

NOON BIBLE STUDY: ACTS 22-23

ACTS 21:37-38 - PAUL & ROMAN COMMANDER

V. 38 - ESV STUDY NOTE - JOSEPHUS ALSO MENTIONS THE REVOLT LED BY AN EGYPTIAN JEW. IT HAD BEEN PUT DOWN BY THE ROMAN GOVERNOR FELIX, WITH THE EGYPTIAN FLEEING AND HIS MOVEMENT SCATTERED. JOSEPHUS ALSO SPOKE OF THE ASSASSINS, OR "DAGGER MEN" (GK. SIKARIOS) WHO TERRORIZED ROMAN SYMPATHIZERS BY STABBING THEM UNDER THE COVER OF CROWDS. THE TRIBUNE MUST HAVE THOUGHT THE EGYPTIAN HAD RETURNED TO STIR UP ANOTHER REVOLT.

- AS PAUL SPEAKS GREEK, COMMANDED REALIZES PAUL IS NOT ONE OF THESE MEN.

V. 39-40 - PAUL ASKS TO SPEAK TO THE CROWD

ACTS 22:1-16 - PAUL RECOUNTS HIS CONVERSION TO CROWD, GIVES TESTIMONY

1 - WHO HE WAS

2 - WHAT HAPPENED

3 - WHO YOU ARE NOW



ACTS 22:17-23 - POST CONVERSION DETAILS

CP. ACTS 9:26-30

V. 21 - "GO TO THE GENTILES..." - THIS STATEMENT WILL BOTHER THE JERUSALEM CROWD.

MINDSET: "GENTILES COMES TO US, WE DON'T GO TO THEM."

ACTS 22:24-29 - INTERROGATION, ROMAN CITIZENSHIP

ROMAN CITIZENSHIP BENEFITS/RIGHTS: ROMAN CITIZENS, WHO WERE GRANTED SPECIFIC RIGHTS, AMONG WHICH WERE: THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE TRIBAL ASSEMBLY, THE RIGHT TO MAKE LEGAL CONTRACTS, AND TO HOLD PROPERTY, AS A ROMAN CITIZEN; THE RIGHT TO SUE IN THE COURTS; THE RIGHT TO APPEAL FROM THE DECISIONS OF MAGISTRATES; THE RIGHT TO HAVE A TRIAL (TO APPEAR BEFORE A PROPER COURT AND TO DEFEND ONESELF); THE RIGHT NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE OR SCOURGING; AND THE RIGHT OF IMMUNITY FROM SOME TAXES AND OTHER LEGAL OBLIGATIONS, ESPECIALLY LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS. - SEAN A. ADAMS "PAUL THE ROMAN CITIZEN..." PG. 313

V. 29 - COMMANDER WAS AFRAID

ACTS 22:30 - PAUL IS STILL "ON PROBATION" BUT NO LONGER BOUND. THE ROMAN COMMANDER SEEKS TO KNOW WHY THE CROWD WAS AGAINST HIM. HE BRING "THE COUNCIL" TOGETHER AND PAUL AS WELL.

SANHEDRIN:

THE GREAT SANHEDRIN IS DESCRIBED AS A RELIGIOUS ASSEMBLY OF 71 SAGES WHO MET IN THE CHAMBER OF HEWN STONES IN THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM. THE GREAT SANHEDRIN MET DAILY DURING THE DAYTIME, AND DID NOT MEET ON THE SABBATH, FESTIVALS OR FESTIVAL EVES. INITIALLY, IT WAS THE FINAL AUTHORITY ON JEWISH LAW AND ANY SCHOLAR WHO WENT AGAINST ITS DECISIONS WAS PUT TO DEATH AS A "REBELLIOUS ELDER". THE SANHEDRIN WAS LED BY A PRESIDENT CALLED THE NASI (LIT. "PRINCE") AND A VICE PRESIDENT CALLED THE AV BET DIN (LIT. "FATHER OF THE COURT"). THE OTHER 69 SAGES SAT IN A SEMICIRCLE FACING THE LEADERS. AS ROMAN INFLUENCE INCREASED, THE AUTHORITY OF THE SANHEDRIN DECREASED.

THE SANHEDRIN JUDGED ACCUSED LAWBREAKERS, BUT COULD NOT INITIATE ARRESTS. IT REQUIRED A MINIMUM OF TWO WITNESSES TO CONVICT A SUSPECT. THERE WERE NO ATTORNEYS. INSTEAD, THE ACCUSING WITNESS STATED THE OFFENSE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ACCUSED AND THE ACCUSED COULD CALL WITNESSES ON HIS OWN BEHALF. THE COURT QUESTIONED THE ACCUSED, THE ACCUSERS AND THE DEFENSE WITNESSES." (BY SHIRA SCHOENBERG, "SANHEDRIN" JEWISH VIRTUAL LIBRARY)

THE HIGH PRIEST, WHO FROM THE TIME OF SIMEON WAS ALSO THE HEAD OF THE STATE, OFFICIATED AS PRESIDENT OF THE SANHEDRIN. HE BORE THE TITLE "NASI" (PRINCE), BECAUSE THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT WERE ACTUALLY HELD BY HIM. SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN THEY WERE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER HANDS, THE HIGH PRIEST RETAINED THE TITLE OF NASI AS PRESIDENT OF THE SANHEDRIN. THE POWERS OF THE LATTER OFFICIAL WERE RESTRICTED UNDER THE PROCURATORS, WITHOUT WHOSE PERMISSION THE BODY COULD NOT BE CONVENED ("ANT." XX. 9, § 1). THIS SANHEDRIN, SINCE IT WAS A POLITICAL AUTHORITY, CEASED TO EXIST WHEN THE JEWISH STATE PERISHED WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM (70 C.E.). (JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA: "SANHEDRIN")

ACTS 23:1-10 - PAUL BEFORE THE COUNCIL

LEVITICUS 19:15 - 'YOU SHALL DO NO INJUSTICE IN JUDGMENT; YOU SHALL NOT BE PARTIAL TO THE POOR NOR DEFER TO THE GREAT, BUT YOU ARE TO JUDGE YOUR NEIGHBOR FAIRLY.

V. 6-8 - PAUL RECOGNIZES HIS AUDIENCE AND SPEAKS ACCORDINGLY. HE APPEALS TO COMMON GROUND.

V. 6 - PAUL REMAINS A BELIEVER IN BIBLICAL, BODILY RESURRECTION.

V. 9-10 - COUNCIL GOES WILD, PAUL REMOVED

V. 10 - IN BARRACKS, NOT JAIL

ACTS 23:11 - THE LORD STANDS AT HIS SIDE. JESUS TELLS PAUL TO TAKE "COURAGE" & TELLS HIM HE WILL BE GOING TO ROME.

CP. - ACTS 19:21

LESSONS FROM ACTS 22-23:

- PAUL USES EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY OF WHAT HE HAS SEEN & HEARD
 - ARRESTED → TALKS TO CROWD
 - BEFORE COUNCIL → TESTIFIES = "ON MISSION"
- HIS IMPRISONMENT HAS NOT DETERRED HIM FROM HIS MISSION & NOW HE HAS BEEN GIVEN A PROMISE FROM THE LORD HIMSELF THAT HIS FUTURE IS ASSURED. THE PROMISE OF THE LORD BRINGS CONFIDENCE TO FACE WHAT IS BEFORE US (MATTHEW 10:16-20, LUKE 12:11-12, MATTHEW 28:18-20)