

ACTS 23

NLET

PAUL DEFENDS HIS PUBLIC LIFE BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

1 Now, the Paul, having looked intently at the Sanhedrin, said, “Men, brothers, I, *for my part*, have lastingly conducted my public life with a perfectly good conscience with respect to the God until this – *that is*, the day.”

THE CHIEF PRIEST ORDERS THAT PAUL BE STRUCK

2 Now, the Chief Priest, Ananias, ordered the ones who had lastingly stood by him to strike the mouth *that* was HIS.

3 Then, the Paul said to him, “The God is likely to strike you, you wall which has been lastingly stuccoed. And, you, *for your part*, are sitting, judging me in accord with the Law; and, acting unlawfully, do you urge that I be struck?!”

4 Now, the ones who had lastingly stood by said, “Are you rebuking the High Priest of the God?”

5 Now, the Paul was saying, “I was not aware, brothers, that he is a high priest. For, it has been lastingly written ¹, **‘You shall not speak badly of a ruler of the People.’**”²

PAUL DIVIDES HIS OPPOSITION

6 Now, the Paul, knowing that the one part consisted of Pharisees but the other consisted of Sadducees³, cried out⁴ in the midst of the Sanhedrin, “Men, brothers, I, *for my part*, am a Pharisee, a son of a Pharisee⁵! In reference to a hope and a resurrection of dead ones I, *for my part*, am being condemned!”

¹ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the word ‘that’ here.

² A reference to Exodus 22:28

³ 20% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘consisted of Pharisees, but the other consisted of Sadducees’ here instead of ‘consisted of Sadducees, but the other consisted Pharisees’.

⁴ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘cried out’ (an aorist verb) here instead of ‘was crying out’ (an imperfect verb).

⁵ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘Pharisee’ here instead of ‘Pharisees’.

⁶ 48% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘Pharisees and the Sadducees’ here. On the basis of 15% the NU has ‘Pharisees and Sadducees’.

⁷ 93% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the word ‘some’ here.

⁸ 49% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘the scribes’ here. On the basis of 4% the NU has ‘of the scribes’.

⁹ 95.6% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

7 Now, while he was saying this, a dissension came to be between the Pharisees and the Sadducees⁶. And, the assembly was divided.

8 For, on the one hand, Sadducees say that there is neither resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit. On the other hand, Pharisees confess them all.

9 Now, a shouting *match* – a great *one* – came to be. And, ⁷ the Scribes⁸ on the part of the Pharisees contended, saying, “We are finding nothing bad in connection with the man – *that is*, this *one*. Now, if a spirit spoke to him – or, an angel, do not even begin to fight against God⁹!”

THE COMMANDER WHISKS PAUL AWAY

10 As a great discord was coming to be¹⁰, the commander, being cautious¹¹ that the Paul might not be torn apart by them, ordered the soldiers to go down, and¹² to snatch him away from *the* midst of them, and to take *him* into the barrack.

JESUS ASSURES PAUL DURING THE NIGHT

11 Now, the following night, having stood near to him, the Lord said, “Keep on being courageous, Paul¹³! For, as I bore witness to the *things* concerning Myself in regard to Jerusalem, in the same way it is necessary that you, *for your part*, also bear witness in regard to Rome!”

SOME JEWS PLOT TO ANNIHILATE THE PAUL

12 Now, when daytime came to be, some of the Jews¹⁴, having formed a conspiracy, bound themselves with a curse, ¹⁵ to neither eat nor drink until they might annihilate¹⁶ the Paul.

transmission (f35), include the words translated as ‘do not even begin to fight against God’ here.

¹⁰ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘was coming to be’ here. On the basis of 4% the NU has ‘is coming to be’.

¹¹ 93% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘being cautious’ here instead of ‘having been frightened’.

¹² 93% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘to go down and’ (an aorist infinitive and a conjunction) here instead of ‘having gone down’ (an aorist participle).

¹³ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the name ‘Paul’ here.

¹⁴ 86% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘some of the Jews’ here. On the basis of 4% the NU has ‘the Jews’.

¹⁵ 25% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the participle ‘saying’ here.

¹⁶ 20% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘annihilate’ here instead of ‘kill’.

13 Now, they, ones who had lastingly made this – *that is*, the conspiracy – up¹⁷, were more than forty;

14 who, having come to the Chief Priests and to the Elders, said, “With a curse we have cursed ourselves – *namely*, that we taste nothing until which *time* we put the Paul to death!

15 So then, now, you, *for your parts*, explain to the Commander together with the Sanhedrin in such a manner that tomorrow¹⁸ he might lead him down to¹⁹ you, as though being about to discern the *things* concerning him *more* exactly.

Now, we, *for our parts*, before he draws near, are prepared to annihilate him.”

PAUL'S NEPHEW REPORTS THE PLOT TO THE COMMANDER

16 Now, having heard *these things*, the son of the sister *that was* Paul's, having come to and having gone into the barrack, reported *these things* to the Paul.

17 Now, the Paul, having summoned one of the centurions, was saying, “Lead away the young man – *namely*, this *one* – to the Commander. For, he has something to report to him.”

18 So then, on the one hand, the one who took him away, led *him* to the Commander. And, he says, “The prisoner Paul, having summoned me, asked that I lead this – *that is*, the young man – to you, one who has something to say to you.”

19 Now, the Commander, having taken hold of the hand *that was* his and having withdrawn by themselves, he was inquiring, “What is what you have to report to me?”

20 Now, he said, “The Jews are contriving together to ask you in such a manner that tomorrow you might lead the Paul down to the Sanhedrin, as though being about²⁰ to more exactly learn by inquiry *the things* concerning him.

21 So then, you, *for your part*, do not by any means be persuaded by them. For, from among them are men – more than forty! – who are lying in wait for him, ones who have cursed themselves, *namely*, that *they shall* neither eat nor drink until which *time* they might annihilate him!

And, now they are ready, being ones who are awaiting the notification from you.”

22 So then, on the one hand, the Commander dismissed the young man, exhorting *him*, “To no one speak out these *things* which you have manifested to me!”

THE COMMANDER TAKES ACTION TO FOIL THEIR PLOT

23 And, having summoned some two from among the centurions, he said, “Prepare:

- soldiers – two hundred *of them* – in such a way that they might go to Caesarea; and,
 - horsemen – seventy *of them*, and
 - spearmen – two hundred *of them*,
- after the third hour of the night.

24 And, supply mounts so that they, having gotten the Paul mounted, might go safely through to Felix the governor;”

25 having written an epistle, comprised of²¹ the form – *that is*, this *one*:

26 “*From*: Claudius Lycias

To: The most excellent governor, Felix
Hail!

27 As *for* the man – *namely*, this *one*, who had been seized by the Jews and was about to be done away with by them, I, together with the soldiers, having stood against them, was delivering²² him²³ from *them*, having learned that he is a Roman.

28 Now,²⁴ wanting to know²⁵ the accusation on account of which they were bringing a charge against him, I brought him²⁶ down to the council *that is* theirs, 29 whom

¹⁷ 85% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘ones who had lastingly made ... up’ (a perfect participle) here. On the basis of 5% the NU has ‘the ones who made ... up’ (an aorist participle).

¹⁸ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the word ‘tomorrow’ here.

¹⁹ 93% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have a different preposition than the NU has here; but, both can mean ‘to’.

²⁰ 33.1% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘being about’ (a participle) here. On the basis of 7.5% the NU has ‘they were about’ (an active verb).

²¹ 94% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

transmission (f35), have ‘comprised of’ here instead of ‘having’.

²² 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘was delivering’ (an imperfect verb) here instead of ‘delivered’ (an aorist verb).

²³ 87% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the direct object ‘him’ here.

²⁴ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the conjunction ‘Now,’ here instead of ‘And,’.

²⁵ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘to know’ here instead of ‘to ascertain’.

²⁶ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the direct object ‘him’ here.

I found as one being accused concerning questions about the Law *that is* theirs, ²⁷ having not even one accusation worthy of death or imprisonment.

30 Now, having been informed that there was about²⁸ to be plot *executed* against the man by the Jews²⁹, at once I sent *him* to you, having also ordered the accusers to tell the *things*³⁰ against him to you.

Be lastingly in good health!"

PAUL IS TAKEN TO GOVERNOR CLAUDIUS LYSIAS

IN CAESAREA

31 So then, on the one hand, the soldiers, in accord with what had been lastingly commanded them, having taken the Paul along, took *him* during the³¹ night to the *city of* Antipatris.

32 On the other hand, the next day, leaving the horsemen to go on³² with him, they returned to the barrack.

33 These, having entered into the *city of* Caesarea and having delivered the epistle to the governor, presented also the Paul to him.

34 Now, the governor³³,

- having read *it*, and
 - having inquired from what province he was, and
 - having learned by inquiry that *he* was from Cilicia,
- 35 "I shall hear you to the end," he said, "whenever also the accusers *that are* yours arrive."

And, he gave an order³⁴ that he³⁵ be guarded in the Praetorium of the *king* Herod ³⁶.

²⁷ 75% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the conjunction 'now,' here.

²⁸ 89.4% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the infinitive translated as 'that there was about' here.

²⁹ 89.4% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the prepositional phrase 'by the Jews' here.

³⁰ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article translated as 'the things' here.

³¹ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article 'the' here.

³² 85% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'to go on' here instead of 'to go away'.

³³ 91% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the words 'the governor' here.

³⁴ 87% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'And, he gave an order' here instead of 'having given an order'.

³⁵ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the personal pronoun translated as 'he' here.

³⁶ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the word 'him' here.