

Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 188 – July 7th – Acts 25:1-27

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Acts

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

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Verse 1

Φῆστος οὖν ἐπιβὰς τῇ ἐπαρχείᾳ μετὰ τρεῖς
ἡμέρας ἀνέβη εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἀπὸ
Καισαρείας,

ἐπιβὰς Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s ἐπιβαινω
arrive, come to

ἐπαρχεία, ας f province

ἐπιβὰς τῇ ἐπαρχείᾳ 'having entered upon his
province'

τρεις, τρια gen τριων dat τρισιν three

ἀνέβη Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἀναβαινω go
up, come up

Verse 2

ἐνεφάνισάν τε αὐτῷ οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ πρῶτοι
τῶν Ἰουδαίων κατὰ τοῦ Παύλου, καὶ
παρακάλουν αὐτὸν

ἐνεφάνισάν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl
ἐμφανίζω inform, make; ἐ. κατα
bring charges against

Cf. 23:15; 24:27.

ἀρχιερεὺς, εως m high priest, member of
high priestly family

πρωτος, η, ον first, leading, foremost

"Probably yet another way of referring to the
Sanhedrin" Bruce

παρακαλεω exhort, encourage, urge

Verse 3

αἰτούμενοι χάριν κατ' αὐτοῦ ὅπως
μεταπέμνηται αὐτὸν εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ, ἐνέδραν
ποιοῦντες ἀνελεῖν αὐτὸν κατὰ τὴν ὁδόν.

αἰτεω ask, request, demand

χαρις, ιος f favour

ὅπως that, in order that

μεταπέμνηται Verb, aor midd dep subj, 3 s
μεταπεμπομαι send for, summon

ἐνέδρα, ας f ambush, plot

ἀνελεῖν Verb, aor act infin ἀναιρω do
away with, kill

ὁδος, ου f way, road, journey

Verse 4

ὁ μὲν οὖν Φῆστος ἀπεκρίθη τηρεῖσθαι τὸν
Παῦλον εἰς Καισάρειαν, ἑαυτὸν δὲ μέλλειν ἐν
τάχει ἐκπορεύεσθαι·

ἀπεκρίθη Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s
ἀποκρίνομαι answer

τηρεῖσθαι Verb, pres pass infin τηρεω keep
ἑαυτος, ἑαυτη, ἑαυτον him/her/itself

μελλω be going, be about

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

ἐκπορεύεσθαι Verb, pres midd/pass dep infin
ἐκπορευομαι go or come out

Verse 5

Οἱ οὖν ἐν ὑμῖν, φησίν, δυνατοὶ συγκαταβάντες
εἰ τί ἐστιν ἐν τῷ ἀνδρὶ ἄτοπον κατηγορεῖτωσαν
αὐτοῦ.

φησίν Verb, pres act indic, 3 s φημι say
δυνατος, η, ον powerful, able

The meaning here is 'men of power or
influence' – probably meaning the same as the
πρωτοι of v.2.

συγκαταβάντες Verb, aor act otc, m nom pl
συγκαταβαινω go or come down with

ἀνηρ, ἀνδρος m man, husband

ἀτοπος, ον improper, wrong, evil, harmful
κατηγορεω accuse, bring charges against

Verse 6

Διατρίψας δὲ ἐν αὐτοῖς ἡμέρας οὐ πλείους
ὀκτῶ ἢ δέκα, καταβὰς εἰς Καισάρειαν, τῇ
ἐπαύριον καθίσας ἐπὶ τοῦ βήματος ἐκέλευσεν
τὸν Παῦλον ἀχθῆναι.

διατρίψας Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s
διατριβω remain, stay

πλειων, πλειον ογ πλεον more, most

ὀκτω eight

ἢ ογ

δεκα ten

καταβαινω come or go down

ἐπαυριον the next day

καθίζω intrans sit down, sit, take one's
seat

βημα, τος n judicial bench, place of
judgement, court

Cf. Mt 27:19; Jn 19:13.

κελευω order, command
ἀγθῆναι Verb, aor pass infin ἀγω

Verse 7

παραγενομένου δὲ αὐτοῦ περιέστησαν αὐτὸν οἱ ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλῶν καταβεβηκότες Ἰουδαῖοι, πολλὰ καὶ βαρέα αἰτιώματα καταφέροντες ἃ οὐκ ἴσχυον ἀποδεῖξαι,

παραγενομένου Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m & n gen s παραγινομαι come, arrive, appear

παριστημι and παριστανω present, stand before

καταβεβηκότες Verb, perf act ptc, m nom pl καταβαινω

βαρέα Adj., n nom/acc pl βαρυς, εια, υ heavy, weighty, serious

αἰτιωμα, τος n charge, accusation

καταφερω bring, cast against

ἴσχυον Verb, imperf act indic, 1 s & 3 pl

ἴσχω be strong, be able

ἀποδεῖξαι Verb, aor act infin ἀποδεικνυμι attest, prove

"Paul's accusers assumed a threatening posture, surrounding him both physically and with their accusations." Polhill

Verse 8

τοῦ Παύλου ἀπολογουμένου ὅτι Οὐτε εἰς τὸν νόμον τῶν Ἰουδαίων οὔτε εἰς τὸ ἱερόν οὔτε εἰς Καίσαρά τι ἤμαρτον.

ἀπολογεομαι speak in one's own behalf, defend oneself

οὔτε not, nor (οὔτε ... οὔτε neither ... nor)

ἱερον, ου n temple, temple precincts

"In οὔτε εἰς Καίσαρά he replies to a new [charge] ... one of activity contrary to the Emperor's interests. Probably his opponents raked up something on the lines of the old charges at Thessalonica (17:6f.)." Bruce. I.e. charges of disturbing the *Pax Romanum* and teaching things contrary to Caesar.

ἄμαρτανω sin, commit sin

Verse 9

ὁ Φῆστος δὲ θέλων τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις χάριν καταθέσθαι ἀποκριθεὶς τῷ Παύλῳ εἶπεν· Θέλεις εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἀναβάς ἐκεῖ περὶ τούτων κριθῆναι ἐπ' ἐμοῦ;

θελω wish, will

καταθέσθαι Verb, aor midd infin κατατιθημι midd κ. χαριν, κ. χαριτα gain favour with or do a favour for

Cf. 24:27 where the same phrase is used of Felix.

ἀποκριθεὶς Verb, aor pass dep ptc, m nom s ἀποκρινομαι

ἀναβαινω go up, come up

ἐκεῖ there, in that place, to that place

κριθῆναι Verb, pres pass infin κρινω

"The suggestion was plausible enough; as the alleged crime was committed at Jerusalem, that might be the most convenient place for the trial, and Festus himself proposed to act as judge (κριθῆναι ἐπ' ἐμοῦ). But, having begun to conciliate the Jews in this much, he might be tempted to conciliate them in more. No doubt they wished Paul to be handed over to their own jurisdiction, but if so, they overreached themselves by accusing him of offences against Caesar." Bruce
"What Festus had in mind is not certain. It may have been something like the hearing before the Sanhedrin arranged by Lysius (23:1-10). Perhaps he envisaged a formal trial with some of the Jewish leaders on his advisory judicial bench." Polhill

Verse 10

εἶπεν δὲ ὁ Παῦλος· Ἐπὶ τοῦ βήματος Καίσαρος ἐστὼς εἰμι, οὗ με δεῖ κρίνεσθαι. Ἰουδαίους οὐδὲν ἠδίκησα, ὡς καὶ σὺ κάλλιον ἐπιγινώσκεις.

βημα, τος v.6

ἐστὼς Verb, perf act ptc, m nom s ἵστημι pf stand, stop, stand firm, hold ground.

οὗ adv where

δεῖ impersonal verb it is necessary, should

κρίνεσθαι Verb, pres pass infin κρινω

οὐδεὶς, οὐδεμια, οὐδεν no one, nothing;

οὐδεν not at all

ἀδικεω wrong, treat unjustly, harm

κάλλιον adv very well

ἐπιγινωσκω perceive, understand

Verse 11

εἰ μὲν οὖν ἀδικῶ καὶ ἄξιον θανάτου πέπραχά τι, οὐ παραιτοῦμαι τὸ ἀποθανεῖν· εἰ δὲ οὐδὲν ἐστὶν ὧν οὗτοι κατηγοροῦσίν μου, οὐδεὶς με δύναται αὐτοῖς χαρίσασθαι· Καίσαρα ἐπικαλοῦμαι.

ἀδικῶ is here used in the sense of 'I am guilty'.

ἀξιος, α, ον worthy, deserving

θανατος, ου m death

πέπραχά Verb, perf act indic, 1 s πρασσω practice, do

παραιτεομαι ask for, beg, refuse

ἀποθνησκω die, face death, be mortal

οὐ παραιτοῦμαι τὸ ἀποθανεῖν 'I do not beg myself off from death'.

κατηγορεω accuse, bring charges against

χαρίζομαι grant, give; hand over

ἐπικαλεω call; midd call upon, appeal to

The right of a Roman citizen which Paul exercised when he saw that his trial before Festus was not likely to be fair or impartial.

Verse 12

τότε ὁ Φῆστος συλλαλήσας μετὰ τοῦ συμβουλίου ἀπεκρίθη· Καίσαρα ἐπικέκλησαι, ἐπὶ Καίσαρα πορεύσει.

τοτε then, at that time

συλλαλεω speak with, talk with
συμβουλιον, ου n council, advisers

"These were the governor's assessors..., of whose advice he might avail himself, though the decision lay in his hands alone. They included both the higher officials of his court and the younger men who accompanied him to gain experience in provincial administration." Bruce

ἀπεκρίθη Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s
ἀποκρinoμαι

ἐπικέκλησαι Verb, perf midd indic, 2 s
ἐπικαλεω

πορεύσει Verb, fut midd dep indic, 2 s
πορευομαι go

"If we understand Paul's appeal in the usual way, as an appeal to the Emperor in person, we may conclude that it was made not so much for the sake of his personal safety, as from a desire to win recognition from the churches in the Empire as practising a *religio licita* distinct from Judaism. Gallio's decision (18:15) may have encouraged him to hope for this." Bruce

Verse 13

Ἡμερῶν δὲ διαγενομένων τινῶν Ἀγρίππας ὁ βασιλεὺς καὶ Βερνίκη κατήντησαν εἰς Καισάρειαν ἀσπασάμενοι τὸν Φῆστον.

διαγενομένων Verb, aor midd dep ptc, gen pl
διαγinoμαι pass (of time)

Ἡμερῶν δὲ διαγενομένων τινῶν 'And after an interval of some time'

βασιλευς, εως m king

Agrippa was the 'secular head of the Jewish church', having been granted by Rome the right to appoint the High Priest. In this respect he could be considered 'the king of the Jews'. Bernice was his sister. Their relationship was the subject of scandal.

κατανταω come, arrive

ἀσπαζομαι greet, welcome

I.e. to pay a complimentary visit on his assumption of the proconsulship.

The aorist participle ἀσπασάμενοι (p⁷⁴ κ A B *et al*) is replaced in some MSS with the future participle ἀσπασομενοι (Ψ 0142 81 ... Byz *et al*). The Textual Commentary on the UBS text states, "Although at one time scholars (including Hort and Blass) suspected the presence of some primitive error, grammarians are more inclined today to allow that, on occasion, the aorist participle may denote, if not indeed future action, at least coincident action. In any case, the external evidence supporting ἀσπασαμενοι is overwhelming, and the reading represents the earliest attainable text of the passage."

Verse 14

ὡς δὲ πλείους ἡμέρας διέτριβον ἐκεῖ, ὁ Φῆστος τῷ βασιλεῖ ἀνέθετο τὰ κατὰ τὸν Παῦλον λέγων· Ἄνῆρ τις ἐστὶν καταλελειμμένος ὑπὸ Φήλικος δέσμιος,

πλειων, πλειον more, most, many

διατριβω remain, stay

ἐκεῖ there, in that place, to that place

ἀνέθετο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s

ἀνατιθεμαι lay before, present

ἄνῆρ, ἄνδρος m man

καταλελειμμένος Verb, perf pass ptc, m nom

s καταλειπω leave, leave behind

δεσμιος, ου m prisoner

Verse 15

περὶ οὗ γενομένου μου εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἐνεφάνισαν οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ πρεσβύτεροι τῶν Ἰουδαίων, αἰτούμενοι κατ' αὐτοῦ καταδίκην·

ἐμφανίζω inform, make; ἐ. κατα bring charges against

Cf. v.2.

πρεσβυτερος, α, ου elder

αἰτεω ask; midd ask for oneself, request

καταδικη, ης f sentence, condemnation

Verse 16

πρὸς οὓς ἀπεκρίθη ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἔθος Ῥωμαίοις χαρίζεσθαι τινα ἄνθρωπον πρὶν ἢ ὁ κατηγορούμενος κατὰ πρόσωπον ἔχει τοὺς κατηγοροὺς τόπον τε ἀπολογίας λάβει περὶ τοῦ ἐγκλήματος.

ἀπεκρίθη Verb, aor midd dep indic, 1 s

ἀποκρinoμαι answer, say

ἔθος, ους n custom, practice

χαρίζομαι grant, give; hand over

πριν and πριν ἢ before

κατηγορεω accuse, bring charges against

προσωπον, ου n face, presence

ἔχει Verb, pres act opt, 3 s ἔχω

"Optative in historical sequence after ἀπεκρίθην." Bruce

κατηγορος, ου m accuser
 τοπος, ου m place, opportunity
 τε enclitic particle and, and so
 ἀπολογία, ας f verbal defence, defence
 λάβοι Verb, aor act opt, 3 s λαμβανω
 ἐγκλημα, τος n charge, accusation

In Festus' version of the events he casts himself in the role of Paul's protector.

Verse 17

συνελθόντων οὖν ἐνθάδε ἀναβολὴν μηδεμίαν ποιησάμενος τῇ ἐξῆς καθίσας ἐπὶ τοῦ βήματος ἐκέλευσα ἀχθῆναι τὸν ἄνδρα·

συνερχομαι come together, assemble
 ἐνθάδε adv here, to/in this place
 ἀναβολη, ης f delay; (ἀ. μηδεμίαν ποιησάμενος without losing any time)
 ποιησάμενος Verb, aor midd ptc, m nom s
 ποιω
 ἐξῆς on the next day
 καθίζω intrans sit down, take one's seat
 βημα, τος n judicial bench, place of judgement
 κέλευω order, command
 ἀχθῆναι Verb, aor pass infin ἄγω

Verse 18

περὶ οὗ σταθέντες οἱ κατήγοροι οὐδεμίαν αἰτίαν ἔφερον ὧν ἐγὼ ὑπενόουν πονηρῶν, σταθέντες Verb, aor pass ptc, m nom pl
 ἵστημι midd & pass stand, stand firm
 κατηγορος, ου m accuser
 οὐδεις, οὐδεμια, οὐδεν no one, nothing
 αἰτια, ας f cause, accusation, guilt
 φερω bring
 ὑπενόουν Verb, imperf act indic, 1 s & 3 pl
 ὑπονοεω suppose, think
 πονηρος, α, ον evil, bad, wicked

πνηρων here as a substantive – 'evils', 'crimes'.

A number of MSS read πονηραν agreeing with αἰτιαν (p⁷⁴ A C* *et al*) and a number of other later MSS omit the word altogether. A majority of the UBS committee thought the omission due to copyists who wished to make a smoother text.

Verse 19

ζητήματα δὲ τινα περὶ τῆς ἰδίας δεισιδαιμονίας εἶχον πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ περὶ τίνος Ἰησοῦ τεθνηκότος, ὃν ἔφασκεν ὁ Παῦλος ζῆν.

ζητημα, τος n controversial question, point of disagreement
 ιδιος, α, ον one's own
 δεισιδαιμονια, ας f religion

περὶ τῆς ἰδίας δεισιδαιμονίας 'concerning their own religion'.

τεθνηκός Verb, perf act ptc, m gen s
 θνησκω die; pf be dead
 φασκω allege, claim, assert
 ζω live, be alive

"The puzzled allusion of the pagan Festus contains the crux of the dispute; Paul's insistence (ἐφασκεν) on the resurrection (of men in general and of Christ in particular) had impressed itself on his mind." Bruce

Verse 20

ἀπορούμενος δὲ ἐγὼ τὴν περὶ τούτων ζήτησιν ἔλεγον εἰ βούλοιο πορεύεσθαι εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα κάκει κρίνεσθαι περὶ τούτων.

ἀπορεω act & midd be at a loss
 ζητησις, εως f discussion, controversy
 βούλοιο Verb, pres midd/pass dep opt, 3 s
 βουλομαι want, desire, wish
 κάκει (καὶ ἐκει) and there, there also
 κρίνεσθαι Verb, pres pass infin κρινω

Verse 21

τοῦ δὲ Παύλου ἐπικαλεσαμένου τηρηθῆναι αὐτὸν εἰς τὴν τοῦ Σεβαστοῦ διάγνωσιν, ἐκέλευσα τηρεῖσθαι αὐτὸν ἕως οὗ ἀναπέμψω αὐτὸν πρὸς Καίσαρα.

ἐπικαλεσαμένου Verb, aor midd ptc, m gen s
 ἐπικαλεω midd call upon, appeal to
 τηρηθῆναι Verb, aor pass infin τηρεω
 keep, maintain
 σεβαστος, η, ον belonging to the emperor, imperial; ὁ Σ. the (Roman) emperor
 διαγνωσις, εως f decision
 κελευω order, command
 τηρεῖσθαι Verb, pres pass infin τηρεω
 οὗ adv where; ἕως οὗ until
 ἀναπεμψω send, send back, send up

Used of 'remanding' to a higher authority.

Verse 22

Ἀγρίππας δὲ πρὸς τὸν Φῆστον· Ἐβουλόμην καὶ αὐτὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἀκοῦσαι. Αὔριον, φησίν, ἀκούσῃ αὐτοῦ.

αὔριον Adverb αὔριον tomorrow, the next day, in a short while
 φησίν Verb, pres act indic, 3 s φημι say

Verse 23

Τῇ οὖν ἐπαύριον ἐλθόντος τοῦ Ἀγρίππα καὶ τῆς Βερνίκης μετὰ πολλῆς φαντασίας καὶ εἰσελθόντων εἰς τὸ ἀκροατήριον σὺν τε χιλιάρχοις καὶ ἀνδράσιν τοῖς κατ' ἐξοχὴν τῆς πόλεως καὶ κελεύσαντος τοῦ Φήστου ἤχθη ὁ Παῦλος.

ἐπαυριον the next day
 πολυς, πολλη, πολυ gen πολλου, ης, ου much, many

φαντασια, ας f pomp, outward display
 εισελθόντων Verb, aor act ptc, gen pl
 εισερχομαι
 ἀκροατηριον, ου n audience hall
 τε enclitic particle and, also
 χιλιαρχος, ου m commander

"There were in Caesarea five cohorts, each of which would be commanded by a military tribune." Bruce

ἐξοχη, ης f prominence

τοῖς κατ' ἐξοχὴν τῆς πόλεως 'the leading men of the city'.

κελευω order, command

ἤχθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s ἀγω

Verse 24

καί φησιν ὁ Φῆστος· Ἀγρίππα βασιλεῦ καὶ πάντες οἱ συμπαρόντες ἡμῖν ἄνδρες, θεωρεῖτε τοῦτον περὶ οὗ ἅπαν τὸ πλῆθος τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἐνέτυχόν μοι ἔν τε Ἱερουσόλοις καὶ ἐνθάδε, βοῶντες μὴ δεῖν αὐτὸν ζῆν μηκέτι.

φησιν Verb, pres indic, 3 s φημι say
 βασιλεῦ Noun, voc s βασιλευς, εως m king
 συμπαραειμι be present with
 θεωρεω see, watch, observe, notice
 ἅπας, ασα, αν (alternative form of πας) all
 πλῆθος, ους n crowd, multitude

Here 'community', 'people'.

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

ἐντυγχανω plead, appeal

τε ... καὶ both ... and, not only ... but also
 ἐνθάδε adv here, in this place

The Western text includes the addition, "that I should hand him over to them for punishment without any defence. But I could not hand him over, on account of the commands which we have received from Augustus. But if anyone is going to accuse him, I said he should follow me to Caesarea, where he was in custody; and when they came, they clamoured that he should be put to death." This longer reading also includes additions in the following verse.

βοαω call, cry out, shout

δει it is necessary, must, should

ζαω live, be alive

μηκετι no longer

Verse 25

ἐγὼ δὲ κατελαβόμεν μὴδὲν ἄξιον αὐτὸν θανάτου πεπραχέναι, αὐτοῦ δὲ τούτου ἐπικαλεσαμένον τὸν Σεβαστὸν ἔκρινα πέμπειν.

κατελαβόμεν Verb, aor midd indic, 1 s

καταλαμβάνω midd. realize, understand

μηδεις, μηδεμια, μηδεν no one, nothing

ἄξιος, α, ον worthy, deserving

θανατος, ου m death

πεπραχέναι Verb, perf act infin πρασσω
 practice, do

ἐπικαλεσαμένου Verb, aor midd ptc, m gen s

ἐπικαλεω see v.21

σεβαστος, η, ον see v.21

"Festus seems to imply that Paul was himself responsible for the whole situation with the unnecessary appeal, as if he had not himself virtually forced Paul to do so because of his own yielding to Jewish pressure. In any event, Festus at least once again acknowledged Paul's innocence (cf. v.18f)." Polhill

πεμπω send

"Festus had already decided to send Paul to Rome; he wants Agrippa's help in preparing a report on a puzzling case." Bruce

Verse 26

περὶ οὗ ἀσφαλές τι γράψαι τῷ κυρίῳ οὐκ ἔχω· διὸ προήγαγον αὐτὸν ἐφ' ὑμῶν καὶ μάλιστα ἐπὶ σοῦ, βασιλεῦ Ἀγρίππα, ὅπως τῆς ἀνακρίσεως γενομένης σχῶ τί γράψω·

ἀσφαλής, ες certain, definite; the facts

γράφω write

διὸ therefore, for this reason

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

προαγω lead or bring out, bring before

μαλιστα especially

βασιλεῦ see v.24

ὅπως (or ὅπως ἂν) that, in order that

ἀνακρισις, εως f preliminary hearing,
 investigation

Perhaps used here in the looser sense of 'inquiry'.

σχῶ Verb, fut act indic, 1 s ἔχω

Verse 27

ἄλογον γάρ μοι δοκεῖ πέμποντα δέσμιον μὴ καὶ τὰς κατ' αὐτοῦ αἰτίας σημάσαι.

ἄλογος, ον unreasonable

"There is strong irony in Festus's remark. The whole situation was indeed 'senseless.' He had no charges against Paul because there were none to be found. Paul's need to make the appeal, his continued confinement, the entire situation was 'unreasonable'; and it was very much the procurator's own doing." Polhill

δοκεω suppose; seem

πεμπω send

δεσμιος, ου m prisoner

αἰτια, ας f reason, accusation

σημάσαι Verb, aor act infin σημανω

indicate, make known