

Papyrus 48: Dated to Late Third Century CE Containing Acts 23:11-17, 25-29

Transcription and Direct Word Translation

Recto

Acts 23:11b-17a

Front Side of Leaf

Acts 23:11b-17a

(Upper section of leaf is missing)

¹¹σαλημ ουτω σε δει και εις ρω]μην [μαρτυρη
σ]αι ¹²γε[νο]μενης δε [ε η]μερας και τ[αξαμενοι
βοηθειαν συστρα[φε]ντες τινες των ι[ουδ]αι
ων αναθεματισ[αν] εαυτους λεγοντες μη
φαγειν μητε πιε[ιν ε]ως αν αποκτειναστην^a
παυλον· ¹³ησαν δε [πλει]ους μ̄ οι αναθεματισᾱ
τες εαυτους ¹⁴οιτιν[ε]ς προσελθοντες τοις αρχιε
ρευσι και τοις πρε[σβυτ]εροις ειπαν· αναθεμα
τι ανεθετισαμ[εν] εαυτου[ς] μηδενος γευ
σασθαι το συνολ[ον ε]ως στο[υ] αποκ[τεινω]μεν
τον παυλον· ¹⁵νυν [ουν] παρακ[α]λουμ[εν] υμας
ποιησατε ημιν [του]το συνα[γα]γοντ[ε]ς το συνε
δριον εμφα[νισατε τω χιλιαρ]χω ο[πως καταγα
γη αυτον εις υ[μας] ως μελλοντ[ε]ς δια[γινωσκειν
α]κριβεστερ[ον τα περι αυτου ημει]ς δε [ε] προ του εγ
γι]σαι υμιν [αυτον ετοιμοι εσμεν του α]ν[ελειν αυ
το]ν εαν δε[η και αποθανειν ¹⁶ακουσας] δε [ε νεανιας
τι]ς ῡς α[δ]ελ[φης] παυλου την ενεδ[ρα]ν πα
ρα]γενομε[νος και εισελθων ει]ς τ[η]ν παρεμ
βο]λην απη[γγειλεν τω παυλω ¹⁷προ]σ[καλεσαμε

^aThe scribe misspelt
αποκτεινωσιν by getting it
conflated with the word
following it, τοις.

¹¹shalaim, in this manner you are destined also inside Ro]me [to witne
e]ss. ¹²Having c[ome t]o exist more[over d]ay, and hav[ing arranged
help, having been c[ollecte]d together, some of the Yah[uwd]e-
ans bound by cur[se] themselves, saying to not
eat nor drin[k un]til when^a
Paul. ¹³Existed and [nume]rous forty of those who bound by cu-
rse themselves, ¹⁴wh[o], having approached the chie-
f priests, and the El[de]rs, said, "With a cur-
se we bound by cur[se] ourselves[s], no one to ta-
ste the anything a[t all u]ntil when[ever] we m[ay kill
the Paul. ¹⁵Now [therefore], we enc[o]jura[ge you,
accomplish for us [thi]s, having collected the Sanhe-
drin, become m[anifest to the Chiliar]ch, s[o that he may guide do-
wn him into y[ou like being intend]ed to tot[ally understand
mo]re accurate[ly that concerning him. W]e bu[t, before the to n-
e]ar you [him, prepared we exist to k]i[ll h-
i]m, even if des[ti]ned also we perish." ¹⁶Having heard] how[ever a young man,
a cert]ain son of s[i]st[er of Paul the amb]us[h, hav-
ing a]ppear[ed and entered int]o t[he bar-
ra]cks, he repo[r]ted to Paul. ¹⁷Hav]in[g called for

^aEven though αποκτει-
ναστην is an unknown
word, what was being
intended is quite apparent,
but as the scribe didn't
correct himself, the text as
it stands has a incomplete
sentence. If αποκτεινωσιν
τοις was restored, it would
give the translation "we
may kill the"

Verso

(Upper section of leaf is missing)

²⁵εφοβη]θη γαρ μηποτε εξαρπασαντες αυτον οι [ιουδαιοι] αποκτεινωσιν και αυτος μεταξυ εγκλημ[α] εχη ως ειληφως αργυρια γραψιας δε αυτοις επι στολην εν η εγεγραπτο. ²⁶κλαυδιος λυσιας φηλι κι τω κρατιστω ηγεμονι χαιρειν: ²⁷τον ανδρα του τον «υπο των ιουδαιων»^a συνλημφθεντα υπο τω ιουδαιων και μελλοντα αναρεισθαι υπ αυτω επιστας συν τω σ[ι]ρατευματι ερυσσαμην κραζον τα και λεγοντα] ειναι ρωμαιοι ²⁸βουλομενος τε γωναι την αι]ιαν ην εκαλουν ^bαυτω κατη γαγον αυτον εις το] συνεδριον. ²⁹ουδεν πλειον ευρον]

Acts 23:25-29a

^aThe scribe wrote this here, then indicated its removal by putting dots above the letters. Seems the scribe had accidentally skipped over the word **συνλημφθεντα**, noticed that he'd done so, and corrected his own words immediately and continued to write out the words in the correct order.

^bThe scribe should actually have written **ενεκαλουν**, not **εκαλουν**.

Reverse Side of Leaf

²⁵feari]ng for at any time, having snatched him, the [Yahuwdeans] would kill, and he afterwards accusation[n] would hold, like he had accepted silver. Having written so for them a letter, in which it had been written, ²⁶“Claudias Lysias, to Phelix the most powerful governor: salutations! ²⁷The male th- is «under the Yahuwdeans»^a having been arrested under the Yahuwdeans and being intended to be slayed under them, **having suddenly appeared with the t]roops, I rescued as they were screaming and saying]** he existed as a Roman. ²⁸Planning but **to understand the ca]use which they were calling^b him, I guided down him into the]** Sanhedrin. ²⁹Nothing greater I discovered]

Acts 23:25-29a

^aAs the scribe corrected himself, there is no change of meaning to the verse.

^bWhilst **εκαλουν** is a known Greek word, its use here in the context doesn't make much sense. However, seeing as though reasons for accusations are in question, it is obvious that **ενεκαλουν** was intended, but the scribe omitted it as his eye skipped from the **v** at the end of **ηv** to the at the end of **εv**, and then continued to write out the rest of the word. The actual word intended would give the translation of “they were bringing charges against”.