

Notes on the Greek New Testament
Day 185 – July 4th – Acts 22:17-23:10

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Acts

Bruce, FF, *The Acts of the Apostles*, London, 2nd ed. 1952

Polhill, John B, *Acts: The New American Commentary*, Nashville, 1992

Stott, John R W, *The Message of Acts*, IVP (The Bible Speaks Today), Leicester, 1990

Verse 17

Ἐγένετο δέ μοι ὑποστρέψαντι εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ
καὶ προσευχομένου μου ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ γενέσθαι
με ἐν ἑκστάσει

ἐγένετο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s γινομαι
ὑποστρέψαντι Verb, aor act ptc, m dat s
ὑποστρεφω return, turn back

προσευχομαι pray

ἱερον, ου n temple, temple precincts

ἑκστασις, εως f trance, vision

The grammatical construction is rather awkward.

Verse 18

καὶ ἰδεῖν αὐτὸν λέγοντά μοι· Σπεῦσον καὶ
ἔξελθε ἐν τάχει ἐξ Ἱερουσαλήμ, διότι οὐ
παραδέξονται σου μαρτυρίαν περὶ ἐμοῦ.

ἰδεῖν v.14

σπεῦσον Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s σπευδω
hasten, hurry

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

διοτι because, for

παραδεχομαι accept, receive

μαρτυρια, ας f testimony, witness

Cf. 9:29f.

Verse 19

κάγω εἶπον· Κύριε, αὐτοὶ ἐπίστανται ὅτι ἐγὼ
ἤμην φυλακίζων καὶ δέρων κατὰ τὰς
συναγωγὰς τοὺς πιστεύοντας ἐπὶ σέ·

κάγω v.13

εἶπον Verb, aor act indic, 1s & 3pl λεγω

ἐπισταμαι know, understand

ἤμην Verb, imperf act indic, 1s εἰμι

φυλακιζω imprison

δερω beat, strike, hit

"Paul argues that he is the very man to convince the Jews. We may paraphrase his argument: 'They know how whole-heartedly I opposed the Christians; they remember the part I played at Stephen's martyrdom; they must realise therefore that there must be overwhelmingly cogent reasons for my change of attitude.'" Bruce

Verse 20

καὶ ὅτε ἐξεχύννεται τὸ αἷμα Στεφάνου τοῦ
μάρτυρός σου, καὶ αὐτὸς ἤμην ἐφεστὼς καὶ
συνευδοκῶν καὶ φυλάσσων τὰ ἱμάτια τῶν
ἀναιρούντων αὐτόν.

ὅτε conj when, at which time

ἐξεχύννεται Verb, imperf pass indic, 3 s

ἐκχεω and ἐκχυνω pour out, shed
(blood)

αἷμα, ατος f blood

μαρτυς, μαρτυρος dat pl μαρτυσιν m
witness, martyr

ἐφεστως Verb, perf act ptc, m nom s

ἐφιστημι come up to, stand by

Cf. 7:58; 8:1a.

συνευδοκεω approve of, agree to

φυλασσω keep, guard

ἱματιον, ου n garment, clothing, robe

ἀναιρεω do away with, kill

At that time, Paul would seem to have believed that his ministry could be most effective in Jerusalem where he was known and all would see the dramatic change that had taken place in his life. But Christ had a different plan, one which must have seemed strange to Paul in the immediate years following.

Verse 21

καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς με· Πορεύου, ὅτι ἐγὼ εἰς ἔθνη
μακρὰν ἐξαποστελῶ σε.

ἔθνη Noun, nom & acc pl ἔθνος, ους n
nation, people

μακραν far, far off, at some distance

ἐξαποστελῶ Verb, fut act indic, 1 s

ἐξαποστελλω send out

Verse 22

Ἦκουον δὲ αὐτοῦ ἄχρι τούτου τοῦ λόγου καὶ
ἐπῆραν τὴν φωνὴν αὐτῶν λέγοντες· Αἶρε ἀπὸ
τῆς γῆς τὸν τοιοῦτον, οὐ γὰρ καθῆκεν αὐτὸν
ζῆν.

ἄχρι prep with gen until, as far as

ἐπαιρω raise, lift up

"The mention of the Gentiles was the last straw so far as the audience was concerned, it reminded them of their main grievance against Paul. It was not that they did not believe in proselytizing Gentiles, but Paul was offering Gentiles equal privileges with Jews without requiring them to submit to the obligations of the Law." Bruce

αἶρω take, take away

γῆ, γῆς f earth

Cf. 21:36.

τοιουτος, αυτη, ουτον correlative pronoun and adjective such, of such kind

καθηκεν Verb, Imperf act indic, 3s καθηκει impersonal verb it is fitting

"The imperf. indic. in classical Gk. may indicate necessity or possibility when the opposite is taking place; but the usage is extended in Koine to cover what in classical Gk. would be expressed by the present." Bruce

ζαω live, be alive

Verse 23

κραυγαζόντων τε αὐτῶν καὶ ῥιπτούντων τὰ ἱμάτια καὶ κονιορτὸν βαλλόντων εἰς τὸν ἀέρα,

κραυγαζω call out, shout

ῥιπτω throw, throw down, throw off

Field suggests that here it means waving items of their clothing.

ἱματιον, ου n garment, clothing, robe, cloak

κονιορτος, ου m dust

βαλλω throw

ἀηρ, ερος m air, space

Verse 24

ἐκέλευσεν ὁ χιλιάρχος εἰσάγεσθαι αὐτὸν εἰς τὴν παρεμβολήν, εἶπας μαστιζῖν ἀνετάζεσθαι αὐτὸν ἵνα ἐπιγνῶ δι' ἣν αἰτίαν οὕτως ἐπεφώνουν αὐτῶ.

κελευω order, command

χιλιάρχος, ου m commander

εἰσαγω bring into, lead into

παρεμβολη, ης f barracks; camp

μαστιζ, ιγος f whip, beating with a whip

"The scourge (Lat. *Flagrum, flagellum*), was a murderous instrument of torture, quite different from the Lictor's rods at Philippi. Here Paul at once protests his Roman citizenship, which, by the Valerian and Porcian Laws..., exempted him from such treatment. A slave or alien might be scourged in order to make him confess the truth" Bruce. It was not uncommon for the victim to die as a result of the *flagellum*.

ἀνετάζεσθαι Verb, pres pass infin ἀνεταζω examine, interrogate

ἐπιγνῶ Verb, aor act subj ἐπιγινωσκω

perceive, understand

αἰτια, ας f reason, cause

οὕτως thus, in this way

ἐπιφωνεω shout, cry out

Paul's speech in Aramaic had not been understood by the Commander. All he knew was that Paul's words had stirred up the crowd.

Verse 25

ὡς δὲ προέτειναν αὐτὸν τοῖς ἱμάσιν εἶπεν πρὸς τὸν ἐστῶτα ἑκατόνταρχον ὁ Παῦλος· Εἰ ἄνθρωπον Ῥωμαῖον καὶ ἀκατάκριτον ἔξεστιν ὑμῖν μαστιζειν;

προέτειναν Verb, aor act indic προτεινω tie up (with straps) or stretch out (for a beating)

ἵμας, αντος n strap

ἐστῶτα Verb, perf act ptc, n nom/acc pl

ἰστημι stand, stand firm

ἑκατονταρχης, ου and ἑκατονταρχος, ου m centurion

ἀκατακριτος, ον without trial by law, uncondemned

ἔξεστιν impersonal verb it is permitted, it is lawful

μαστιζω beat with a whip, whip

Cf. 16:37; 22:25ff.

Verse 26

ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ ἑκατοντάρχης προσελθὼν τῷ χιλιάρχῳ ἀπήγγειλεν λέγων· Τί μέλλεις ποιεῖν; ὁ γὰρ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος Ῥωμαῖός ἐστιν.

προσερχομαι come or go to, approach

ἀπαγγελλω announce, proclaim

μελλω (before an infin) be going, be about

Verse 27

προσελθὼν δὲ ὁ χιλιάρχος εἶπεν αὐτῶ· Λέγε μοι, σὺ Ῥωμαῖος εἶ; ὁ δὲ ἔφη· Ναί.

ἔφη Verb, imperf act ind, 3s φημι say

ναι yes, yes indeed, certainly

Verse 28

ἀπεκρίθη δὲ ὁ χιλιάρχος· Ἐγὼ πολλοῦ κεφαλαίου τὴν πολιτείαν ταύτην ἐκτησάμην. ὁ δὲ Παῦλος ἔφη· Ἐγὼ δὲ καὶ γεγέννημαι.

ἀπεκρίθη Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s

ἀποκρῖνομαι answer

πολυς, πολλη, πολυ gen πολλου, ης, ου much, many

κεφαλαιον, ου n sum of money

πολιτεια, ας f citizenship

ἐκτησάμην Verb, aor midd dep indic, 1 s

κταομαι acquire, gain

γεγέννημαι Verb, perf pass indic, 1 s γεννωω pass be born, cause

According to Ramsay, a large number of Jews became citizens of Tarsus as early as 171 BC

Verse 29

εὐθέως οὖν ἀπέστησαν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ οἱ μέλλοντες αὐτὸν ἀνετάξιν· καὶ ὁ χιλιάρχος δὲ ἐφοβήθη ἐπιγνοῦς ὅτι Ῥωμαῖός ἐστιν καὶ ὅτι αὐτὸν ἦν δεδεκώς.

ἀπέστησαν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl
ἀφισταμαι leave, stand away from
ἀνετάξω see v.24.

ἐφοβήθη Verb, aor pass dep indic, 3 s
φοβεομαι fear, be afraid

ἐπιγνοῦς Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s
ἐπιγνωσκω v.24

Cf. 16:38.

δεδεκώς Verb, perf act ptc, m nom s δεω
bind, tie

Verse 30

Τῇ δὲ ἐπαύριον βουλόμενος γνῶναι τὸ ἀσφαλὲς τὸ τί κατηγορεῖται ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἔλυσεν αὐτόν, καὶ ἐκέλευσεν συνελθεῖν τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ πᾶν τὸ συνέδριον, καὶ καταγαγὼν τὸν Παῦλον ἔστησεν εἰς αὐτούς.

ἐπαυριον the next day
βουλομαι want, wish, intend
γνῶναι Verb, aor act infin γνωσκω
ἀσφαλής, ες definite; the facts

Cf. 21:34

κατηγορεω accuse, bring charges against
λυω loose, set free

I.e. from prison.

κελευω order, command
συνερχομαι come together, assemble
ἀρχιερεὺς, εως m high priest, member of high priestly family
συνεδριον, ου n Sanhedrin (the highest Jewish council in religious and civil matters)

Cf. 4:5,15. "They constituted the chief Jewish court, and if Paul had broken the Jewish law in a matter of which Rome took cognizance, it was their business to try and sentence him, and the Roman governor's to ratify a capital sentence." Bruce

καταγαγὼν Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s
καταγω bring down, bring
ἔστησεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἵστημι

Acts 23:1

ἀτενίσας δὲ ὁ Παῦλος τῷ συνεδρίῳ εἶπεν· Ἄνδρες ἀδελφοί, ἐγὼ πάση συνειδήσει ἀγαθῇ πεπολίτευμαι τῷ θεῷ ἄχρι ταύτης τῆς ἡμέρας.

ἀτενίζω fix eyes on, look intently at, fasten attention on
συνειδησις, εως f conscience

ἀγαθος, η, ον good, useful, fitting

Cf. 1 Pet 3:16,21; 1 Tim 1:5,19, also Acts 24:16; 1 Tim 3:9; 2 Tim 1:3; Heb 13:18; 1 Pet 2:19.

πεπολίτευμαι Verb, perf pass dep indic, 1 s
πολιτευομαι live, conduct one's life
ἄχρι until

Verse 2

ὁ δὲ ἀρχιερεὺς Ἀνανίας ἐπέταξεν τοῖς παρεστῶσιν αὐτῷ τύπτειν αὐτοῦ τὸ στόμα.

ἐπέταξεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἐπιτασσω
command, order
παρεστῶσιν Verb, perf act ptc, m & n dat pl
παριστημι and παριστανω stand before, stand by, stand over
τυπτω beat, strike
στομα, τος n mouth

Verse 3

τότε ὁ Παῦλος πρὸς αὐτὸν εἶπεν· Τύπτειν σε μέλλει ὁ θεός, τοῖγε κεκονιαμένε· καὶ σὺ κάθε κρῖνων με κατὰ τὸν νόμον, καὶ παρανομῶν κελεύεις με τύπτεσθαι;

τοτε then, at that time
μελλω (before an infin) be going, be about

He was assassinated in 66 AD, probably by Zealots, because of his pro-Roman policy.

τοιχος, ου m wall
κεκονιαμένε Verb, perf pass ptc, m voc s
κονιαω whitewash

Cf Matt 23:27. However, Bruce does not think Paul is alluding to Jesus' words but, "if he alludes to anything, it may be to the wall of Ezek 13:10ff, which looked stable enough, but collapsed before a stormy wind."

καθημαι sit, sit down
παρανομεω act contrary to the law

"The Jewish law presumed innocence until guilt was proved." Bruce

κελευω see 22:30

Verse 4

οἱ δὲ παρεστῶτες εἶπαν· Τὸν ἀρχιερέα τοῦ θεοῦ λοιδορεῖς;

παρεστῶτες see v.2
λοιδορεω curse, speak evil of, insult

Cf. Jn 18:22

Verse 5

ἔφη τε ὁ Παῦλος· Οὐκ ἤδειν, ἀδελφοί, ὅτι ἐστὶν ἀρχιερεὺς· γέγραπται γὰρ ὅτι Ἄρχοντα τοῦ λαοῦ σου οὐκ ἔρεις κακῶς.

ἔφη Verb, imperf act ind, 3s φημι say

ἤδευ Verb, pluperf act indic, 1 s οἶδα (verb perf in form but with present meaning)
know, understand

"Various reasons have been suggested for Paul's failure to recognise him; e.g., his alleged weak eyesight, a change of High Priest since Paul's last visit, or irony ('I did not think that a man who spoke like that could possibly be the High Priest')." Bruce

γέγραπται Verb, perf pass indic, 3 s γραφω
ἀρχων, οντος m ruler, official, authority,
judge

λαος, ου m people, a people

ἐρεῖς Verb, fut act indic, 2 s λεγω

κακως badly, severely

Cf. Ex 22:28 (LXX 27).

Verse 6

Γνοὺς δὲ ὁ Παῦλος ὅτι τὸ ἐν μέρος ἐστὶν Σαδδουκαίων τὸ δὲ ἕτερον Φαρισαίων ἔκραζεν ἐν τῷ συνεδρίῳ· Ἄνδρες ἀδελφοί, ἐγὼ Φαρισαῖός εἰμι, υἱὸς Φαρισαίων· περὶ ἐλπίδος καὶ ἀναστάσεως νεκρῶν ἐγὼ κρίνομαι.

γνοὺς Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s γινωσκω
εἰς, μια, ἐν gen ἑνος, μιας, ἑνος one
μερος, ους n part, piece
ἕτερος, α, ον other

The Sanhedrin "largely consisted of the high priestly aristocracy and the ruling elders, who were primarily Sadducees. The Pharisees were in the minority and were represented among the scribes who sat in the Sanhedrin." Polhill On Sadducees and Pharisees see Acts 5:34.

κραζω cry out, call out

ἐλπις, ιδος f hope

ἀναστασις, εως f resurrection, raising up
νεκρος, α, ον dead

"The hope of Israel, as Paul saw it, was bound up with the resurrection of Christ, and thus with the general principle (held by the Pharisees) of the resurrection of the dead... That his argument was not frivolous is shown by the presence of Pharisees in the Jerusalem church (15:4; 21:20)." Bruce

Verse 7

τοῦτο δὲ αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος ἐγένετο στάσις τῶν Φαρισαίων καὶ Σαδδουκαίων, καὶ ἐσχίσθη τὸ πλῆθος.

εἰπόντος Verb, aor act ptc, m gen s λεγω
ἐγένετο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s γινομαι
στασις, εως f dispute, argument, riot
ἐσχίσθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s σχιζω
split, disunite

πληθος, ους n crowd, multitude

Verse 8

Σαδδουκαῖοι μὲν γὰρ λέγουσιν μὴ εἶναι ἀνάστασιν μήτε ἄγγελον μήτε πνεῦμα, Φαρισαῖοι δὲ ὁμολογοῦσιν τὰ ἀμφοτέρα.

εἶναι Verb, pres infin εἰμι

μητε and not; μητε ... μητε neither ... nor

"By this denial [of the resurrection] they renounced the Messianic hope in the form which it had taken in post-exilic times." Bruce

ὁμολογεω confess, declare

ἀμφοτεροι, αι, α both, all

Verse 9

ἐγένετο δὲ κραυγὴ μεγάλη, καὶ ἀναστάντες τινὲς τῶν γραμματέων τοῦ μέρους τῶν Φαρισαίων διεμάχοντο λέγοντες· Οὐδὲν κακὸν εὐρίσκομεν ἐν τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ τούτῳ· εἰ δὲ πνεῦμα ἐλάλησεν αὐτῷ ἢ ἄγγελος –

κραυγη, ης f shout, cry

μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα large, great

ἀνιστημι 2 aor rise, stand up

γραμματευς, εως m scribe, expert in
Jewish law

"The scribes were mostly Pharisees: see on 4:5; cf. Mk 2:16; Lk 5:30. With their reaction to Paul's words, cf. the scribe's admiration of Christ's reply to the Sadducees on the question of resurrection, Mk 12:28; Lk 20:39." Bruce

διαμαχομαι protest violently

οὐδεις, οὐδεμα, οὐδεν no one, nothing

κακος, η, ον evil, bad, wrong, harm

λαλεω speak, talk

ἢ or

Verse 10

πολλῆς δὲ γινομένης στάσεως φοβηθεὶς ὁ χιλιάρχος μὴ διασπασθῆ ὁ Παῦλος ὑπ' αὐτῶν ἐκέλευσεν τὸ στράτευμα καταβὰν ἀρπάσαι αὐτὸν ἐκ μέσου αὐτῶν, ἄγειν τε εἰς τὴν παρεμβολήν.

πολυς, πολλη, πολυ gen πολλου, ης, ου much,
many

στασις, εως v.7

φοβηθεὶς Verb, aor pass dep ptc, m nom s

φοβεομαι fear, be afraid

διασπασθῆ Verb, aor pass subj, 3 s διασπαω
pull or tear apart

κελευω order, command

στρατευμα, τος n troops, soldiers

καταβὰν Verb, aor act ptc, n nom/acc s

καταβαινω come or go down

"From the Fortress of Antonia (the παρεμβολη); the Sanhedrin apparently met in the outer Temple precincts." Bruce

ἀρπαζω take by force, take away

μεσος, η, ον middle

παρεμβολη, ης f barracks; camp