

Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 187 – July 6th – Acts 24:1-27

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 1

Μετὰ δὲ πέντε ἡμέρας κατέβη ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς Ἀνανίας μετὰ πρεσβυτέρων τινῶν καὶ ῥήτορος Τερτύλλου τινός, οἵτινες ἐνεφάνισαν τῷ ἡγεμόνι κατὰ τοῦ Παύλου.

πεντε (indeclinable) five
καταβαινω come or go down
ῥήτωρ, ορος m lawyer, advocate
οἵτινες see 23:33
ἐμφανίζω report; ἐ. κατα bring charges against
ἡγεμων, ονος see 23:33

Verse 2

κληθέντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἤρξατο κατηγορεῖν ὁ Τέρτυλλος λέγων· Πολλῆς εἰρήνης τυγχάνοντες διὰ σοῦ καὶ διορθωμάτων γινομένων τῷ ἔθνει τούτῳ διὰ τῆς σῆς προνοίας

κληθέντος Verb, aor pass ptc, m gen s καλεω

The reference is to Paul being called into the 'courtroom'

ἀρχω midd begin
κατηγορεω accuse, bring charges against
πολυς, πολλη, πολυ much, many
εἰρηνη, ης f peace
τυγχανω obtain, receive

"The flattering mention of the 'great peace' enjoyed under Felix's rule is in glaring contrast to the facts related by Josephus and Tacitus."

Bruce

διορθωμα, τος n improvement, reform
ἔθνος, ους n nation, people
σος, ση, σον possessive adj. your, yours
προνοια, ας f foresight, provision, care

"Felix had scarcely done this. He had, in fact, made life miserable for the Jews, as was witnessed by the proliferation of rebellious movements during his term in response to his total lack of sympathy for or understanding of them. But again, the Romans liked to be called benefactors; and their 'foresight' (Latin *providentia*) was often inscribed on their coins." Polhill

Verse 3

πάντη τε καὶ πανταχοῦ ἀποδεχόμεθα, κράτιστε Φηλιξ, μετὰ πάσης εὐχαριστίας.

παντη adv in every way
τε και and also
πανταχου everywhere
ἀποδεχομαι welcome, receive,
acknowledge

'We acknowledge this'

κρατιστος, η, ον most excellent
εὐχαριστια, ας f thanksgiving

Verse 4

ἵνα δὲ μὴ ἐπὶ πλεῖόν σε ἐγκόπτω, παρακαλῶ ἀκοῦσαί σε ἡμῶν συντόμως τῇ σῇ ἐπιεικείᾳ.

πλειων, πλειον ογ πλεον more
ἐγκοπτω hinder, detain

Cf. 1 Thes 2:18. The sense here could be 'weary', cf. Job 19:2; Isa 43:23.

παρακαλεω exhort, encourage, urge
συντομως adv briefly
ἐπιεικεια, ας f kindness, forbearance,
graciousness

Verse 5

εὐρόντες γὰρ τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον λοιμὸν καὶ κινουῦντα στάσεις πᾶσι τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις τοῖς κατὰ τὴν οἰκουμένην πρωτοστάτην τε τῆς τῶν Ναζωραίων αἵρέσεως,

Cf. Lk 23:2.

λοιμος, ου m nuisance, trouble maker
κινεω move, shake, stir up
στασις, εως f dispute, discord, riot, revolt
οικουμενη, ης f inhabited earth, Roman Empire

A Roman official would be more likely to act against revolutionaries who threatened the *pax Romanum* than to safeguard the concerns of Jewish law.

πρωτοστατης, ου m ring-leader

Here only in NT.

Ναζωραιος, ου m inhabitant of Nazareth, Nazarene

αἵρεσις, εως f religious party, faction, false teaching

"This word ... implies that by the Jews the Christians were still regarded as a heretical Jewish sect... In Hebrew, Christians are called *Nosrim* to this day." Bruce

Verse 6

ὅς καὶ τὸ ἱερὸν ἐπείρασεν βεβηλῶσαι, ὃν καὶ ἐκρατήσαμεν,

ἱερὸν, ου n temple, temple precincts
πειραζω tempt, attempt
βεβηλω desecrate
κρατεω hold, hold fast, sieze, arrest

"An excessively refined description of an attempt at a lynching!" Bruce

Verses 6b-8a

The longer reading, from vv.6b-8a, though part of the Textus Receptus and AV is poorly attested. The shorter text, ending with ἐκρατήσαμεν is supported by p⁷⁴ xA B P 049 81 326 330 *et al.* The western text, with a number of textual variants, adds, καὶ κατὰ τὸν ἡμετερον νομον ἠθελησαμεν κριναί. παρελθὼν δε Λυσίας ὁ χιλιάρχος μετὰ πολλῆς βίας ἐκ τῶν χειρῶν ἡμῶν ἀπηγαγε, κελυσας τοὺς κατηγοροὺς αὐτοῦ ἐρχεσθαι ἐπὶ σε. Metzger, in the *Textual Commentary* to the UBS text writes, "In the opinion of some scholars (e.g. Blass, Clark, Lagrange, Lake and Cadbury), the Western reading, which passed into the Textus Receptus, is necessary to the sense of the verses, for the aorist ἐκρατήσαμεν seems to require some sequel. On the other hand, however, the abruptness of ἐκρατήσαμεν may have prompted a desire for addition and completeness, and it is difficult to account for the omission of the disputed words if they were original. One of the effects of the addition is to change the reference of οὐ in ver 8 from Paul to Lysius, but whether this is to be interpreted as favouring or opposing the addition is disputed." Bruce thinks the longer reading 'bears marks of genuineness'.

Verse 8

παρ' οὗ δυνήσῃ αὐτὸς ἀνακρίνας περὶ πάντων τούτων ἐπιγνῶναι ὃν ἡμεῖς κατηγοροῦμεν αὐτοῦ.

παρα preposition with gen from, with
δυνήσῃ Verb, fut midd dep indic, 2 s
δυναμαι

ἀνακρινω question, judge, evaluate
ἐπιγινωσκω perceive, understand
κατηγορεω accuse, bring charges against

Verse 9

συνεπέθεντο δὲ καὶ οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι φάσκοντες ταῦτα οὕτως ἔχειν.

συνεπέθεντο Verb, aor midd indic, 3 pl
συνεπιτιθεμαι join in the attack
φασκω allege, claim, assert
οὕτως adv. thus, in this way

Verse 10

Ἀπεκρίθη τε ὁ Παῦλος νεύσαντος αὐτῷ τοῦ ἡγεμόνος λέγειν· Ἐκ πολλῶν ἐτῶν ὄντα σε κριτὴν τῷ ἔθνει τούτῳ ἐπιστάμενος εὐθύμως τὰ περὶ ἐμαντοῦ ἀπολογοῦμαι,

ἀπεκρίθη Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s
ἀποκρινομαι answer, reply, say
νευω motion, nod
ἡγεμων, ονος m governor, ruler
ἐτος, ους n year

"Felix had been governor of the whole province for about 5 years, but if we add his term of office in Samaria during the proconsulship of Cumanus... the total will be about 8 or 9 years." Bruce

κριτης, ου m judge
ἔθνος, ους n nation, people
ἐπισταμαι know, understand
εὐθύμως adv cheerfully, confidently
ἀπολογομαι speak in one's own behalf, defend oneself

Cf. 26:2

Verse 11

δυναμένου σου ἐπιγνῶναι, ὅτι οὐ πλείους εἰσὶν μοι ἡμέραι δώδεκα ἀφ' ἧς ἀνέβην προσκυνήσων εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ,

ἐπιγινωσκω perceive, understand
πλειων, πλειον or πλεον more
δωδεκα twelve
ἀνέβην Verb, aor act ind, 1s ἀναβαινω go up, come up
προσκυνήσων Verb, fut act ptc, m nom s
προσκυνεω worship

The future participle expresses purpose, cf ποιησων v.17. Bruce says that προσκυνεω was frequently used to mean 'to be on pilgrimage' and that this may well be the sense here. Paul's point is that a pilgrim would hardly seek to stir up trouble.

Verse 12

καὶ οὕτε ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ εὗρόν με πρὸς τινα διαλεγόμενον ἢ ἐπίστασιν ποιῶντα ὄχλου οὕτε ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς οὕτε κατὰ τὴν πόλιν, οὕτε νοτ, nor (οὕτε ... οὕτε neither ... nor)
ἱερὸν, ου n temple, temple precincts
εὗρόν Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl εὕρισκω
διαλεγομαι discuss, debate, address

ἢ οἱ

ἐπιστασις, εως f stirring up
ὄχλος, ου m crowd, multitude

Cf. ὀχλοποιεω 17:5.

πολις, εως f city, town

Verse 13οὐδὲ παραστήσαι δύνανταί σοι περὶ ὧν νυνὶ
κατηγοροῦσίν μου.

παριστημι and παριστανω present

Here meaning 'provide proof'

νυνι now

κατηγορεω accuse, bring charges against

Verse 14ὁμολογῶ δὲ τοῦτό σοι ὅτι κατὰ τὴν ὁδὸν ἦν
λέγουσιν αἴρεσιν οὕτως λατρεύω τῷ πατρίῳ
θεῷ, πιστεύω πάνσι τοῖς κατὰ τὸν νόμον καὶ
τοῖς ἐν τοῖς προφήταις γεγραμμένοις,ὁμολογεω confess, declare, give thanks
ὁδος, ου f way, path, road, journey
αἵρεσις, εως see v.5Christians referred to themselves as followers
of 'The Way'; it was non-Christians who
referred to them as αἵρεσις.

οὕτως thus, in this way

λατρευω serve, worship

πατρωος, α, ον coming from one's
ancestors"Judaism was a *religio licita*, and Paul ever
insisted that he had not forsaken the faith of his
fathers." Bruce

πιστεω believe (in), have faith (in)

νομος, ου m law

προφητης, ου m prophet

γεγραμμένοις Verb, perf pass ptc, m & n dat
pl γραφω write**Verse 15**ἐλπίδα ἔχων εἰς τὸν θεόν, ἦν καὶ αὐτοὶ οὗτοι
προσδέχονται, ἀνάστασιν μέλλειν ἔσεσθαι
δικαίων τε καὶ ἀδίκων·

ἐλπις, ιδος f hope

προσδεχομαι wait for, expect

ἀναστασις, εως f resurrection, raising up

μελλω (before an infin) be going

ἔσεσθαι Verb, fut infin εἶμι

On μέλλειν ἔσεσθαι cf. 11:28; 27:10; see also
on 23:30.

δικαιος, α, ον righteous, just

τε καὶ and also

ἀδικος, ον evil, sinful, unjust

Cf. Dan 12:2; Jn 5:28f.; Rev 20:12ff. "This is
the only recorded place where Paul explicitly
mentions the resurrection of the unjust." Bruce"To mention the resurrection of the unjust
could only imply one thing – the coming
judgment. Paul was not about to miss the
opportunity for witness. Even the Gentiles
present, who might not comprehend the idea of
the resurrection, would have some
understanding of the judgment (cf. 24:25)."
Polhill**Verse 16**ἐν τούτῳ καὶ αὐτὸς ἀσκῶ ἀπρόσκοπον
συνείδησιν ἔχειν πρὸς τὸν θεὸν καὶ τοὺς
ἀνθρώπους διὰ παντός.Bruce says that the ἐν has causal force and the
phrase ἐν τούτῳ means 'Therefore'.

ἀσκεω endeavour, do one's best

Here alone in the NT.

ἀπροσκοπος, ον blameless, faultless,
inoffensive

Cf. 1 Cor 10:32; Phil 1:10.

συνείδησις, εως f conscience

Cf. 23:1.

Verse 17δι' ἐτῶν δὲ πλειόνων ἐλεημοσύνας ποιήσων εἰς
τὸ ἔθνος μου παρεγενόμην καὶ προσφοράς,

ἔτος, ους n year

πλειων, πλειον more, most, many

δι' ἐτῶν δὲ πλειόνων 'And after an interval of
several years'ἐλεημοσυνη, ης f giving money to a needy
person, money given to a needy
person, gift

ποιήσων Verb, fut act ptc, m nom s ποιεω

ἔθνος, ους n nation, people

παραγινομαι come, arrive

προσφορα, ας f offering, sacrifice, gift

On the offering which Paul collected, see 1
Cor 16:1ff; 2 Cor 8:1ff; Rom 15:25ff and Acts
20:4. "Paul took [the offering] ... very
seriously; not only was it in his eyes a requital
in some measure of the spiritual debt owed by
the Gentile churches to those from whom the
Gospel first proceeded, but a means of
conciliating the Judaistic extremists in the
Jerusalem church, and of thus welding Jews
and Gentiles in the Church into one body, by
making each section feel dependent on, and
grateful to, one another." Bruce**Verse 18**ἐν αἷς εὗρόν με ἡγνισμένον ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ, οὐ
μετὰ ὄχλου οὐδὲ μετὰ θορύβου,

εὗρόν Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl εὕρισκω

ἡγνισμένον Verb, perf pass ptc, m acc s

ἀγνιζω purify, cleanse

ιερον, ου n temple, temple precincts
 ὄγλος, ου m crowd, multitude
 θορυβος, ου m confusion, disturbance, riot

Verse 19

τινες δε ἀπο τῆς Ἀσίας Ἰουδαῖοι, οὓς ἔδει ἐπι
 σοῦ παρεῖναι καὶ κατηγορεῖν εἴ τι ἔχοιεν πρὸς
 ἐμέ,

ἔδει Verb, imperf indic, 3 s (impers) δει
 impersonal verb it is necessary, ought
 παρεῖμι be present

Note: παρεῖναι is the aorist infin of two
 different verbs:

- i) παρεῖμι 'to be present' (Acts 24:19; Gal
 4:18,20);
- ii) παρημι 'to neglect' (Lk 11:42).

Paul is making the legal point that the
 eyewitnesses of his supposed transgression
 have made no appearance in the court.

κατηγορεω accuse, bring charges against
 ἔχοιεν Verb, pres act opt, 3 pl ἔχω

Verse 20

ἢ αὐτοὶ οὗτοι εἰπάτωσαν τί εὔρον ἀδίκημα
 στάντος μου ἐπὶ τοῦ συνεδρίου

ἢ οἱ

αὐτοὶ οὗτοι cf.v.15.

εἰπάτωσαν Verb, aor act imperat, 3 pl λεγω
 εὔρον Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl εὕρισκω
 ἀδίκημα, τος n crime, sin, wrong
 στάντος Verb, 2 aor act ptc, m gen s ἵστημι 2
 aor & pf stand, stop, stand firm

Verse 21

ἢ περὶ μᾶς ταύτης φωνῆς ἧς ἐκέκραξα ἐν
 αὐτοῖς ἐστὼς ὅτι Περὶ ἀναστάσεως νεκρῶν
 ἐγὼ κρίνομαι σήμερον ἐφ' ὑμῶν.

εἷς, μια, ἐν gen ἑνος, μιας, ἑνος one, a, an,
 single

ἐκέκραξα Verb, irreg aor act indic, 1 s κραζω
 cry out, call out

ἐστὼς Verb, perf act ptc, m nom s ἵστημι
 ἀναστασις, εως f resurrection, raising up
 νεκρος, α, ον dead

κρινω judge, pass judgement on
 σημερον today

This was the *one* matter that had emerged
 during his trial before the Sanhedrin. And so
 Paul "insists that the only valid charge that can
 be brought against him is a theological one,
 and one in which all who believe in the
 resurrection should share." Bruce

Verse 22

Ἀνεβάλετο δὲ αὐτοὺς ὁ Φῆλιξ, ἀκριβέστερον
 εἰδὼς τὰ περὶ τῆς ὁδοῦ, εἶπας· Ὅταν Λυσίας ὁ
 χιλίαρχος καταβῆ διαγνώσομαι τὰ καθ' ὑμᾶς·

ἀνεβάλετο Verb, aor midd indic, 3 s
 ἀναβαλλομαι postpone, adjourn
 ἀκριβεστερος, α, ον more strictly, more
 accurately

"The sense is here elative, 'pretty accurately'
 (cf. καλλιον). Felix may have been indebted
 for his knowledge to his wife Drucilla." Bruce

εἰδὼς Verb, perf act ptc, m nom s οἶδα
 know, understand

ὁδος, ου f way, path, road, journey

ὅταν when, whenever, as often as

χιλιαρχος, ου m commander

καταβῆ Verb, aor act subj, 3 s καταβαινω
 come or go down

διαγνώσομαι Verb, fut midd dep indic, 1 s

διαγινωσκω investigate, decide

Lysius had already sent his report and
 indicated that he saw the whole thing as a
 matter of Jewish religious law, and that Paul
 had done nothing worthy of death or even
 imprisonment, cf. 23:29. Hence it would
 appear that Felix was simply putting off
 making a verdict that might anger the Jews.

Verse 23

διαταζόμενος τῷ ἑκατοντάρχῃ τηρεῖσθαι
 αὐτὸν ἔχειν τε ἄνεσιν καὶ μηδένα κωλύειν τῶν
 ἰδίων αὐτοῦ ὑπηρετεῖν αὐτῷ.

διαταζόμενος Verb, aor midd ptc, m gen s
 διατασσω command, give instructions

ἑκατονταρχης, ου m centurion

τηρεῖσθαι Verb, pres pass infin τηρεω keep
 ἄνεσις, εως f relief

Describes the relaxed nature of Paul's
 imprisonment.

μηδεις, μηδεμια, μηδεν no one, nothing

κωλυω hinder, prevent, forbid

ἰδιος, α, ον one's own

τῶν ἰδίων αὐτοῦ 'of his own (friends)'

ὑπηρετεω serve, render service, provide
 for, look after (one's needs)

Verse 24

Μετὰ δὲ ἡμέρας τινὰς παραγενόμενος ὁ Φῆλιξ
 σὺν Δρουσίλλῃ τῇ ἰδίᾳ γυναικὶ οὔσῃ Ἰουδαία
 μετεπέμψατο τὸν Παῦλον καὶ ἤκουσεν αὐτοῦ
 περὶ τῆς εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν πίστεως.

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

ἰδιος, α, ον see v.23

"We are to regard ἰδια as an example of the
 'exhausted' ἰδιος (according to Deissmann),
 merely serving as a possessive." Bruce

οὔση verb, present part, f dat s εἰμι
 μετεπέμψατο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s
 μεταπεμπομαι send for, summon

A number of MSS omit Ἰησουν

Verse 25

διαλεγόμενου δὲ αὐτοῦ περὶ δικαιοσύνης καὶ
 ἐγκρατείας καὶ τοῦ κρίματος τοῦ μέλλοντος
 ἔμφοβος γενόμενος ὁ Φῆλιξ ἀπεκρίθη· Τὸ νῦν
 ἔχον πορεύου, καιρὸν δὲ μεταλαβῶν
 μετακαλέσομαι σε·

διαλεγομαι discuss, debate, speak
 δικαιοσυνη, ης f righteousness, what is
 right

ἐγκρατεια, ας f self-control

A very relevant subject. Drucilla was the third
 wife of Felix and, at the tender age of sixteen,
 he had enticed her away from her former
 husband, Azius, king of Emesa.

κριμα, τος n judgement, condemnation,
 punishment

μελλω (ptc. without infin) coming, future

ἐμφοβος, ον full of fear

ἀπεκρίθη Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s
 ἀποκρinoμαι answer, say

Τὸ νῦν ἔχον 'for the present' – A Hellenistic
 idiom.

πορευομαι go

καιρος, ου m time

μεταλαβων Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s

μεταλαμβάνω receive, have

καιρὸν δὲ μεταλαβῶν 'and when I have spare
 time'

μετακαλεομαι send for, summon

Verse 26

ἅμα καὶ ἐλπίζων ὅτι χρήματα δοθήσεται αὐτῷ
 ὑπὸ τοῦ Παύλου· διὸ καὶ πυκνότερον αὐτὸν
 μεταπεμπόμενος ὁμίλει αὐτῷ.

ἅμα at the same time

ἐλπίζω hope, hope for

χρημα, τος n mostly pl money

δοθήσεται Verb, fut pass indic, 3 s διδωμι

Such bribes, though forbidden by Roman law,
 were commonplace.

διο therefore, for this reason

πυκνότερος, α, ον more frequent

μεταπεμπομαι send for, summon

ὁμιλεω talk, converse

"The material consideration mentioned ... was
 a subsidiary motive for his frequent intervals
 with Paul; we need not doubt his real interest
 in theological discussions kept, of course,
 within purely academic limits." Bruce

Verse 27

Διετίας δὲ πληρωθείσης ἔλαβεν διάδοχον ὁ
 Φῆλιξ Πόρκιον Φῆστον· θέλων τε χάριτα
 καταθέσθαι τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις ὁ Φῆλιξ κατέλιπε
 τὸν Παῦλον δεδεμένον.

διετια, ας f two-year period

πληρωθείσης Verb, aor pass ptc, f acc pl

πληρωω fulfill, accomplish

I.e. when Paul had been in custody for a period
 of two years.

ἔλαβεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s λαμβανω

διαδοχος, ου m successor

ἔλαβεν διάδοχον 'received as successor'

θελω wish, will

καταθέσθαι Verb, aor midd infin κατατιθημι

midd κ. χαριν, κ. χαριτα gain favour with
 or do a favour for

'Wishing to ingratiate himself with the Jews'.

Cf. 25:9 where the same phrase is used of
 Festus.

καταλειπω leave, leave behind

δεδεμένον Verb, perf pass ptc, m acc s δεω
 bind, tie