

Acts 23

King James Version (KJV)

23 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day. (Paul was trying to reason with them)

²And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth. (This "high priest" was not of God. He was appointed by the Roman governor. He was probably a Kenite. Jesus said – you will know them by their deeds)

NOTE: (Look at the Muslims today – murdering Jews and Christians for their "god" – Allah. They have the same M.O. as these Kenites)

³Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law? (This high priest was a purported Jewish legalist, breaking the law. He's like a whitewashed wall <symbolic for a fake>. Whitewash looks like paint, but one good rain and the whitewash washes off)

⁴And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest? (Ananias is no high priest of God)

⁵Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.

⁶But when Paul perceived that the 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: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. (The salvation of Jesus Christ brings resurrection and eternal life with God)

⁷And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided. (The Sadducees didn't believe in life after death; the Pharisees did)

(Paul is dividing them, so they will argue amongst themselves. Jesus also did this many times. HE used their false doctrines to stir them up against each other)

⁸For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both. (Their false doctrines didn't agree. Traditions of men are not the truth of God's Word)

⁹And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God. (The Pharisees now wanted to acquit Paul. The crowd was divided)

¹⁰And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle. (He did it to protect Paul from these religious fanatics)

NOTE: (Organized religions have been the cause of many wars and other evil deeds throughout the centuries. God will straighten out the whole world during the Millennium Period. HE is the only one who is qualified to lead the people spiritually)

¹¹And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome. (God is sending Paul to Rome)

¹²And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. (Nice bunch or "religionists". They were nothing but a bunch of murderers. There was probably Kenites mixed in the bunch)

¹³And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy. (They will be hungry for a long time. God was protecting Paul and sending him to Rome. There is nothing that these lowlifes can do to stop it)

¹⁴And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul. (under a great curse – is right. They will answer for this, before God, on judgment day)

¹⁵Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to morrow, as though ye would enquire something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come

near, are ready to kill him. (They want the chief priest to ask for a meeting with Paul. When he shows up for that meeting, they will ambush him and murder him)

(This is the so called "religious" community; ready to commit premeditated murder)

(It's been this way through the centuries. More people have been murdered in the name of religion than for any other cause)

¹⁶ And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul. (Paul's sister and her son are also Roman citizens. The Roman soldiers have to protect them)

¹⁷ Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him. (a certain thing = a legal matter – better translation)

¹⁸ So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

¹⁹ Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and went with him aside privately, and asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?

²⁰ And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would enquire somewhat of him more perfectly. (They were pretending to want to question Paul further)

²¹ But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee. (The Romans consider the Jewish religion as a superstition. But, they are charged by Caesar to keep the peace. They won't let these religious quacks start trouble or commit the murder of a Roman citizen)

²² So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.

²³ And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night;

²⁴ And provide them beasts, that they may set Paul on, and bring him safe unto Felix the governor. (The Romans will safely escort Paul out of town and even give him a horse to ride)

²⁵ And he wrote a letter after this manner: (Lysias was sending a letter to Felix to bring him up to speed as to why he sent Paul with an escort)

²⁶ Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix sendeth greeting.

²⁷ This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, having understood that he was a Roman.

²⁸ And when I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him forth into their council: (He brought Paul into the Jewish Sanhedrin to find out what the problem was)

²⁹ Whom I perceived to be accused of questions of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds. (Paul committed no crime against Caesar or against Roman law. Their problem with Paul only concerned their religion)

³⁰ And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what they had against him. Farewell. (Lysias is also sending Paul's accusers to face trial before Felix. They are going to have to substantiate their false accusations)

³¹ Then the soldiers, as it was commanded them, took Paul, and brought him by night to Antipatris.

³² On the morrow they left the horsemen to go with him, and returned to the castle:

³³ Who, when they came to Caesarea and delivered the epistle to the governor, presented Paul also before him. (Caesarea was a part of the territory where Philip and his daughters had done a lot of teaching. There were many Christians there)

³⁴ And when the governor had read the letter, he asked of what province he was. And when he understood that he was of Cilicia;

³⁵ I will hear thee, said he, when thine accusers are also come. And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's judgment hall. (For Paul's safety)