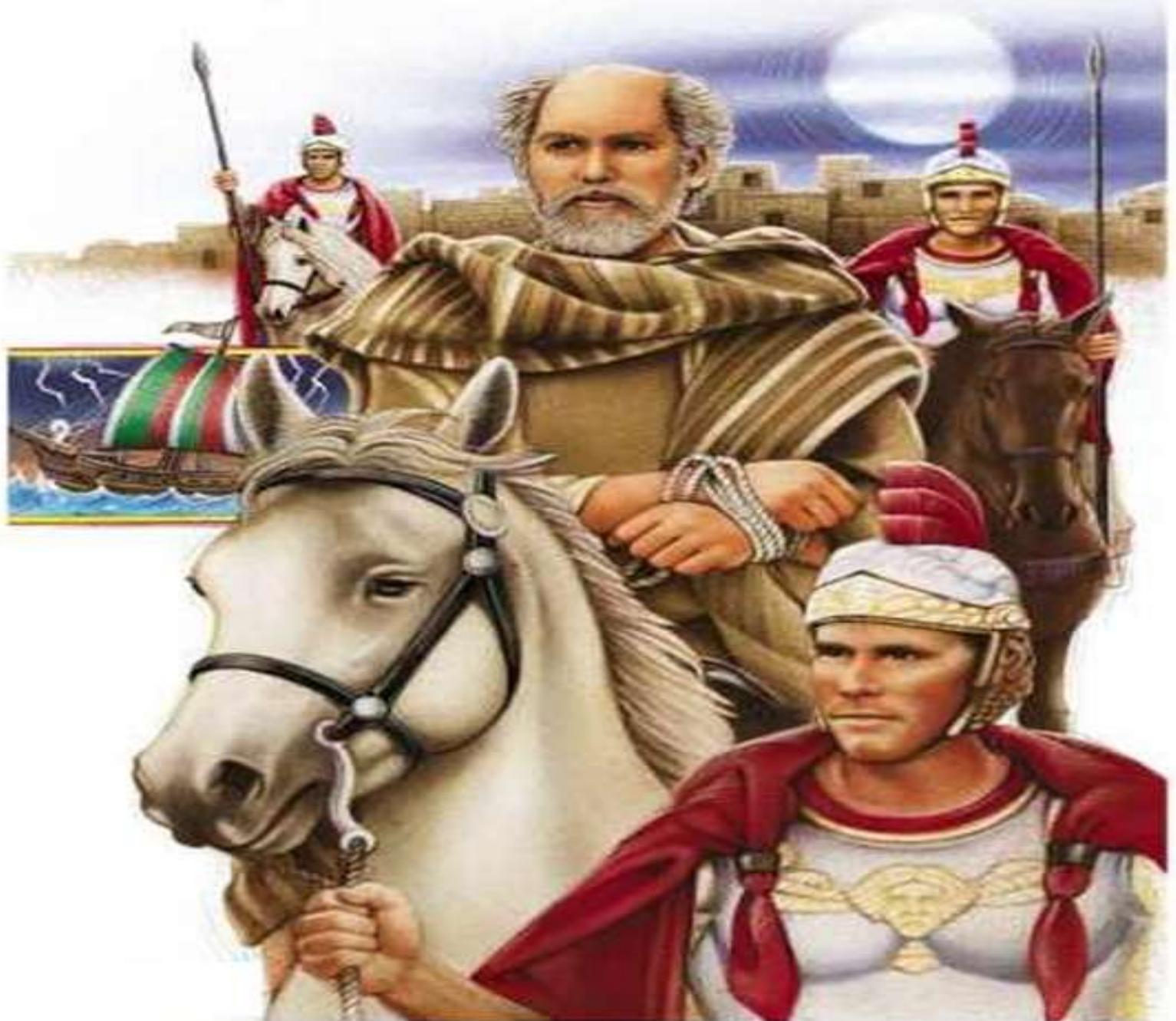
**We get the impression  
that Luke saw and copied this letter.**

The commander **Claudius Lysias** spun his account to put his actions in the best light.

The story about how and when he learned that Paul was a Roman citizen was a slight manipulation of the truth, to put it charitably.

He probably had not yet ordered Paul’s accusers to present their case before the governor yet.

But he planned to do that  
as soon as Paul was safely at Caesarea.



Acts 23:31; “Then the soldiers, as they were commanded, took Paul and brought him by night to **Antipatris**.”



Acts 23:32; “The next day they left the horsemen to go on with him,  
and returned to the barracks.”

The infantry went with the cavalry as far as **Antipatris**. This was about half of the 70 miles to Caesarea. They stopped there until morning, probably sleeping a few hours.

The next morning the infantry returned to Jerusalem leaving the **70 men** of the **cavalry** to take Paul the rest of the way to Caesarea.

By the end of the second day Paul was probably safely settled in Herod’s palace.

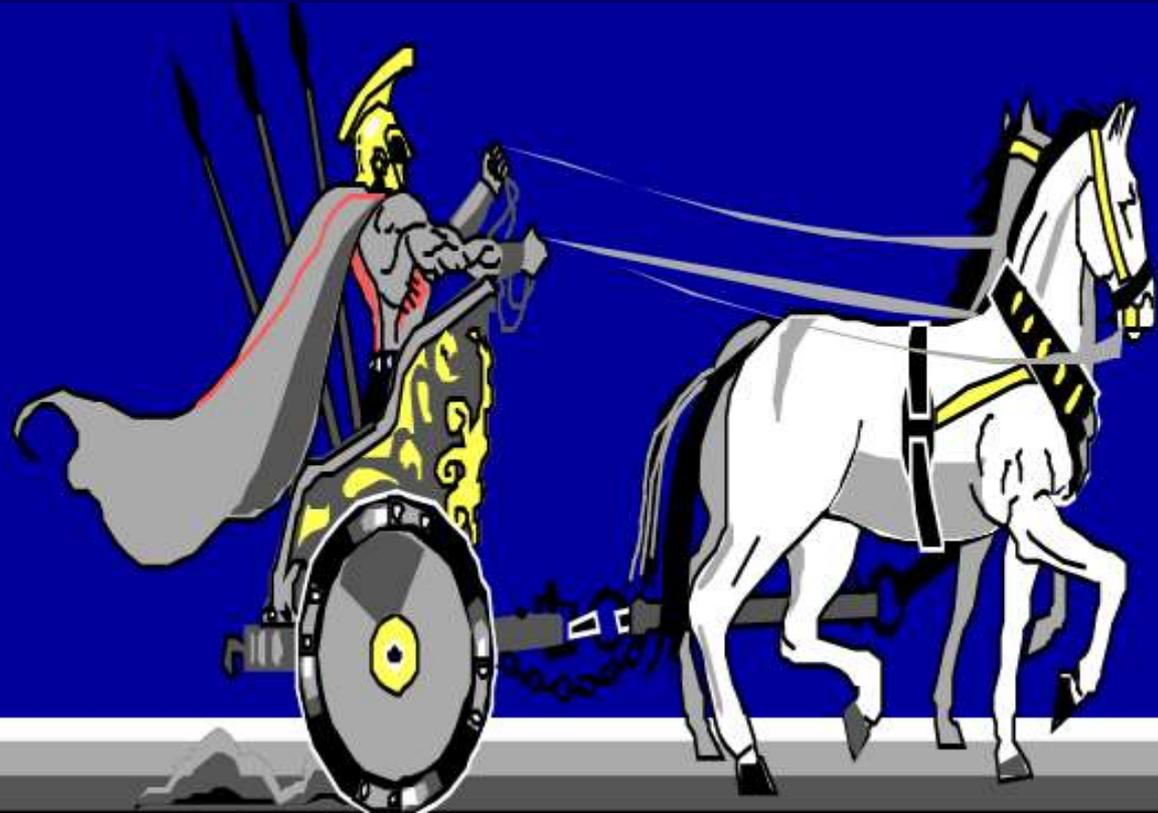
Herod had many palaces.  
This one was in the Roman capital of Palestine.

Pieces of **Herod's palace**  
dug up at Caesarea.



Acts 23:32; “The next day they left the horsemen to go on with him,  
and returned to the barracks.”

**Why send the cavalry on  
and the other soldiers back ?**



Acts 23:33; “When they came to Caesarea and had delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.”



Acts 23:33; “When they came to Caesarea and had delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.”

**Paul** is now in front of one of the authorities that will hear his case and then try to make a decision based on his explanation.

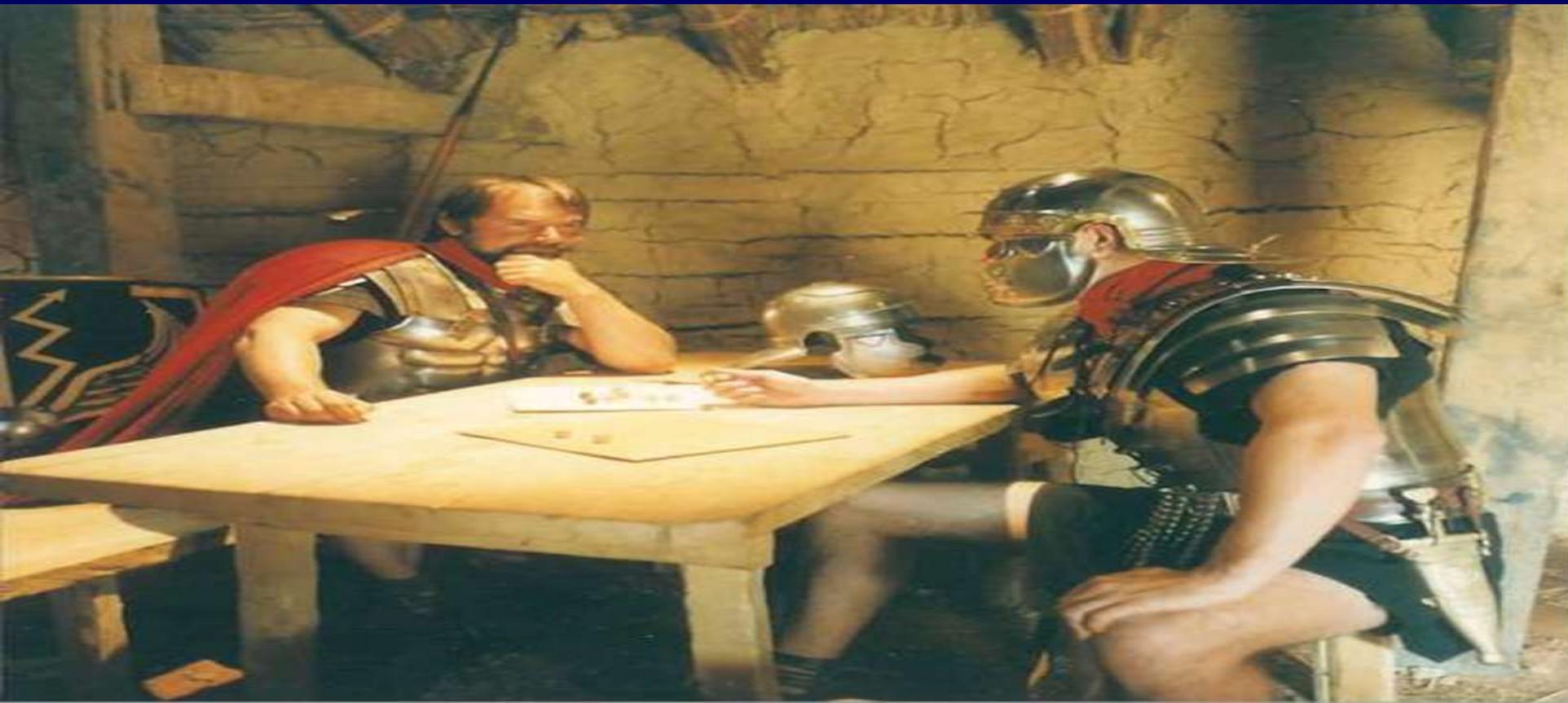
Remember what **Jesus says** concerning being brought in front of the authorities?

“But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them.”

**Mark 13:9;**

## Acts 23:34-35;

**“The governor read the letter and asked what province he was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia, he said, “I will hear your case when your accusers get here.” Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod's palace.”**



## **CONCLUSION of Chapter 24.**

**Do you think Paul will be safe in Herod's palace?**

**The rich and powerful Jews in Jerusalem have a lot of influence with the Roman rulers.**

**Remember what Pilate did when they demanded that Jesus be crucified.**

**Will Paul rely on his rights**

**as a Roman citizen**

**to ensure his protection and a trip to Rome?**

**God did not Promise.**

**By Ellis Jones**

**As your days, so shall your strength be.**

**(Deut 33:25;)**

**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**

**(Joshua 1:5;)**



**God did not promise  
Sunshine without rain,  
Skies forever blue,  
Pleasure without pain.**



**But He has promised  
Strength for every day,  
Light for the darkness  
To show you the way.**



**When the lightning's flash  
And the thunders roll,  
He'll send the rainbow,  
And peace for your soul.**



**He will go with you  
And not leave your side.  
If you will trust Him  
And in Him abide.**



**Acts 23:1-35;  
Paul's Defence before the Sanhedrin.  
An attempt at  
Paul's assassination.**

**Prepared by  
Graeme Morrison**

**[graemestudy@gmail.com](mailto:graemestudy@gmail.com)**

**<https://www.graemebibleresources.com>**

**Next in the series:- Acts 24:1-27;  
Paul's Defence before Felix.**