

<sup>23</sup> While they were shouting, hurling down their garments, and throwing dust into the air, <sup>24</sup> the thousand-leader instructed that Paul be brought into the barracks. He told them to examine Paul by beating him, so he could recognize, through this, the reason they were yelling at Paul. <sup>25</sup> When they extended him by the straps, Paul said to the hundred-leader standing there,

“Is it appropriate for you to beat an unjudged Roman?”

<sup>26</sup> Hearing this, the hundred-leader went to the thousand-leader to report, saying,

“What are you about to do? This man is a Roman!”

<sup>27</sup> After coming to Paul, the thousand-leader said,

“Speak to me. Are you a Roman?”

Paul enlightened,

“Yes.”

<sup>28</sup> The thousand-leader answered,

“I acquired my citizenship with a lot of capital.”

Paul enlightened,

“Indeed, but I was born one.”

<sup>29</sup> Therefore, those about to examine Paul immediately stood off from him. The thousand-leader was afraid when he recognized that Paul was a Roman and that he had bound him.

<sup>30</sup> On the next day, desiring to know without fail why Paul was being worked against by the Judeans, the thousand-leader released Paul and instructed the leaders of the temple-caretakers and the whole Sanhedrin Council to come together. After bringing Paul down, he stood Paul before them. <sup>23.1</sup> Paul, gazing at the Sanhedrin Council, said,

“Men! Brothers! Before everyone I have been a citizen of the Creator with a good conscience till this day!”

<sup>2</sup> The leader of the temple-caretakers, Ananias, ordered those standing beside Paul to hit him in the mouth. <sup>3</sup> Then Paul said to him,

“The Creator is about to hit you, you whitewashed wall! You are sitting there judging me according to the Torah, while also instructing, contrary to the Torah, to hit me.”

<sup>4</sup> Those standing beside him said,

“You are berating the Creator’s leader of the temple-caretakers!”

<sup>5</sup> Paul enlightened,

“Brothers, was I not seeing that he is the leader of the temple-caretakers? Indeed, it has been written, ‘Do not speak harmfully to the leader of your people!’”

<sup>6</sup> Knowing that the Sanhedrin Council was one part Sadducees with the other part being Pharisees, Paul shouted, “Men! Brothers! I am a Pharisee, a child of Pharisees! I am being judged about hope and the resurrection of the dead!”

<sup>7</sup> After Paul said this, a standoff happened among the Pharisees and Sadducees and the multitude was split. <sup>8</sup> For the Sadducees say there is no resurrection, no messenger, and no breath, but Pharisees declare loyalty to all of them. <sup>9</sup> A great shout happened and, standing up, some of the writers from the Pharisees began fighting, saying,

“We are finding nothing harmful in this man! What if a breath or messenger spoke to him?”

<sup>10</sup> When the standoff became great and he feared Paul would be torn apart by them, the thousand-leader instructed the company of soldiers to pull Paul away from the midst of them and to bring him into the barracks.

<sup>11</sup> During the night, standing over Paul, the Lord said,

“Have courage! For as you were a testimony about me in Jerusalem, so it is necessary for you to be a

testimony in Rome.”

<sup>12</sup> When it became day, the Judeans, making a conspiracy, pledged themselves to not eat or drink till they killed Paul. <sup>13</sup> There were more than forty who swore this together <sup>14</sup> and, going to the leaders of the temple-caretakers and the elders, they said,

“We pledged ourselves to partake of nothing till we kill Paul! <sup>15</sup> Now then, you, along with the Sanhedrin Council, communicated to the thousand-leader how he should bring Paul down to you, since you are about to decide the accuracy of the things concerning him. But we are ready to execute him, before he is even within grasp.”

<sup>16</sup> After hearing about the ambush, the child of Paul’s sister, went into the barracks and reported it to Paul. <sup>17</sup> Calling for one of the hundred-leaders, Paul enlightened,

“Take this young man to the thousand-leader, for he has something to report to him.”

<sup>18</sup> Then, after taking him along, the hundred-leader brought him to the thousand-leader and enlightened,

“Paul, who is in bondage, called me and requested that this young man, having something to say to you, be brought to you.”

<sup>19</sup> Taking the young man’s hand and leaving by themselves, the thousand-leader began inquiring,

“What is it that you have to report to me?”

<sup>20</sup> The young man said,

“The Judeans joined together to request that Paul be brought down on the next day to the Sanhedrin Council, as though they were about to inquire about the accuracy of things about him. <sup>21</sup> But do not be persuaded by them! For more than forty men from among them, who have pledged not to eat or drink till they execute him, are lying in wait for him. Now they are ready, waiting for a commitment from you.”

<sup>22</sup> Then the thousand-leader released the young man, directing him,

“Tell no one of these things you communicated to me.”

<sup>23</sup> Calling for two of the hundred-leaders, the thousand-leader said,

“Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. <sup>24</sup> Also, stand an animal nearby so they may rescue Paul by mounting him upon it. Then, to Governor Felix, <sup>25</sup> write a letter having this design:

<sup>26</sup> ‘Claudius Lysias to the mighty Governor Felix—rejoice! <sup>27</sup> This man, who was apprehended by the Judeans and was about to be executed by them, I delivered to you with a company of soldiers, after learning that he is a Roman. <sup>28</sup> Desiring to recognize the reason why they were calling him in, I brought him down into their Sanhedrin Council. <sup>29</sup> I found they were calling him in concerning a debate over their Torah—but nothing he was called in for was worthy of death or bondage. <sup>30</sup> After the plot against the man was disclosed to me, I instantly sent him to you, also directing those working against him to speak against him to you.’”

<sup>31</sup> Then the soldiers, according to what they had been ordered, took Paul and brought him through the night to Antipatris. <sup>32</sup> On the next day, they allowed the horsemen to come down with Paul, while they turned back to the barracks.