

Paul Learns of the Conspiracy

Text: Acts 23:16-24

"So when Paul's sister's son heard of their ambush, he went and entered the barracks and told Paul" (vs. 16).

Question #1: Comment on the providence of God here. Apply this to us.

Then Paul called one of the centurions to him and said, "Take this young man to the commander, for he has something to tell him." So he took him and brought him to the commander and said, "Paul the prisoner called me to him and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to say to you." Then the commander took him by the hand, went aside, and asked privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?" And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask that you bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more fully about him. But do not yield to them, for more than forty of them lie in wait for him, men who have bound themselves by an oath that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him; and now they are ready, waiting for the promise from you." So the commander let the young man depart, and commanded him, "Tell no one that you have revealed these things to me" (vs. 17-22).

Question #2: What does Paul do? Consider the waiting period that Paul must endure, during this time. Apply this to us.

Question #3: What order does the commander give to Paul's nephew? Why does he do this?

And he called for two centurions, saying, "Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at the third hour of the night; and provide mounts to set Paul on, and bring him safely to Felix the governor."

Question #4: What does the centurion then do? Comment on the sovereignty of God here.

What is God accomplishing by means of this conspiracy? Apply this to us.

Question #5: Consider the events that have surrounded Paul at Jerusalem. How much control did he have over anything? How does one remain calm and find comfort, throughout these kinds of conflicts? Apply this to us.