

## Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 186 – July 5<sup>th</sup> – Acts 23:11-35

### 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 11

Τῇ δὲ ἐπιούσῃ νυκτὶ ἐπιστάς αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος εἶπεν· Θάρσει, ὡς γὰρ διεμαρτύρω τὰ περὶ ἐμοῦ εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ οὕτω σε δεῖ καὶ εἰς Ῥώμην μαρτυρῆσαι.

ἐπιουσα, ης f the next day  
 νυξ, νυκτος f night  
 ἐφιστημι come up to, stand over  
 θαρσεω (only in imperat) Take courage!  
 διεμαρτύρω Verb, aor midd dep indic, 2 s  
 διαμαρτυρομαι declare solemnly  
 οὕτως and οὕτω thus, in this way  
 δεῖ impersonal verb it is necessary  
 μαρτυρεω bear witness, testify

Confirming Paul's own desire, cf. 19:21.

#### Verse 12

Γενομένης δὲ ἡμέρας ποιήσαντες συστροφὴν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἀνεθεμάτισαν ἑαυτοὺς λέγοντες μήτε φαγεῖν μήτε πιεῖν ἕως οὗ ἀποκτείνωσιν τὸν Παῦλον.

συστροφη, ης f uproar; plot, conspiracy

Some MSS read τινες τῶν Ἰουδαίων to harmonise with v.13.

ἀναθεματιζω curse, invoke a curse on oneself, bind with a solemn vow  
 μητε and not; μητε ... μητε neither ... nor

"The Rabbis held that relief could be given from such vows as could not be fulfilled 'by reason of constraint'." Bruce

φαγεῖν Verb, aor act infin ἐσθιω eat  
 πιεῖν Verb, aor act infin πινω drink  
 οὗ adv where; ἕως οὗ until  
 ἀποκτείνω and ἀποκτενω, -ννω kill, put to death

#### Verse 13

ἦσαν δὲ πλείους τεσσαράκοντα οἱ ταύτην τὴν συνωμοσίαν ποιησάμενοι·

πλειων, πλειον οἱ πλεον more  
 τεσσαρακοντα forty  
 συνωμοσια, ας f conspiracy, plot  
 ποιησάμενοι Verb, aor midd ptc, m nom pl  
 ποιεω

#### Verse 14

οἵτινες προσελθόντες τοῖς ἀρχιερεῦσιν καὶ τοῖς πρεσβυτέροις εἶπαν· Ἀναθέματι ἀνεθεματίσαμεν ἑαυτοὺς μηδενὸς γεύσασθαι ἕως οὗ ἀποκτείνωμεν τὸν Παῦλον.

οἵτινες Pronoun, m nom pl ὅστις, ἥτις, ὁ τι who  
 προσερχομαι come or go to, approach  
 ἀρχιερευς, εως see 22:30  
 πρεσβυτερος, α, ον elder

I.e. to the Sanhedrin.

ἀναθεμα, τος n cursed, under the curse of God

ἀναθεματιζω v.12

The use of a noun with its cognate verb is a Semitic construction.

μηδεις, μηδεμια, μηδεν no one, nothing  
 γευομαι taste, eat

#### Verse 15

νῦν οὖν ὑμεῖς ἐμφανίσατε τῷ χιλιάρχῳ σὺν τῷ συνεδρίῳ ὅπως καταγάγῃ αὐτὸν εἰς ὑμᾶς ὡς μέλλοντας διαγινώσκειν ἀκριβέστερον τὰ περὶ αὐτοῦ· ἡμεῖς δὲ πρὸ τοῦ ἐγγίσει αὐτὸν ἔτοιμοι ἐσμεν τοῦ ἀνελεῖν αὐτόν.

ἐμφανίζω inform, make known, report  
 συνεδριον, ου n Sanhedrin

I.e. 'along with the rest of the Sanhedrin'. The plotters would have revealed their intent only to the party within the Sanhedrin which was implacably opposed to Paul.

ὅπως that, in order that  
 καταγω bring down, bring  
 μελλω be going, be about, intend  
 διαγινωσκω investigate, examine, decide

Includes the ideas of both inquiry and decision cf. 24:22; 25:21.

ἀκριβεστερος, α, ον more strictly, more accurately  
 ἐγγίζω approach, draw near  
 ἐτοιμος, η, ον ready, prepared  
 ἀνελεῖν Verb, aor act infin ἀναίρω do away with, kill

Luke is fond of του with the infinitive, cf. 3:2,12; 7:19; 10:25; 14:9; 15:20; 20:3; 21:12; 26:18.

At the close of the verse the Western text (614 2147 it<sup>h</sup> syr<sup>h(mg)</sup>) adds εὐν δεη και ἀποθανειν ('even though we must die too').

### Verse 16

Ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀδελφῆς Παύλου τὴν ἐνέδραν παραγενόμενος καὶ εἰσελθὼν εἰς τὴν παρεμβολὴν ἀπήγγειλεν τῷ Παύλῳ.

ἀδελφη, ης f sister

ἐνεδρα, ας f ambush, plot

παραγενόμενος Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m nom s παραγινομαι come, be present

Bruce suggests that παραγινομαι should be taken with ἀκούσας i.e. that Paul's nephew was present when the plot was divulged. "If he was present at the conspiracy, either his relation to Paul was unknown, or Paul's bitterest enemies may have been those of his own household, in which case the presence of one of Paul's relatives would have occasioned no misgivings."

εἰσερχομαι enter, go in

παρεμβολη, ης f barracks; camp

ἀπαγγελλω announce, proclaim

Paul's imprisonment did not prevent him from receiving visitors, or from giving orders to a centurion.

### Verse 17

προσκαλεσάμενος δὲ ὁ Παῦλος ἕνα τῶν ἑκατονταρχῶν ἔφη· Τὸν νεανίαν τοῦτον ἄπαγε πρὸς τὸν χιλιάρχον, ἔχει γὰρ ἀπαγγεῖλαι τι αὐτῷ.

προσκαλεσάμενος Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m nom s προσκαλεομαι call to oneself

εἷς, μια, ἐν one, a

ἔφη Verb, imperf act ind, 3s φημι say

νεανιας, ου m young man

ἀπάγαγε Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s ἀπαγω lead, bring before

ἀπαγγεῖλαι Verb, aor act infin ἀπαγγελλω v.16

### Verse 18

ὁ μὲν οὖν παραλαβὼν αὐτὸν ἤγαγεν πρὸς τὸν χιλιάρχον καὶ φησίν· Ὁ δέσμιος Παῦλος προσκαλεσάμενός με ἠρώτησεν τοῦτον τὸν νεανίαν ἀγαγεῖν πρὸς σέ, ἔχοντά τι λαλῆσαι σοι.

παραλαβανω take

ἤγαγεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἄγω

φησίν Verb, pres act indic, 3 s φημι say

δεσμιος, ου m prisoner

A title used by Paul himself, cf Eph 3:1; 4:1

ἔρωταω ask, request, urge

νεανισκος, ου m young man

ἀγαγεῖν Verb, aor act infin ἀγω

λαλεω speak, talk

### Verse 19

ἐπιλαβόμενος δὲ τῆς χειρὸς αὐτοῦ ὁ χιλιάρχος καὶ ἀναχωρήσας κατ' ἰδίαν ἐπυνθάνετο· Τί ἐστὶν ὃ ἔχεις ἀπαγγεῖλαι μοι;

ἐπιλαβόμενος aor midd dep ptc, m nom s

ἐπιλαμβανομαι take, take hold of

χειρ, χειρος f hand

Suggests that he was quite young and perhaps nervous of speaking with a high ranking Roman officer.

ἀναχωρεω withdraw, go away

κατ' ἰδίαν privately

πυνθανομαι inquire, ask

ἀπαγγεῖλαι Verb, aor act infin ἀπαγγελλω

### Verse 20

εἶπεν δὲ ὅτι Οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι συνέθεντο τοῦ ἐρωτῆσαι σε ὅπως αὔριον τὸν Παῦλον καταγάγῃς εἰς τὸ συνέδριον ὡς μέλλον τι ἀκριβέστερον πυνθάνεσθαι περὶ αὐτοῦ·

συντιθεμαι agree, arrange

ἔρωταω v.18

ὅπως v.15

αὔριον Adverb αὔριον tomorrow

καταγάγῃς Verb, aor act subj, 2 s καταγω bring down

Cf. verse 15

μέλλον is supported by κ 33 181, μέλλον p<sup>74</sup> A B E 81, μέλλοντα P 049 056 88 Byz<sup>pt</sup>, μέλλοντες Byz<sup>pt</sup> TR. The majority of the UBS committ preferred the reading μέλλον.

πυνθανομαι v.19

### Verse 21

σὺ οὖν μὴ πεισθῆς αὐτοῖς, ἐνεδρεύουσιν γὰρ αὐτὸν ἐξ αὐτῶν ἄνδρες πλείους τεσσεράκοντα, οἵτινες ἀνεθεμάτισαν ἑαυτοὺς μήτε φαγεῖν μήτε πιεῖν ἕως οὗ ἀνέλωσιν αὐτόν, καὶ νῦν εἰσὶν ἔτοιμοι προσδεχόμενοι τὴν ἀπὸ σοῦ ἐπαγγελίαν.

πεισθῆς Verb, aor pass subj, 2 s πειθω

persuade; pass obey, listen to

ἐνεδρευω lie in ambush, lie in wait

οἵτινες v.14

ἀναθεματιζω see v.12 for this and following

ἀνέλωσιν aor act subj, 3 pl ἀναιρεω v. 15

έτοιμος, η, ον ready, prepared

προσδεχομαι wait for, expect, receive

ἐπαγγελια, ας f promise

The meaning here is 'consent'.

**Verse 22**

ὁ μὲν οὖν χλιάρχος ἀπέλυσε τὸν νεανίσκον παραγγείλας μηδενὶ ἐκλαλῆσαι ὅτι ταῦτα ἐνεφάνισας πρὸς ἐμέ.

ἀπολυω release, send away, dismiss

νεανισκος, ου v.18

παραγγελλω command, instruct

μηδεις, μηδεμια, μηδεν no one, nothing

ἐκλαλεω tell

ἐμφανίζω v.15

**Verse 23**

Καὶ προσκαλεσάμενός τιςας δύο τῶν ἑκατονταρχῶν εἶπεν· Ἐτοιμάσατε στρατιώτας διακοσίους ὅπως πορευθῶσιν ἕως Καισαρείας, καὶ ἵππεῖς ἑβδομήκοντα καὶ δεξιολάβους διακοσίους, ἀπὸ τρίτης ὥρας τῆς νυκτός,

προσκαλεσάμενος Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m nom s προσκαλεομαι summon

δυο gen & acc δυο dat δυσιν two

ἑκατονταρχης, ου m centurion

ἐτοιμαζω prepare, make ready

στρατιωτης, ου m soldier

διακοσιοι, αι, α two hundred

ὅπως that, in order that

πορευθῶσιν Verb, aor pass dep subj, 3 pl

πορευομαι go, travel

ἵππευς, εως m horseman, cavalryman

ἑβδομηκοντα seventy

δεξιολαβος, ου m (meaning uncertain)

perhaps soldier, infantryman

"The escort was composed of heavy infantry, cavalry and light-armed troops, the three constituents of the Roman army. The unusual word δεξιολαβος ... seems to mean 'spearmen'." Bruce

τριτος, η, ον third

νυξ, νυκτος f night

The Western text of verses 23-24 contains a number of interpolations.

**Verse 24**

κτῆνη τε παραστήσαι ἵνα ἐπιβιβάσαντες τὸν Παῦλον διασωσῶσι πρὸς Φήλικα τὸν ἡγεμόνα,

κτηνος, ους n animal, pack animal

Horses or mules.

παριστημι present; provide

ἐπιβιβαζω set or place upon

διασωσῶσι Verb, aor act subj, 3 pl διασωζω

bring safely through

ἡγεμων, ονος m governor, ruler, prince

**Verse 25**

γράμας ἐπιστολὴν ἔχουσιν τὸν τύπον τοῦτον·

γραφω write

ἐπιστολη, ης f letter

τυπος, ου m pattern

ἔχουσιν τὸν τύπον τοῦτον 'having this form' i.e. the letter went something like this.

"Whether Luke had access at Caesarea to the actual letter or not, this reproduction of it is very true to life, especially in the exaggerated place which Lysias gives to his own part in the events, and in the slight twisting of the truth at the end of ver. 27." Bruce

**Verse 26**

Κλαύδιος Λυσίας τῷ κρατίστῳ ἡγεμόνι Φήλικι χαίρειν.

κρατιστος, η, ον most excellent

Cf. 24:3; 26:25; Lk 1:3.

χαρω rejoice; imperat used as a greeting

**Verse 27**

τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον συλλημφθέντα ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων καὶ μέλλοντα ἀναιρεῖσθαι ὑπ' αὐτῶν ἐπιστάς σὺν τῷ στρατεύματι ἐξειλάμην, μαθὼν ὅτι Ῥωμαῖός ἐστιν,

συλλαμβανω sieze, arrest

μελλω be going, be about, intend

ἀναιρεω do away with, kill

ἐφιστημι come up to, approach, appear

στρατευμα, τος n troops, soldiers, army

ἐξειλάμην Verb, aor midd indic, 1 s ἐξαίρω

pull out, midd rescue, save

μαθων Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s μανθανω

learn, find out

Lucius's version of the events rewrites the history in order to reflect well on himself. In reality it was only later, when he had ordered Paul to be scourged, that he learned he was a Roman.

**Verse 28**

βουλόμενός τε ἐπιγνώσκει τὴν αἰτίαν δι' ἣν ἐνεκάλουν αὐτῷ, κατήγαγον εἰς τὸ συνέδριον αὐτῶν.

βουλομαι want, desire, wish, intend

ἐπιγινωσκω perceive, understand

αἰτια, ας f reason, cause, accusation

Cf. 13:28; 25:18,27; 28:18.

ἐγκαλεω bring charges against, accuse

κατήγαγον Verb, aor act indic, 1s & 3 pl

καταγω bring down, bring

κατήγαγον εἰς τὸ συνέδριον αὐτῶν omitted by B 81 (due to homoeoteleuton ?), but added in the margin of B.

**Verse 29**

ὄν εὑρον ἐγκαλούμενον περὶ ζητημάτων τοῦ νόμου αὐτῶν, μηδὲν δὲ ἄξιον θανάτου ἢ δεσμῶν ἔχοντα ἔγκλημα.

εὑρον Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl εὕρισκω  
ζητημα, τος n controversial question, point of disagreement

μηδεις, μηδεμα, μηδεν no one, nothing  
ἄξιος, α, ον worthy, deserving, fitting  
θανατος, ου m death

ἢ or

δεσμος, ου m (& n) bond, chain, imprisonment

"As in the Gospel, Luke is at pains to emphasise Pilate's finding no fault with Jesus (Lk 23:4, 14f., 22), so now in the mouth of many official witnesses he emphasises Paul's innocence of the charge brought against him (cf. 25:18; 26:31f.)." Bruce

ἐγκλημα, τος n charge, accusation

**Verse 30**

μηνυθείσης δέ μοι ἐπιβουλῆς εἰς τὸν ἄνδρα ἔσεσθαι ἐξαυτῆς ἐπεμψα πρὸς σέ, παραγγείλας καὶ τοῖς κατηγοροῖς λέγειν πρὸς αὐτὸν ἐπὶ σοῦ.

μηνυθείσης Verb, aor pass ptc, f gen s  
μηνευω make known, inform, report

ἐπιβουλη, ης f plot

ἔσεσθαι Verb, fut infin εἶμι

"The fut. infin. hardly existed in the Koine; ἔσεσθαι is the one real exception, and rare at that." Bruce

ἐξαυτης adv immediately, at once  
πεμπω send

An epistolary aorist.

παραγγελλω command, instruct

κατηγοροῖς Noun, dat pl κατηγορος, ου m accuser

"The Textus Receptus, following  $\aleph$   $\Psi$  056 0142 and many minuscules, concludes the sentence with an appropriate epistolary close, ἐρρωσο ['farewell']. Other witnesses, influenced by 15:29, add ἐρρωσθε. If either of these closing formulas had been present originally, it is difficult to account for its absence from  $p^{74vid}$  A B 33  $it^{gig}$   $cop^{sa,bo}$  al (in 15:29 no known witness lacks ἐρρωσθε)." *UBS Textual Commentary*

**Verse 31**

Οἱ μὲν οὖν στρατιῶται κατὰ τὸ διατεταγμένον αὐτοῖς ἀναλαμβάνοντες τὸν Παῦλον ἤγαγον διὰ νυκτὸς εἰς τὴν Ἀντιπατρίδα·

στρατιωτης, ου m soldier

διατασσω command, give instructions

ἀναλαμβάνω take up, take

ἤγαγον Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl ἄγω

νύξ, νυκτος v.23

Antipatris was about 10 miles north of Lydda and 25 miles south of Caesarea. In all, Caesarea was about 60 miles north of Jerusalem – two days' march.

**Verse 32**

τῇ δὲ ἐπαύριον ἔασαντες τοὺς ἵππεῖς ἀπέρχεσθαι σὺν αὐτῷ ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς τὴν παρεμβολήν·

ἐπαυριον the next day

ἔασαντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl ἔαω  
allow, leave, let go

ἵππευς, εως m horseman, cavalryman

ὑποστρεφω return, turn back

The subject is still the soldiers of the previous verse.

παρεμβολη, ης f barracks; camp; army

**Verse 33**

οἵτινες εἰσελθόντες εἰς τὴν Καισάρειαν καὶ ἀναδόντες τὴν ἐπιστολὴν τῷ ἡγεμόνι παρέστησαν καὶ τὸν Παῦλον αὐτῷ.

οἵτινες Pronoun, m nom pl ὅστις, ἥτις, ὅ τι who, which

The subject has now changed to the horsemen who continued to escort Paul.

ἀναδόντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl

ἀναδιδωμι deliver

ἐπιστολη, ης f letter

ἡγεμων, ονος m governor, ruler, prince

παριστημι and παριστανω present, bring into one's presence

**Verse 34**

ἀναγνοὺς δὲ καὶ ἐπερωτήσας ἐκ ποίας ἐπαρχείας ἐστὶν καὶ πυθόμενος ὅτι ἀπὸ Κιλικίας,

ἀναγινωσκω read

ἐπερωταω ask, question

ποιος, α, ον interrog pro. what, which

Here used as an equivalent to τινος.

ἐπαρχεια, ας f province

πυθόμενος Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m nom s  
πυνθανομαι learn (by enquiry)

**Verse 35**

Διακούσομαί σου, ἔφη, ὅταν καὶ οἱ κατηγοροὶ σου παραγένωνται· κελεύσας ἐν τῷ πραιτωρίῳ τοῦ Ἡρώδου φυλάσσεσθαι αὐτόν.

διακουω hear (a legal case)

ἔφη Verb, imperf act ind, 3s φημι say

ὅταν when, whenever, as often as

κατηγορος, ου m accuser

παραγένωνται Verb, aor midd dep subj, 3 pl

παραγινομαι come, arrive

κελευω order, command

πραιτωριον, ου n headquarters or  
residence (of an army or governor)

"The praetorium (originally the headquarters of the praetor or military commander) was the original residence of the Roman governor of a province; the word is used here of a palace in Caesarea, built by Herod the Great, which served as a residence for the procurator. Cf. Mk 15:16 and Jn 18:28 (of the procurator's Jerusalem headquarters)." Bruce

φυλασσω keep, guard