

Acts 21:37 – 22:29

21:37 – barracks	(noun)	buildings where groups of soldiers live and work
21:38 – revolt	(noun)	an illegal and violent attempt by a group of people to change the political system or government
21:38 – terrorists	(noun)	people who use violence in order to achieve political aims
21:39 – Jew	(proper noun)	someone from the nation of Israel
21:40 – motioned	(verb)	moved the hand or head in a way to tell people what to do
21:40 – Aramaic	(proper noun)	an ancient language used in the Middle East from the 5 th century BC. It was spoken by the Jewish people.
22:3 – thoroughly	(adverb)	carefully and in a detailed way
22:3 – zealous	(adjective)	very enthusiastic and eager
22:4 – persecuted	(verb)	treat someone in a deliberately cruel way because of their religion or race
22:4 – the Way	(proper noun)	the Christian faith
22:5 – the Council	(proper noun)	the Sanhedrin; the Jewish ruling council
22:5 – obtained	(verb)	gained possession of something
22:9 – companions	(noun)	people who travel with you
22:10 – assigned	(verb)	appointed to do a task
22:11 – brilliance	(noun)	great brightness; radiance
22:12 – devout	(adjective)	giving much time and attention to prayer and worship of God
22:12 – ‘observer of the law’		someone who obeys God’s law
22:14 – the Righteous One	(proper noun)	Jesus
22:15 – witness	(noun)	someone who observes an event and tells other what they saw
22:16 – baptised	(verb)	washed with water to symbolise that someone has put their trust in Jesus
22:17 – temple	(noun)	the building in Jerusalem that symbolised the presence of God with his people. It is the place where sacrifices were offered to God, and where people performed religious duties.
22:17 – trance	(noun)	a state of mind when someone seems to be asleep but in which they can see and hear things
22:18 – testimony	(noun)	someone’s statement about what they have heard and seen
22:19 – synagogue	(noun)	a building where Jews met together to worship God and to learn from the Scriptures
22:19 – imprison	(verb)	put someone in prison
22:19 – beat	(verb)	hit violently and repeatedly
22:20 – martyr	(noun)	someone who is killed because of their beliefs
22:20 – shed blood	(phrase)	killed/injured violently
22:21 – Gentiles	(proper noun)	people who are not from the nation of Israel
22:22 – rid (somewhere of)	(verb)	remove something (from somewhere)
22:22 – fit	(adjective)	worthy, deserving

22:23 – cloaks	(noun)	long, loose pieces of clothing which people wear over the other clothes when going out
22:23 – flinging	(verb)	throwing with a lot of force
22:24 – flogged	(verb)	hit hard with a stick or whip as punishment
22:25 – centurion	(noun)	a soldier who has authority over one hundred other soldiers
22:25 – legal	(adjective)	allowed by the law

Acts 21:37 – 22:29 (New International Reader’s Version)

Paul Speaks to the Crowd

³⁷ The soldiers were about to take Paul into the fort. Then he asked the commander, “May I say something to you?”

“Do you speak Greek?” he replied. ³⁸ “Aren’t you the Egyptian who turned some of our people against their leaders? Didn’t you lead 4,000 terrorists out into the desert some time ago?”

³⁹ Paul answered, “I am a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia. I am a citizen of an important city. Please let me speak to the people.”

⁴⁰ The commander told him he could. So Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When all of them were quiet, he spoke to them in the Aramaic language. **22:1** “Brothers and fathers,” Paul began, “listen to me now. I want to give you reasons for my actions.”

² When they heard that he was speaking to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.

Then Paul said, ³ “I am a Jew. I was born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but I grew up here in Jerusalem. I studied with Gamaliel. I was well trained by him in the law given to our people long ago. I wanted to serve God as much as any of you do today. ⁴ I hurt the followers of the Way of Jesus. I sent many of them to their death. I arrested men and women. I threw them into prison. ⁵ The high priest and the whole Council can be witnesses of this themselves. I even had some official letters they had written to their friends in Damascus. So I went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶ “I had almost reached Damascus. About noon a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice speak to me. ‘Saul! Saul!’ it said. ‘Why are you opposing me?’

⁸ “ ‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked.

“ ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth,’ he replied. ‘I am the one you are opposing.’ ⁹ The light was seen by my companions. But they didn’t understand the voice of the one speaking to me.

¹⁰ “ ‘What should I do, Lord?’ I asked.

“ ‘Get up,’ the Lord said. ‘Go into Damascus. There you will be told everything you have been given to do.’ ¹¹ The brightness of the light had blinded me. So my companions led me by the hand into Damascus.

¹² “A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a godly Jew who obeyed the law. All the Jews living there respected him very much. ¹³ He stood beside me and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ At that very moment I was able to see him.

¹⁴ “Then he said, ‘The God of our people has chosen you. He wanted to tell you his plans for you. You have seen the Blameless One. You have heard words from his mouth. ¹⁵ Now you will tell everyone about what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ So what are you waiting for? Get up and call on his name. Be baptized. Have your sins washed away.’

¹⁷ “I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple. Then it seemed to me that I was dreaming. ¹⁸ I saw the Lord speaking to me. ‘Quick!’ he said. ‘Leave Jerusalem at once. The people here will not accept what you tell them about me.’

¹⁹ “ ‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these people know what I used to do. I went from one synagogue to another and put believers in prison. I also beat them. ²⁰ Stephen was a man who told other people about you. I stood there when he was killed. I had agreed that he should die. I even guarded the coats of those who were killing him.’

²¹ “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go. I will send you far away to people who are not Jews.’ ”

Paul the Roman Citizen

²² The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they shouted, "Kill him! He isn't fit to live!"

²³ They shouted and threw off their coats. They threw dust into the air. ²⁴ So the commanding officer ordered that Paul be taken into the fort. He gave orders for Paul to be whipped and questioned. He wanted to find out why the people were shouting at him like this. ²⁵ A commander was standing there as they stretched Paul out to be whipped. Paul said to him, "Does the law allow you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?"

²⁶ When the commander heard this, he went to the commanding officer and reported it. "What are you going to do?" the commander asked. "This man is a Roman citizen."

²⁷ So the commanding officer went to Paul. "Tell me," he asked. "Are you a Roman citizen?"

"Yes, I am," Paul answered.

²⁸ Then the officer said, "I had to pay a lot of money to become a citizen."

"But I was born a citizen," Paul replied.

²⁹ Right away those who were about to question him left. Even the officer was alarmed. He realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains.

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