

Acts 21:18-22:30

“Paul and the Jews - Part I”

Summary

- Paul is in Jerusalem after his Third Missionary Journey
- Paul is recognized in Jerusalem and taken into Roman custody

Outline

- I. Meeting with the church at Jerusalem - vs. 17-25
 - A. Gives report to James and elders - vs 18-19
 - B. The church to hear Paul - vs. 20-22
 - C. The plan - vs. 23-25
- II. Trouble at the Temple - vs. 26-40
 - A. The Jews from Asia cause trouble - vs. 26-29
 - B. Paul is saved from the riot - vs. 30-32
 - C. The confusion of the people - vs. 33-36
 - D. Paul asks to speak to the crowd - vs. 37-40
- III. Paul's defense before the people - vs. 22:1-21
 - A. His Jewish background - vs. 22:1-4
 - B. His testimony - vs. 5-16
 - C. The mission to the Gentiles - vs. 17-21
- IV. Paul the Roman - vs. 22-30
 - A. The crowd's reaction - vs. 22-23
 - B. Paul plays the Roman citizenship card - vs. 24-29
 - C. Paul is brought before the Sanhedrin - vs. 30

Notes

The Egyptian - 21:38

- Josephus - "But there was an Egyptian false prophet that did the Jews more mischief than the former; for he was a cheat, and pretended to be a prophet also, and got together thirty thousand* men that were deluded by him: these he led round about from the wilderness to the mount which was called the Mount of Olives, and was ready to break into Jerusalem by force from that place; and if he could but once conquer the Roman garrison, and the people, he intended to domineer over them by the assistance of those guards of his that were to break into the city with him. But Felix prevented his attempt, and met him with his Roman soldiers, while all the people assisted him in his attack upon them, insomuch that when it came to a battle, the Egyptian ran away, with a few others, while the greatest part of those that were with him were either destroyed or taken alive; but the rest of the multitude were dispersed every one to their own homes, and there concealed themselves." (*The Jewish War*, Book II, Chapter 13)
- * most believe 30,000 is an exaggeration or perhaps the movement at its peak

Notes, cont.

The Nazarite Vow

- The four men in Acts 21:23-24 probably had taken this vow
 - NOTE - the general consensus is that Paul also took this vow, maybe beginning it or fulfilling it from events in Acts 18:18
- Numbers 6:1-27
- A voluntary vow of separation/consecration.
- Bound by three restrictions:
 - “eat nothing that is made of the vine tree” (grapes)
 - “there shall not razor come upon his head”
 - “he shall come at no dead body”
- End of vow:
 - immerse in water
 - offer lamb as burnt offering, ewe as sin offering, and rams as peace offering
 - Shave head and burn the hair with peace offering

The Roman Army in Jerusalem

- Based in the Fortress Antonia, adjacent to the Temple
- At this time most of these soldiers are probably Syrian and not Roman
- 21:31 - chief captain - tribune over a cohort of 1,000 men
- 21:32 - centurion - over 100 men
- 21:34 - castle - Fortress Antonia

Roman Citizenship

- Some ways to acquire:
 - Being a Roman
 - Proclamation of emperor, sometimes given to an entire city
 - 25 years service in military
 - Bribery
- Rights of a Roman citizen include:
 - *Jus suffragiorum* - to vote in Roman assemblies
 - *Jus connubii* - Right to a legal Roman marriage
 - *Jus Commercium* - right to make contracts
 - *Jus migrationis* - right to preserve citizenship if relocating
 - Some others: Immunity from some taxes and local regulations, use of Roman courts, appeal lower court decisions, could not be tortured or whipped, death penalty only in cases of treason, and could not be crucified.
- In 212 emperor Caracalla gave all free people citizenship