

Notes on the Greek New Testament
Week 56 – Acts 23:6-35

Day 276: Acts 23:6-11**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
εἷς, μία, ἐν gen ἑνός, μίας, ἑνός one
μερος, οὐς 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.

κραζῶ cry out, call out
ἐλπίς, ἰδος f hope
ἀναστασις, εως f resurrection, raising up
νεκρός, 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 εἰπόντος ἐγένετο στάσις τῶν Φαρισαίων καὶ Σαδδουκαίων, καὶ ἐσχίσθη τὸ πλῆθος.

εἰπόντος Verb, aor act ptc, m gen s λεγῶ
ἐγένετο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s
γίνομαι
στασις, εως f dispute, argument, riot
ἐσχίσθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s σχιζῶ
split, disunite
πλῆθος, οὐς n crowd, multitude

Verse 8

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

εἶναι Verb, pres infin εἶμι
μήτε and not; μήτε ... μήτε 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

ὁμολογεῶ confess, declare
ἀμφοτεροί, αἱ, 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 ἄνθρωπῳ τούτῳ· εἰ δὲ πνεῦμα ἐλάλησεν αὐτῷ ἢ ἄγγελος – κραυγῆ, ης f shout, cry
μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα large, great
ἀνίστημι 2 aor rise, stand up
γραμματεὺς, 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, οὐδεμια, οὐδεν no one, nothing
κακος, η, ον evil, bad, wrong, harm
λαλεῶ speak, talk
ἢ or

Verse 10

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

πολὺς, πολλῆ, πολὺ gen πολλοῦ, ης, οὐ
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
διασπαῶ pull or tear apart
κελευῶ order, command
στρατεύμα, τος n troops, soldiers
καταβάν Verb, aor act ptc, n nom/acc s
καταβαίνω come or go down

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

ἀρπάζω take by force, take away
μεσος, η, ον middle
παρεμβολῆ, ης f barracks; camp

Verse 11

Τῇ δὲ ἐπιούσῃ νυκτὶ ἐπιστὰς αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος εἶπεν, Θάρσει, ὡς γὰρ διεμαρτύρω τὰ περὶ ἐμοῦ εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ 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.

Day 277: Acts 23:12-16**Verse 12**

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

συστροφή, ης f uproar; plot, conspiracy

Some MSS read τινες των Ἰουδαιων 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
 πίνειν Verb, aor act infin πινω drink
 οὐ adv where; ἕως ὅυ until
 ἀποκτείνω and ἀποκτεννω, -ννω kill, put to death

Verse 13

ἦσαν δὲ πλείους τεσσαράκοντα οἱ ταύτην τὴν συνωμοσίαν ποιησάμενοι·

πλειων, πλειον or 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 οὐ ἀποκτείνωμεν τὸν Παῦλον.

οἵτινες Pronoun, m nom pl ὅστις, ἡτις, ὅ 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 διαγινωσκεῖν ἀκριβέστερον τὰ περὶ αὐτοῦ· ἡμεῖς δὲ πρὸ τοῦ ἐγγίσει αὐτὸν ἔτοιμοι ἐσμεν τοῦ ἀνελεῖν αὐτόν.

ἐμφανιζω inform, make known, report
 συνεδριον, ον 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

ἐγγιζω approach, draw near
 ἔτοιμος, η, ον ready, prepared
 ἀνελεῖν Verb, aor act infin ἀναιρεω do away with, kill

Luke is fond of τοῦ 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^h syr^{h(mg)}) adds εἰν 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.

ἀδελφή, 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 ἀκουσας 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 bitter 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.

Day 278: Acts 23:17-22**Verse 17**

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

προσκαλεσάμενος Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m nom s προσκαλεομαι call to oneself
εἷς, μια, ἓν one, a
ἔφη Verb, imperf act ind, 3s φημι say
νεανίας, ου m young man
ἀπάγαγε Verb, aor act imperat, 2s 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 νεανίσκον ἀγαγεῖν πρὸς σέ, ἔχοντά τι λαλῆσαι σοι.

παραλαμβάνω take
ἤγαγεν Verb, aor act indic, 3s ἄγω
φησίν Verb, pres act indic, 3s 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 ἄγω
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 ἐπιλαμβάνομαι 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 ἐρωτήσαι 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, 2s καταγω bring down

Cf. verse 15

μέλλον is supported by κ 33 181, μέλλων⁷⁴ A B E 81, μέλλοντα P 049 056 88 Byz^{pt}, μέλλοντες Byz^{pt} 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 τεσσαράκοντα, 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, 2s 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, 3pl 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 χιλιάρχος ἀπέλυσε τὸν
νεανίσκον παραγγείλας μηδενὶ ἐκλαλήσαι
ὅτι ταῦτα ἐνεφάνισας πρὸς με.

ἀπολυω release, send away, dismiss
νεανισκος, ου v.18
παραγγέλλω command, instruct
μηδεις, μηδεμια, μηδεν no one, nothing
ἐκλαλεω tell
ἐμφανίζω v.15

Day 279: Acts 23:23-30**Verse 23**

Καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος δύο [τινὰς] τῶν
ἐκατονταρχῶν εἶπεν, Ἐτοιμάσατε
στρατιωτας διακοσίους ὅπως πορευθῶσιν
ἕως Καισαρείας, καὶ ἵππεις ἑβδομήκοντα
καὶ δεξιολάβους διακοσίους, ἀπὸ τρίτης
ῥας τῆς νυκτός,

προσκαλεσάμενος Verb, aor midd dep ptc,
m nom s προσκαλεομαι summon
δυο gen & acc δυο dat δυοιν two
ἐκατονταρχης, 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

τρίτος, η, ον third
νύξ, 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

γράφας ἐπιστολὴν ἔχουσαν τὸν τύπον
τοῦτον·

γραφω write
ἐπιστολη, ης f letter
τυπος, ου m pattern

ἔχουσαν τὸν τυπὸν 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.

χαίρω rejoice; imperat used as a greeting

Verse 27

Τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον συλλημφθέντα ὑπὸ τῶν
Ἰουδαίων καὶ μέλλοντα ἀναιρεῖσθαι ὑπὸ
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
ἐξαιρεω pull out, midd rescue, save
μαθων Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s μαθηανω
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 ἐπιγνῶναι 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 εὗρον ἐγκαλούμενον περὶ ζητημάτων
τοῦ νόμου αὐτῶν, μηδὲν δὲ ἄξιον
θανάτου ἢ δεσμῶν ἔχοντα ἔγκλημα.

εὗρον Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl
εὗρισκω

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, ἔξαυτῆς ἔπεμψα πρὸς σέ,
παραγγέλλας καὶ τοῖς κατηγοροῖς λέγειν
[τὰ] 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

ἔξαυτης adv immediately, at once
πεμπω send

An epistolatory aorist.

παραγγελλω command, instruct
κατηγοροῖς Noun, dat pl κατηγορος, ου
m accuser

"The Textus Receptus, following κ E Ψ 056
0142 and many minuscules, concludes the
sentence with an appropriate epistolatory
close, ἔρωσο ['farewell']. Other witnesses,
influenced by 15:29, add ἔρωσθε. 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^{sig} cop^{sa,bo} al (in
15:29 no known witness lacks ἔρωσθε)."
UBS Textual Commentary

Day 280: Acts 23:31-35**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
νυξ, 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 ἐπιστολήν τῷ ἡγεμόνι
παρέστησαν καὶ τὸν Παῦλον αὐτῷ.

οἵτινες Pronoun, m nom pl ὅστις, ἥτις, ὁ
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

ἀναγνούς 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
κατήγοροί 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