

Acts 21-22:29

Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)

To Tyre

21 After we^[a] tore ourselves away from them and set sail, we headed straight to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. ²When we found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went on board and set sail. ³After sighting Cyprus and passing by on its south side, we sailed to Syria and put in to port at Tyre, because there the ship was to unload its cargo.

⁴We located the disciples and stayed there seven days. Through the Spirit, they kept telling Paul not to go to Jerusalem. ⁵When our time there came to an end, we left and went on our way. All of them, with their wives and children, accompanied us out of the city. We knelt down on the beach and prayed. ⁶After saying good-bye to each other, we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

To Caesarea

⁷When we completed our voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais. There we greeted the brothers^[b] and stayed with them for one day. ⁸The next day, we left and came to Caesarea. We entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the Seven, and stayed with him. ⁹He had four virgin daughters, who prophesied. ¹⁰After we had stayed there for a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹When he came to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own feet and hands with it, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'This is the way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

¹²When we heard this, both we and the local residents urged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴Since he could not be persuaded, we said nothing more except, "May the Lord's will be done."

In Jerusalem

¹⁵After those days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁶Some of the disciples from Caesarea also went with us and brought us to Mnason, with whom we were to stay. He was from Cyprus and was one of the first disciples.

¹⁷When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers gave us a warm welcome. ¹⁸The next day, Paul went with us to see James, and all the elders were present. ¹⁹After greeting them, he reported in detail each of the things God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. ²⁰When they heard this, they praised God.^[c]

Then they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews who have believed, and all of them are zealous observers of the law. ²¹They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, since you are telling them not to circumcise their children or follow our customs. ²²So what is to be done?^[d] They will certainly hear that you have come. ²³So do what we are going to tell you.

"We have four men who have taken a vow. ²⁴Take them with you, go through the ceremony of purification with them, and pay their expenses so that they can have their heads shaved. Then everyone will know that there is nothing to the reports that have been made about you, but that you yourself are carefully following the law. ²⁵As for the Gentiles who believe, we have sent them a letter about the resolution^[e] that they should avoid food sacrificed to idols, blood, the meat of strangled animals, and sexual immorality."

²⁶The next day, Paul took the men and went through the ceremony of purification with them. He entered the temple to announce the date when the days of purification would end and the offering would be made for each of them.

Paul Is Arrested

²⁷ When the seven days were almost over, Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul in the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, ²⁸ shouting, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law, and against this place. And now he has even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place." ²⁹ (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.)

³⁰ The whole city was stirred up, and the people rushed together as a mob. They seized Paul, dragged him out of the temple, and immediately the gates were shut. ³¹ While they were looking for a way to kill him, a report went up to the commander of the cohort^[1] that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. ³² He immediately took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. When they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

³³ Then the commander approached Paul, arrested him, and gave an order that he should be bound with two chains. He asked who Paul was and what he had done. ³⁴ Some in the crowd were shouting one thing and some another. Since the commander could not find out the truth because of the uproar, he ordered his men to take Paul away to the barracks. ³⁵ When he came to the steps, Paul had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob. ³⁶ The large number of people that was following kept shouting, "Away with him!"

Paul Makes His Defense

³⁷ As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he asked the commander, "May I say something to you?"

He replied, "Do you know Greek? ³⁸ Are you not the Egyptian who started a revolt some time ago and led four thousand men of the Assassins^[2] into the wilderness?"

³⁹ Paul said, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city. I beg you, allow me to speak to the people."

⁴⁰ When the commander had given him permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned with his hand to the people. When they were all silent, Paul addressed them in the Hebrew dialect.^[3]

22 "Gentlemen, brothers, and fathers, listen to my defense, which I am now going to make to you."

² When they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew dialect,^[1] they became even more quiet.

Then he said, ³ "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city and trained at the feet of Gamaliel, according to the strict ways of the law of our fathers. I am just as zealous for God as all of you are today. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, tying up and throwing both men and women into prisons, ⁵ as also the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. I even received letters from them to the brothers, and I was going to Damascus to bring back those who were there as prisoners to Jerusalem so that they could be punished.

⁶ "While I was on the way and approaching Damascus, about noon a very bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

⁸ "I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?'

"He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.'

⁹ "Those who were with me saw the light,^[1] but they did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

¹⁰ "I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?'

"The Lord said to me, 'Get up and go into Damascus. There you will be told about everything you have been assigned to do.' ¹¹ Since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, those who were with me took me by the hand and led me into Damascus.

¹² “A man named Ananias lived there. He was a devout observer of the law and highly recommended by all the Jews living there. ¹³ He came to me, and as he stood beside me, he said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ At that very moment I was able to see him.

¹⁴ “Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear the sound of his voice. ¹⁵ For you will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ Now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

¹⁷ “When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance. ¹⁸ I saw the Lord telling me: ‘Hurry, get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’

¹⁹ “I said, ‘Lord, these people know that I went from one synagogue to another imprisoning and beating those who believed in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of your witness Stephen was shed, I stood by, giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were putting him to death.’

²¹ “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

²² They were listening to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices, shouting, “Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!”

²³ When they started shouting and throwing off their cloaks and throwing dust into the air, ²⁴ the commander ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks. He directed that Paul be interrogated by whipping, in order to learn why the people were shouting at him like this. ²⁵ As they stretched him for the whipping, Paul asked the centurion standing by, “Is it legal for you to whip a man who is a Roman citizen and who has not been found guilty by a proper trial?”

²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and said, “What are you about to do? ^[k] This man is a Roman citizen!”

²⁷ The commander came and asked him, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?”

He answered, “Yes.”

²⁸ Then the commander answered, “I acquired this citizenship for a large sum of money.”

Paul said, “But I was born a citizen.”

²⁹ Immediately, those who were about to interrogate him moved away from him. The commander was also alarmed when he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen, because he had tied him up.

Footnotes

- a. [Acts 21:1](#) Luke is included.
- b. [Acts 21:7](#) When context indicates it, the Greek word for *brothers* may refer to all fellow believers, male and female.
- c. [Acts 21:20](#) Some witnesses to the text read *the Lord*.
- d. [Acts 21:22](#) Some witnesses to the text add *A crowd is bound to come together, for they*.
- e. [Acts 21:25](#) Some witnesses to the text add *that they should observe no such thing except*.
- f. [Acts 21:31](#) A *cohort* was a Roman military unit that usually consisted of six hundred men.
- g. [Acts 21:38](#) Or *dagger men*. This group of assassins was called the *Sicarii*, because of their use of the *sicarius*, which was a short *dagger*.
- h. [Acts 21:40](#) Or *Aramaic*. The Greek word is *Hebrew* but likely refers to the Aramaic dialect spoken by the Jews at that time and place.
- i. [Acts 22:2](#) Or *Aramaic*
- j. [Acts 22:9](#) Some witnesses to the text add *and were afraid*.
- k. [Acts 22:26](#) Some witnesses to the text read *Pay attention to what you are going to do*.