

God's Unstoppable Mission

Acts 23:12-35

“What happens when opposition seems insurmountable?”



Setting The Stage

The Schemes of Man

VS.

The Sovereignty of God

Acts 23:12-35



The Conspiracy Against Paul

12 When it was day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and put themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. 13 There were more than forty who formed this plot. 14 They came to the chief priests and the elders and said, "We have put ourselves under an oath to taste nothing until we have killed Paul."

Acts 23:12-14 (NASB)



The Plot Against Paul Thickens!

15 Now therefore, you and the Council notify the commander to bring him down to you, as though you were going to investigate his case more thoroughly; and as for us, we are ready to kill him before he comes near the place.”

Acts 23:15-16 (NASB)



God's Man of the Hour Enters

16 But the son of Paul's sister heard about their ambush, and he came and entered the barracks and told Paul.

Acts 23:15-16 (NASB)



God's Plan Begins To Emerge

17 Paul called one of the centurions to himself and said, "Take this young man to the commander, for he has something to report to him." 18 So he took him and led him to the commander and said, "Paul the prisoner called me over to him and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you."

Acts 23:17-18 (NASB)



God's Man Doing God's Work

19 The commander took him by the hand, and stepping aside, began to inquire of him privately, "What is it that you have to report to me?" **20** And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down tomorrow to the Council, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more thoroughly about him.

Acts 23:19-20 (NASB)



God's Man Giving God's Orders

21 So do not listen to them, for more than forty of them are in hiding to ambush him, and these men have put themselves under an oath not to eat or drink until they kill him; and now they are ready and waiting for assurance from you.” **22** Then the commander let the young man go, instructing him, “Tell no one that you have notified me of these things.”

Acts 23:21-22 (NASB)



Roman Commander Giving God's Orders

23 And he called to him two of the centurions and said, "Get two hundred soldiers ready by the third hour of the night to proceed to Caesarea, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen."

Acts 23:23 (NASB)



Roman Commander Giving God's Orders

**24 They were also to provide mounts to put Paul on and bring him safely to Felix the governor.
25 And he wrote a letter with the following content:**

Acts 23:24-25 (NASB)



The Commander's Letter

26 "Claudius Lysias, to the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings.

27 When this man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them, I came up to them with the troops and rescued him, after learning that he was a Roman.

Acts 23:26-27 (NASB)



The Commander's Letter

28 And wanting to ascertain the basis for the charges they were bringing against him, I brought him down to their Council; 29 and I found that he was being accused regarding questions in their Law but was not charged with anything deserving death or imprisonment.

Acts 23:28-29 (NASB)



The Commander's Letter

30 When I was informed that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, also instructing his accusers to bring charges against him before you.”

Acts 23:30 (NASB)



Paul's Transfer to Caesarea

31 So the soldiers, in accordance with their orders, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris.

32 But on the next day they let the horsemen go on with him, and they returned to the barracks.

Acts 23:31-32 (NASB)



Paul's Transfer to Caesarea

33 When these horsemen had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.

Acts 23:33 (NASB)



Paul Exactly Where God Planned

34 Now when he had read it, he also asked from what province Paul was, and when he learned that he was from Cilicia, 35 he said, "I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive as well," giving orders for Paul to be kept in Herod's Praetorium.

Acts 23:34-35 (NASB)



The Sovereign Hand of God

**The angel of the LORD
encamps around those who
fear Him,
And rescues them.**

Psalm 34:7 (NASB)



Paul Exactly Where Jesus Said

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

Acts 9:15 (NASB)



When Opposition Arises

“And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 10:28 (NASB)



Trusting God's Sovereign Hand

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NASB)



God's Unstoppable Plan

9"Remember the former things long past,

For I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is no one like Me,

Isaiah 46:9-10 (NASB)



God's Unstoppable Plan

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My plan will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

Isaiah 46:9-10 (NASB)



