



Acts 21:33-40

Paul Arrested by Roman Authorities

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Paul Arrested During Chaos

Acts 21:33-34 (NASB)

Then the commander came up and took hold of him, and ordered him to be bound with two chains; and he began asking who he was and what he had done. But among the crowd some were shouting one thing and some another, and **when he could not find out the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.**

- The commander cared about the facts, the mob did not!

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Roman Soldiers Rescue Paul

Acts 21:35-36 (NASB)

When he got to the stairs, he was carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob; for the multitude of the people kept following them, shouting, "Away with him!"

- The commander will become an important person in this narrative
- He will give Paul permission to speak to the Jewish crowd (22:1-17)
- Acts will end with Paul speaking to Jews about Messianic salvation (28:23-28)

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The Commander Cares About Facts

Acts 21:37-38 (NASB)

As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the commander, "May I say something to you?" And he said, "Do you know Greek? Then you are not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?"

- Schnabel links this to an account of Josephus about a prior revolt
- It is soon clear that Paul is part of no such revolt

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The Commander Grants Paul a Hearing Before the Jews

Acts 21:39-40 (NASB)

But Paul said, "I am a Jew of Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city; and I beg you, allow me to speak to the people." When he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the stairs, motioned to the people with his hand; and when there was a great hush, he spoke to them in the Hebrew dialect, saying,

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Temple Conflicts in Luke/Acts

- Jesus: Luke 19:45-47; Luke 21:5-6
- Peter and John: Acts 4:1-13
- Peter and other apostles: Acts 5:17-26
- Stephen: Acts 6:8-15; Acts 7:44-60
- Paul Acts chapters 21-26

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