

Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 169 – June 18th – Acts 12:1-23

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Acts

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Acts 12:1

Κατ' ἐκεῖνον δὲ τὸν καιρὸν ἐπέβαλεν Ἡρῴδης ὁ βασιλεὺς τὰς χεῖρας κακῶσαι τινὰς τῶν ἀπὸ τῆς ἐκκλησίας.

κατ ἐκεῖνον δε τον καιρον 'about that time'

ἐπιβαλλω lay (hands) on
βασιλευς, εως m king

"Herod Agrippa I, born 2 BC, son of Aristobulus and grandson of Herod the Great... In Palestine he sedulously cultivated the good will of the Jews, observing their customs and preferring their company, so that even the Pharisees thought well of him." Bruce

κακωω treat badly, harm

Verse 2

ἀνεῦλεν δὲ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν Ἰωάννου μαχαίρη.

ἀνευλεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἀναιρεω kill,
destroy

μαχαира, ης f sword

Cf. Mk 10:39.

Verse 3

ἰδὼν δὲ ὅτι ἀρεστόν ἐστιν τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις προσέθετο συλλαβεῖν καὶ Πέτρον (ἦσαν δὲ ἡμέραι τῶν ἄζυμων),

ἀρεστος, η, ον pleasing

προσέθετο Verb, aor midd indic, 3 s
προστιθημι add, add to, proceed

συλλαμβανω seize, arrest

ἄζυμος, ον without yeast; τα ἄζυμα
Jewish Feast of Unleavened Bread

Verse 4

ὄν καὶ πιάσας ἔθετο εἰς φυλακὴν, παραδοὺς τέσσαρσιν τετραδίοις στρατιωτῶν φυλάσσειν αὐτόν, βουλόμενος μετὰ τὸ πάσχα ἀναγαγεῖν αὐτὸν τῷ λαῷ.

πιαζω seize, arrest

ἔθετο Verb, 2 aor midd indic, 3 s τιθημι
place

φυλακη, ης f prison

παραδοὺς Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s
παραδιδωμι hand or give over

τεσσαρες neut τεσσαρα gen τεσσαρων four
τετραδιον, ου n squad, detachment (of
four men)

στρατιωτης, ου m soldier

φυλασσω keep, guard

One company of four soldiers for each watch.

βουλομαι want, desire, wish, intend, plan
πασχα n Passover

Here referring to the whole festival period.

ἀναγαγειν Verb, aor act infin ἀναγω bring
up, lead up

Verse 5

ὁ μὲν οὖν Πέτρος ἐτηρεῖτο ἐν τῇ φυλακῇ· προσευχὴ δὲ ἦν ἐκτενωῶς γινομένη ὑπὸ τῆς ἐκκλησίας πρὸς τὸν θεὸν περὶ αὐτοῦ.

τηρεω keep, observe

ἐκτενωως earnestly, constantly

ἦν ... γινομενη "A curious example of the periphrasis commented on in the note on 1:10; if it differs from ἐγινετο, it must be as laying special emphasis on the continuousness of the praying." Bruce.

Verse 6

Ὅτε δὲ ἤμελλεν προαγαγεῖν αὐτὸν ὁ Ἡρῴδης, τῇ νυκτὶ ἐκείνῃ ἦν ὁ Πέτρος κοιμώμενος μεταξύ δύο στρατιωτῶν δεδεμένος ἀλύσειν δυσίν, φύλακές τε πρὸ τῆς θύρας ἐτήρουν τὴν φυλακὴν.

ότε conj when, at which time

ἤμελλεν Verb, imperf act indic, 3 s μελλω
be going, be about

προαγαγειν Ver, aor infin προαγω lead or
bring out, bring before

νυξ, νυκτος f night

κοιμαομαι sleep

"That Peter could sleep so soundly the night before his trial is perhaps indicative of his calm assurance that he was in God's hands. It may also reflect that the guards were asleep on either side of him." Polhill

μεταξυ between

δεω bind, tie

άλυσις, εως f chain, imprisonment

φυλαξ, ακος m guard, sentry
θυρα, ας f door, gate

Verse 7

καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου ἐπέστη, καὶ φῶς ἔλαμψεν ἐν τῷ οἰκήματι· πατάξας δὲ τὴν πλευρὰν τοῦ Πέτρου ἤγειρεν αὐτὸν λέγων· Ἀνάστα ἐν τάχει· καὶ ἐξέπεσαν αὐτοῦ αἱ ἀλύσεις ἐκ τῶν χειρῶν.

ἐπεστη aor ἐφιστημι come up to, approach
φως, φωτος n light
λαμπω shine, give light
οἰκημα, τος n prison cell
πατασσω strike, tap, touch
πλευρα, ας f side (of the body)

A 'kick in the ribs'?

ταχος, ους n speed; ἐν τ. quickly, without delay

ἐξεπεσαν aor ἐκπιπτω fall off, fall away, lose, fail

Verse 8

εἶπεν δὲ ὁ ἄγγελος πρὸς αὐτόν· Ζῶσαι καὶ ὑπόδησαι τὰ σανδάλια σου· ἐποίησεν δὲ οὕτως· καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· Περιβαλοῦ τὸ ἱμάτιόν σου καὶ ἀκολούθει μοι.

ζῶσαι Verb, aor midd imperat, 2 s ζωννυμι and ζωννω fasten, fasten one's belt, dress

ὑπόδησαι Verb, aor midd imperat, 2 s ὑποδοεομαι put on (one's shoes)

σανδαλιον, ου n sandal

περιβαλλω put on

ἱματιον, ου n clothing, cloak

ἀκολουθεω follow, accompany

Verse 9

καὶ ἐξελθὼν ἠκολούθει, καὶ οὐκ ᾔδει ὅτι ἀληθὲς ἐστὶν τὸ γινόμενον διὰ τοῦ ἀγγέλου, ἐδόκει δὲ ὄραμα βλέπειν.

ἐξελθων Verb, aor act ptc, nom m s ἐξερχομαι

ᾔδει Verb, pluperf act indic, 3 s οἶδα (verb perf in form but with present meaning) know, understand

δια του ἀγγελου 'by the agency of the angel'

δοκεω think, suppose

ὄραμα, τος n vision

βλεπω see

Verse 10

διελθόντες δὲ πρώτην φυλακὴν καὶ δευτέρα ἦλθαν ἐπὶ τὴν πύλην τὴν σιδηρὰν τὴν φέρουσαν εἰς τὴν πόλιν, ἣτις αὐτομάτη ἠνοίγη αὐτοῖς, καὶ ἐξελθόντες προῆλθον ῥύμην μίαν, καὶ εὐθέως ἀπέστη ὁ ἄγγελος ἀπ' αὐτοῦ.

διερχομαι pass through

πρωτος, η, ον first

δευτερος, α, ον second

πυλη, ης f gate, door

σιδηρους, α, ουν made of iron

φερω bring, lead

αὐτοματος, η, ον by itself, on its own

ἠνοίγη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s ἀνοιγω open

ἐξελθόντες Verb, aor act ptc, m pl nom

ἐξερχομαι

προερχομαι go ahead, go before

ρύμη, ης f street, alley

"The use of μίαν practically as an indefinite article is a mark of Koine" Bruce

ἀπέστη verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἀφισταμαι intrans leave, go away

Verse 11

καὶ ὁ Πέτρος ἐν ἑαυτῷ γενόμενος εἶπεν· Νῦν οἶδα ἀληθῶς ὅτι ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ κύριος τὸν ἄγγελον αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐξείλατό με ἐκ χειρὸς Ἡρώδου καὶ πάσης τῆς προσδοκίας τοῦ λαοῦ τῶν Ἰουδαίων.

ἀληθως adv truly, in truth

ἐξαπέστειλεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s

ἐξαποστελλω

ἐξείλατό Verb, aor midd indic, 3 s ἐξαιρεω

midd rescue, save

προσδοκια, ας f expectation

Verse 12

Συνιδὼν τε ἦλθεν ἐπὶ τὴν οἰκίαν τῆς Μαρίας τῆς μητρὸς Ἰωάννου τοῦ ἐπικαλουμένου Μάρκου, οὓς ἦσαν ἱκανοὶ συνηθροισμένοι καὶ προσευχόμενοι.

συνιδων Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s συνοραω realise, become aware of

ἱκανος see 11:24

συνηθροισμένοι Verb, perf pass ptc, m nom

pl συναθροίζω gather, gather together

προσευχομαι pray

"This seems to have been the meeting place of the disciples in Jerusalem; it was, perhaps, the house in which the Last Supper took place." Bruce

Mark may have been Luke's source for this and other Jerusalem narratives.

Verse 13

κρούσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ τὴν θύραν τοῦ πύλωνος προσῆλθε παιδίσκη ὑπακοῦσαι ὀνόματι Ῥόδη,

κρουω knock (at a door)

θυρα, ας f door, gate

πυλων, ωνος m gate, gateway, entrance

παιδισκη, ης f maid, slave-girl

ὑπακουω obey, answer (of door)

Verse 14

καὶ ἐπιγνοῦσα τὴν φωνὴν τοῦ Πέτρου ἀπὸ τῆς χαρᾶς οὐκ ἤνοιξεν τὸν πυλῶνα, εἰσδραμοῦσα δὲ ἀπήγγειλεν ἐστάναι τὸν Πέτρον πρὸ τοῦ πυλῶνος.

ἐπιγνοῦσα Verb, aor act ptc, f nom s

ἐπιγινωσκω recognise

εἰσδραμοῦσα Verb, aor act ptc, f nom s

εἰστρεχω run in

ἀπαγγελλω announce, proclaim

ἐστάναι Verb, perf act infin ἴστημι and

ἵστανω stand

Verse 15

οἱ δὲ πρὸς αὐτὴν εἶπαν· Μαίνη· ἡ δὲ διῆσχυρίζετο οὕτως ἔχειν· οἱ δὲ ἔλεγον· Ὁ ἄγγελός ἐστιν αὐτοῦ.

μαινομαι be out of one's mind, be insane

διῆσχυρίζετο Verb, imperf midd/pass dep

ἰνδῖ, 3 s διῆσχυρίζομαι insist

Ὁ ἄγγελός ἐστιν αὐτοῦ cf. Mt. 18:10; Heb 1:14; Gen 48:16; Dan 3:28; 6:22. "The angel is here conceived of as a man's spiritual counterpart, capable of assuming his appearance and being mistaken for him." Bruce. For an alternative view and further discussion see E.F.Harrison, *Interpreting Acts* 1986, p.204.

Verse 16

ὁ δὲ Πέτρος ἐπέμενε κρούων· ἀνοίξαντες δὲ εἶδαν αὐτὸν καὶ ἐξέστησαν.

ἐπιμενω remain, stay, persist in

εἶδαν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl ὄραω see

ἐξίστημι be amazed, be surprised

Verse 17

κατασεῖσας δὲ αὐτοῖς τῇ χειρὶ σιγᾶν διηγήσατο αὐτοῖς πῶς ὁ κύριος αὐτὸν ἐξήγαγεν ἐκ τῆς φυλακῆς, εἶπέν τε· Ἀπαγγεῖλατε Ἰακώβῳ καὶ τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς ταῦτα· καὶ ἐξελθὼν ἐπορεύθη εἰς ἕτερον τόπον.

κατασειω motion, make a sign, give a signal, motion with the hand

σιγαω keep silent, be silent

"The evident touch of an eye-witness." Bruce

διηγεομαι tell, relate

ἐξήγαγεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἐξαγω

lead or bring out

ἀπαγγελλω announce, proclaim

ἐξελθὼν Verb, aor act ptc, nom m s

ἐξέρχομαι

ἐπορεύθη Verb, aor pass dep indic, 3 s

πορευομαι go, proceed

ἕτερος, α, ον other, another

τοπος, ου m place

I.e. a place of safety.

Verse 18

Γενομένης δὲ ἡμέρας ἦν τάραχος οὐκ ὀλίγος ἐν τοῖς στρατιώταις, τί ἄρα ὁ Πέτρος ἐγένετο.

τάραχος, ου m confusion, disturbance

ὀλίγος, η, ον little, small

"This particular litotes is characteristic of Luke. Bruce

στρατιωτης, ου m soldier

ἄρα is inferential, 'what had become of Peter', cf. Lk 1:66.

Verse 19

Ἡρώδης δὲ ἐπιζητήσας αὐτὸν καὶ μὴ εὐρὼν ἀνακρίνας τοὺς φύλακας ἐκέλευσεν ἀπαχθῆναι, καὶ κατελθὼν ἀπὸ τῆς Ἰουδαίας εἰς Καισάρειαν διέτριβεν.

ἐπιζητεω seek, desire, search for

ἀνακρινω examine, question

φυλαξ, ακος m guard, sentry

κελευω order, command

ἀπαχθῆναι Verb, aor pass infin ἀπαγω lead away by force/to execution, put to death

Cf. Lk 23:26.

κατερχομαι come down, go down

διατριβω remain, stay

Verse 20

Ἦν δὲ θυμομαχῶν Τυρίοις καὶ Σιδωνίοις· ὁμοθυμαδὸν δὲ παρήσαν πρὸς αὐτόν, καὶ πείσαντες Βλάστον τὸν ἐπὶ τοῦ κοιτῶνος τοῦ βασιλέως ἠτοῦντο εἰρήνην διὰ τὸ τρέφεσθαι αὐτῶν τὴν χώραν ἀπὸ τῆς βασιλικῆς.

θυμομαχεω be very angry

ὁμοθυμαδον adv with one mind, together

παρειμι be present

πείσαντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl πειθω persuade, convince

Probably financial inducement.

κοιτων, ωνος m bedroom; ὁ ἐπὶ του κ. one

who is in charge of the bed-chamber

βασιλευς, εως m king

ἠτοῦντο Verb, imperf midd indic, 3 pl αἰτεω

ask, request

εἰρηνη, ης f peace

τρεφω feed, provide with food

βασιλικος, η, ον royal, belonging to the

king

"Under the Romans they were free cities, but their economic dependence on Herod's territory made it a matter of prudence to keep on friendly terms with him. The cause of his anger is unknown." Bruce

Phoenecia depended on Galilee for its food supply, cf. 1 Kings 5:9-11; Ezek 27:17.

Verse 21

τακτῆ δὲ ἡμέρᾳ ὁ Ἡρόδης ἐνδυσάμενος
ἐσθῆτα βασιλικὴν καὶ καθίσας ἐπὶ τοῦ
βήματος ἐδημηγόρει πρὸς αὐτούς·

τακτος, η, ον appointed, fixed
ἐνδύω dress, clothe; midd put on, wear
ἐσθης, ητος f clothing
καθίζω sit down, sit, take one's seat
βημα, τος n judicial bench
δημηγορεω make a speech

Verse 22

ὁ δὲ δῆμος ἐπεφώνει· Θεοῦ φωνὴ καὶ οὐκ
ἀνθρώπου.

δημος, ου m people, crowd
ἐπιφωνεω shout, cry out

Verse 23

παραχρῆμα δὲ ἐπάταξεν αὐτὸν ἄγγελος κυρίου
ἀνθ' ὧν οὐκ ἔδωκεν τὴν δόξαν τῷ θεῷ, καὶ
γενόμενος σκοληκόβρωτος ἐξέψυξεν.

παραχρημα immediately, at once
πατασσω strike, strike down
ἀνθ ὧν because, therefore

Cf. Lk 1:20; 19:44; 2 Thess 2:10.

σκοληκοβρωτος, ον eaten by worms
ἐκψυχω die

"While there is substantial agreement between Luke and Josephus on the manner of Agrippa's death, there is so great a difference in the details as to exclude the possibility that the one account is dependent on the other. According to Josephus, early on the second morning of the festival at Caesarea the king entered the theatre, when the rays of the rising sun made his silver robe shine so brightly that those who saw it were dazzled and cried out that he was a god. He neither repudiated the title nor rebuked their flattery, but soon afterwards, seeing an owl sitting above his head, he recognised it to be a messenger of evil (ἄγγελον κακῶν εἶναι), in accordance with a prophecy once made to him, and, being immediately seized with violent internal pains, was carried home and died five days later."

Bruce