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GREEK TEXT · TRANSLATION · INTERLINEAR · DISCOURSE STRUCTURE

The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 25

ΠΡΑΞΕΙΣ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΩΝ ΚΕ΄

Each verse opens with the running Greek, an English translation, and a **discourse note** (its connective, relation, and role in the argument). Below follows the word-by-word breakdown in six tiers: gloss, case (color), parsing, *syntax*, **semantic force**, and a | lexical note.

CASE ■ Nominative ■ Genitive ■ Dative ■ Accusative ■ Vocative ■ Verb (no case) ■ Indeclinable

Discourse notes head each verse: **relation** · connective · clause-flow. Indentation marks prominence — flush-left = main line of argument; indented = supporting / subordinate material.

Discourse structure of the chapter

A · 25:1–5

Festus arrives; the Jerusalem priests petition for Paul's removal

Three days after arriving in his province Festus goes up to Jerusalem (1), where the chief priests and principal men brief him against Paul and ask that he be transferred to Jerusalem — planning an ambush (2–3); Festus refuses, saying Paul is being kept at Caesarea and he himself will return shortly; let the able men among them come down and accuse him there (4–5).

B · 25:6–12

Paul before Festus: the hearing and the appeal to Caesar

After spending eight or ten days in Jerusalem Festus returns to Caesarea and the next day convenes the tribunal (6); the Jews from Jerusalem bring many serious charges they cannot prove (7); Paul's defence: he has sinned neither against the Jewish law nor the temple nor Caesar (8); Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, asks Paul to go to Jerusalem to be tried — Paul refuses on the ground that he stands at Caesar's tribunal, where he ought to be tried (9–10); acknowledging that if he has done anything capital he does not seek to avoid death, but if the charges are groundless no one can hand him over as a concession, he utters the formal appeal: 'I appeal to Caesar' (11); Festus confers and grants it (12).

C · 25:13–22

Agrippa II and Bernice arrive; Festus narrates Paul's case

Some days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrive in Caesarea to greet Festus (13); Festus refers Paul's case to the king at length (14–21); the Jews asked for condemnation, but he convened a hearing and found the dispute was over a dead man named Jesus whom Paul claims is alive (19); he was at a loss and asked Paul about being tried in Jerusalem, whereupon Paul appealed to the Augustus (20–21); Agrippa expresses a desire to hear Paul himself, and Festus grants it for the next day (22).

D · 25:23–27

Paul brought before Agrippa: Festus frames the problem of charges

The next day Agrippa and Bernice enter the audience hall with great pomp, together with military tribunes and the city's leading men; Festus orders Paul brought in (23); Festus addresses the assembly: all those present have seen this man against whom the entire Jewish people petitioned him both in Jerusalem and here, crying that he ought not to live any longer (24); Festus himself found he had done nothing deserving death, but since Paul has appealed to Augustus he has decided to send him (25); the problem: he has nothing definite to write to the emperor about him, so he has brought him before all present, and especially Agrippa, so that after examination he might have something to write (26–27).

1 Φῆστος οὖν ἐπιβὰς τῇ ἐπαρχείᾳ μετὰ τρεῖς ἡμέρας ἀνέβη εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἀπὸ Καισαρείας.

Festus therefore, having arrived in the province, went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea after three days.

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION οὖν marks the narrative resumption from ch. 24; Festus's first act as procurator is to go to Jerusalem, where the Jewish leadership immediately presses the case against Paul. The verb ἀνέβη is idiomatic: one always 'goes up' to Jerusalem.

Φῆστος

Festus

Nominative

subject nominative

Φῆστος; Porcius Festus, procurator of Judaea c. AD 59–62, successor of Felix.

οὖν

therefore

inferential/continuative particle

ἐπιβὰς

having arrived in

Aor Act Ptc Nom Sg Masc · ἐπιβαίνω

adverbial participle (antecedent action)

→ constative aorist (simple arrival)

ἐπιβαίνω: 'step upon / arrive in'; used of taking up a post.

τῇ

the

Dative

article

ἐπαρχεία

province

Dative

dative of place (with ἐπιβαίνω)

ἐπαρχεία: Roman provincial district; here the province of Judaea.

μετὰ

after

preposition + accusative (temporal interval)

τρῆς

three

Accusative

attributive numeral

ἡμέρας

days

Accusative

accusative of extent (with μετὰ)

ἀνέβη

went up

Aor Act Indic 3 Sg · ἀναβαίνω

main verb

→ constative aorist (single journey)

ἀναβαίνω: 'go up'; idiomatic for travel to Jerusalem, both geographically and theologically elevated.

εἰς

to

preposition + accusative (goal)

Ἱεροσόλυμα

Jerusalem

Accusative

accusative of goal (with εἰς)

Ἱεροσόλυμα: the Hellenized plural neuter form of Jerusalem (cf. Ἱερουσαλήμ, the Hebrew form also used in Acts).

ἀπὸ

from

preposition + genitive (point of departure)

Καισαρείας

Caesarea

Genitive

genitive of separation (with ἀπό)

Καισαρεία: Caesarea Maritima, the Roman administrative capital of Judaea.

2 ἐνεφάνισάν τε αὐτῷ οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ πρῶτοι τῶν Ἰουδαίων κατὰ τοῦ Παύλου, καὶ παρεκάλουν αὐτόν

And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews informed him against Paul, and they were urging him,

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION (CLOSE LINKAGE) **τε** τε (enclitic) signals close linkage with v.1: immediately upon Festus's arrival the priestly leadership presses him. The imperfect παρεκάλουν depicts persistent lobbying.

ἐνεφάνισάν

informed

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · ἐμφανίζω

main verb

→ constative aorist (formal legal presentation)

ἐμφανίζω: 'make known / bring charges before'; a quasi-technical term for formal denunciation to an authority (cf. 24:1).

τε

and

connective particle (close linkage)

αὐτῷ

to him

Dative

dative of indirect object

οἱ

the

Nominative

article

ἀρχιερεῖς

chief priests

Nominative

subject nominative

ἀρχιερεύς: high priest and members of the high-priestly families; the dominant political group in Jerusalem.

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction

οἱ

the

Nominative

article

πρῶτοι

principal men

Nominative

subject nominative (compound)

πρῶτος: 'first'; as a social title, the leading men of the community.

τῶν

of the

Genitive

article

Ἰουδαίων

Jews

Genitive

partitive genitive

κατὰ

against

preposition + genitive (opposition)

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article

Παύλου

Paul

Genitive

genitive of opposition (with κατά)

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction

παρεκάλουν

were urging

Impf Act Indic 3 Pl · παρακαλέω

main verb (second clause)

→ progressive imperfect (persistent lobbying)

παρακαλέω: 'appeal to / urge / request'; the imperfect depicts sustained pressure on the new governor.

αὐτόν

him

Accusative

accusative direct object

3 αἰτούμενοι χάριν κατ' αὐτοῦ ὅπως μεταπέμψηται αὐτὸν εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ, ἐνέδραν ποιοῦντες ἀνελεῖν αὐτὸν κατὰ τὴν ὁδόν.

requesting a favor against him, that he summon him to Jerusalem — making an ambush to kill him along the road.

PURPOSE / PARENTHETICAL DISCLOSURE ASYNDETON Luke reveals the murderous intent behind the legal maneuver (ἐνέδραν ποιοῦντες ἀνελεῖν): the Jerusalem transfer is a cover for assassination. This is Luke's third plot against Paul's life (cf. 9:23; 23:12–15).

αἰτούμενοι

requesting

Pres Mid Ptc Nom Pl Masc · αἰτέω

adverbial participle (content of the urging)

→ progressive present (ongoing petition)

αἰτέω: 'ask for / request'; the middle voice here carries no special reflexive force.

χάριν

a favor

Accusative

accusative direct object

χάρις: 'grace / favor'; here a political concession; the phrase χάριν αἰτέομαι is a standard request formula.

κατ'

against

preposition + genitive (opposition)

αὐτοῦ

him

Genitive

genitive of opposition (with κατὰ)

ὅπως

that

purpose/content conjunction

μεταπέμψηται

he might summon

Aor Mid Subj 3 Sg · μεταπέμπω

verb in purpose clause

→ constative aorist (single summons)

μεταπέμπω: 'send for / summon'; the middle emphasizes Festus acting on his own authority.

αὐτὸν

him

Accusative

accusative direct object

εἰς

to

preposition + accusative (goal)

Ἱερουσαλήμ

Jerusalem

Accusative

accusative of goal (with εἰς)

Ἱερουσαλήμ: the Hebrew/Semitic form (cf. Ἱεροσόλυμα in v.1); Luke uses both forms.

ἐνέδραν

an ambush

Accusative

accusative direct object (of ποιῶντες)

ἐνέδρα: 'ambush / plot'; cf. 23:16 where the nephew exposes an earlier ambush.

ποιῶντες

making

Pres Act Ptc Nom Pl Masc · ποιέω

adverbial participle (circumstantial — revealing motive)

→ progressive present (ongoing plan)

ποιέω: 'make / do'; ἐνέδραν ποιέω = idiomatic 'lay an ambush.'

ἀνελεῖν

to kill

Aor Act Inf · ἀναιρέω

infinitive of purpose

→ constative aorist (intended single act)

ἀναιρέω: 'take up / kill'; Luke's preferred word for violent death (cf. 2:23; 5:33; 9:23).

αὐτόν

him

Accusative

accusative direct object (of ἀνελεῖν)

κατὰ

along

preposition + accusative (along the length of)

τὴν

the

Accusative

article

ὁδόν

road

Accusative

accusative of extent (spatial: along the road)

ὁδός: 'road / way'; the Jerusalem–Caesarea road, approximately 100 km.

4 ὁ μὲν οὖν Φῆστος ἀπεκρίθη τηρεῖσθαι τὸν Παῦλον εἰς Καισάρειαν, ἑαυτὸν δὲ μέλλειν ἐν τάχει ἐκπορεύεσθαι·

Festus therefore replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea, and that he himself was about to depart shortly.

ADVERSATIVE RESPONSE μὲν οὖν μὲν οὖν is a Lukan favorite transitioning to a new development; the paired δέ in v.5 completes the antithesis. Festus's reply is in indirect speech governed by ἀπεκρίθη; two accusative + infinitive constructions.

ὁ

the

Nominative

article (with proper name)

μὲν

on the one hand

correlative particle (μὲν...δέ)

οὖν

therefore

inferential particle

Φῆστος

Festus

Nominative

subject nominative

<p>ἀπεκρίθη replied</p> <p>Aor Pass Indic 3 Sg · ἀποκρίνομαι <i>main verb</i></p> <p>→ constative aorist (single reply)</p> <p>ἀποκρίνομαι: 'answer / reply'; the passive form is the standard NT idiom for answering (deponent).</p>	<p>τηρεῖσθαι was being kept</p> <p>Pres Pass Inf · τηρέω <i>infinitive in indirect statement (acc. + inf.)</i></p> <p>→ progressive present (ongoing custody)</p> <p>τηρέω: 'keep / guard'; the present passive indicates Paul remains under Roman custody.</p>	<p>τὸν the</p> <p>Accusative <i>article (subject of indirect statement)</i></p>	<p>Παῦλον Paul</p> <p>Accusative <i>accusative subject of indirect statement</i></p>
<p>εἰς at</p> <p>preposition + accusative (location, pregnant construction)</p>	<p>Καισάρειαν Caesarea</p> <p>Accusative <i>accusative (after εἰς, here marking location of custody)</i></p>	<p>ἑαυτὸν himself</p> <p>Accusative <i>accusative subject of second indirect statement</i></p>	<p>δὲ and</p> <p>correlative particle (completing μέν)</p>
<p>μέλλειν was about</p> <p>Pres Act Inf · μέλλω <i>main infinitive of second indirect statement</i></p> <p>→ futuristic present (imminent action)</p> <p>μέλλω: 'be about to'; marks near-future intention.</p>	<p>ἐν in</p> <p>preposition + dative (temporal interval)</p>	<p>τάχει haste/shortly</p> <p>Dative <i>dative of manner (ἐν τάχει = soon)</i></p> <p>τάχος: 'speed'; ἐν τάχει is a fixed phrase meaning 'quickly / shortly!'</p>	<p>ἐκπορεύεσθαι to depart</p> <p>Pres Mid Inf · ἐκπορεύομαι <i>complementary infinitive (with μέλλειν)</i></p> <p>→ progressive present (planned journey)</p> <p>ἐκπορεύομαι: 'go out / depart'; complement to μέλλω.</p>

5 Οἱ οὖν ἐν ὑμῖν, φησίν, δυνατοὶ συγκαταβάντες εἴ τί ἐστιν ἐν τῷ ἀνδρὶ ἄτοπον κατηγορεῖωσαν αὐτοῦ.

"Let those among you, therefore," he says, "who are able, come down with me and bring charges against him, if there is anything improper in the man."

INFERENCE COMMAND οὖν Festus's counter-offer: the able men (δυνατοί — those with legal standing) should accompany him to Caesarea and prosecute Paul there. The third-person imperative κατηγορεῖωσαν is the formal legal term for lodging charges. φησίν is a Lukan historic present.

οἱ

those

Nominative

article (substantival, with δυνατοί)

οὖν

therefore

inferential particle

ἐν

among

preposition + dative (sphere)

ὑμῖν

you

Dative

dative of sphere (among you)

φησὶν

he says

Pres Act Indic 3 Sg · φημί

parenthetical verb of saying

→ historic present (vivid narration)

φημί: 'say'; the historic present φησὶν is a Lukan narrative device.

δυνατοὶ

able men

Nominative

subject nominative (predicate adjective used substantivally)

δυνατός: 'powerful / able'; here those with legal standing and authority to prosecute.

συγκαταβάντες

having come down with

Aor Act Ptc Nom Pl Masc · συγκαταβαίνω

adverbial participle (attendant circumstance)

→ constative aorist (accompanying the journey)

συγκαταβαίνω: 'come down together with'; a compound verb unique here in the NT.

εἴ

if

conditional conjunction

τί

anything

Nominative

subject of conditional clause (indefinite pronoun)

ἐστίν

is

Pres Act Indic 3 Sg · εἶμι

verb in conditional clause

→ gnomic present (general condition)

ἐν

in

preposition + dative (sphere / person)

τῷ

the

Dative

article

ἀνδρὶ

man

Dative

dative of sphere (in this man)

ἄτοπον

improper

Nominative

predicate adjective

ἄτοπος: 'out of place / improper / criminal'; a legal-moral term; Festus speaks guardedly.

κατηγορεῖτωσαν

let them accuse

Pres Act Impv 3 Pl · κατηγορέω

main verb (third-person imperative)

→ progressive present (ongoing process of accusation)

κατηγορέω: 'bring charges against / accuse'; the standard legal term (cf. κατηγορος).

αὐτοῦ

him

Genitive

genitive of person accused (with κατηγορέω)

6 Διατρίψας δὲ ἐν αὐτοῖς ἡμέρας οὐ πλείους ὀκτῶ ἢ δέκα, καταβάς εἰς Καισάρειαν, τῇ ἐπαύριον καθίσας ἐπὶ τοῦ βήματος ἐκέλευσεν τὸν Παῦλον ἀχθῆναι.

After spending not more than eight or ten days among them, he went down to Caesarea, and the next day he sat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought.

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION **δὲ** The scene shifts to Caesarea as Festus fulfills his promise. Three temporal participles compress the journey (Διατρίψας, καταβάς, καθίσας); τῇ ἐπαύριον underscores the immediacy of the hearing. βῆμα (the raised tribunal) is a legally significant term.

Διατρίψας

having spent time

Aor Act Ptc Nom Sg Masc · διατρίβω

adverbial participle (temporal, antecedent)

→ constative aorist (defined stay)

διατρίβω: 'spend time / stay'; common in Acts for a temporary stay (cf. 14:3; 16:12).

δὲ

and

continuative particle

ἐν

among

preposition + dative (sphere)

αὐτοῖς

them

Dative

dative of sphere

ἡμέρας

days

Accusative

accusative of extent (duration)

οὐ

not

negation

πλείους

more

Accusative

predicate adjective (comparative)

πλείων: comparative of πολύς; 'more than!'

ὀκτῶ

eight

Accusative

attributive numeral

ἢ

or

disjunctive particle (in comparative)

δέκα

ten

Accusative

attributive numeral (second term of comparison)

καταβάς

having gone down

Aor Act Ptc Nom Sg Masc · καταβαίνω

adverbial participle (temporal, antecedent)

→ constative aorist (single journey)

καταβαίνω: 'go down'; antonym of ἀνέβη in v.1, marking the return to the coast.

εἰς

to

preposition + accusative (goal)

Καισάρειαν

Caesarea

Accusative

accusative of goal

τῇ

on the

Dative

article (temporal dative)

ἐπαύριον

next day

Dative

dative of time (τῇ ἐπαύριον = on the next day)

ἐπαύριον: 'the next day'; a compound adverb used as a temporal dative with the article.

καθίσας

having sat down

Aor Act Ptc Nom Sg Masc · καθίζω

adverbial participle (attendant circumstance)

→ constative aorist (taking the judicial seat)

καθίζω: 'sit / seat oneself'; taking one's seat on the tribunal is a formal act opening proceedings.

ἐπὶ

on

preposition + genitive (position)

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article

βήματος

tribunal

Genitive

genitive of place (on which he sat)

βῆμα: 'step / raised platform / tribunal'; the official judge's bench from which Roman officials pronounced legal decisions (cf. John 19:13; Acts 18:12).

ἐκέλευσεν

ordered

Aor Act Indic 3 Sg · κελεύω

main verb

→ constative aorist (single command)

κελεύω: 'command / order'; a word of authority, often used of official commands in Acts.

τὸν

the

Accusative

article

Παῦλον

Paul

Accusative

accusative subject of indirect statement

ἀχθῆναι

to be brought

Aor Pass Inf · ἄγω

complementary infinitive (with ἐκέλευσεν)

→ constative aorist (single bringing)

ἄγω: 'lead / bring'; the passive ἀχθῆναι implies Paul is brought under guard.

7 παραγενομένου δὲ αὐτοῦ περιέστησαν αὐτὸν οἱ ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων καταβεβηκότες Ἰουδαῖοι, πολλὰ καὶ βαρέα αἰτιάματα καταφέροντες κατὰ τοῦ Παύλου, ἃ οὐκ ἴσχυον ἀποδείξει,

When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against Paul, which they were not able to prove,

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION **δὲ** A genitive absolute (παραγενομένου αὐτοῦ) opens the scene. Luke emphasizes both the quantity (πολλὰ) and gravity (βαρέα) of the charges, then immediately qualifies them: οὐκ ἴσχυον ἀποδείξει — they could not prove them. This sets up Paul's defense in v.8.

παραγενομένου

having arrived

Aor Mid Ptc Gen Sg Masc · παραγίνομαι

genitive absolute (temporal)

→ constative aorist (arrival)

παραγίνομαι: 'arrive / come'; common
Lukan word for arrival (cf. 25:15).

δὲ

and

continuative particle

αὐτοῦ

he

Genitive

genitive absolute subject

περιέστησαν

stood around

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · περίστημι

main verb

→ constative aorist (surrounding Paul at the tribunal)

περίστημι: 'stand around'; conveys the visual image of accusers surrounding the defendant.

αὐτὸν

him

Accusative

accusative direct object

οἱ

the

Nominative

article (substantival with participle)

ἀπὸ

from

preposition + genitive (origin)

Ἱεροσολύμων

Jerusalem

Genitive

genitive of origin (with ἀπό)

καταβεβηκότες

having come down

Perf Act Ptc Nom Pl Masc · καταβαίνω

attributive participle (modifying Ἰουδαῖοι)

→ intensive perfect (they are present, having come down)

καταβαίνω: 'come down'; the perfect emphasizes their presence as those who have made the trip.

Ἰουδαῖοι

Jews

Nominative

subject nominative

πολλά

many

Accusative

attributive adjective

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction

βαρέα

serious

Accusative

attributive adjective

βαρύς: 'heavy / serious / weighty'; in a legal context, 'grave charges.'

αἰτιάματα

charges

Accusative

accusative direct object (of καταφέροντες)

αἰτίαμα: 'charge / accusation'; a legal term; related to αἰτία ('cause/charge'). Found only here in NT.

καταφέροντες

bringing

Pres Act Ptc Nom Pl Masc · καταφέρω

adverbial participle (manner – how they surrounded him)

→ progressive present (ongoing barrage of charges)

καταφέρω: 'bring against / lay upon'; the prefix κατα- intensifies the hostile direction.

κατὰ

against

preposition + genitive (opposition)

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article

Παύλου

Paul

Genitive

genitive of opposition (with κατὰ)

ἧ

which

Accusative

accusative direct object (antecedent: αἰτιάματα)

οὐκ

not

negation

ἴσχυον

they were able

Impf Act Indic 3 Pl · ἰσχύω

main verb of relative clause

→ conative imperfect (attempted but failed)

ἰσχύω: 'be able / have strength'; the conative imperfect implies repeated failed attempts to substantiate the charges.

ἀποδείξαι

to prove

Aor Act Inf · ἀποδείκνυμι

complementary infinitive (with ἴσχυον)

→ constative aorist (the proof they could not produce)

ἀποδείκνυμι: 'demonstrate / prove'; a technical term for marshaling evidence (cf. 2:22). The charges lack evidential support.

8 τοῦ Παύλου ἀπολογουμένου ὅτι Οὔτε εἰς τὸν νόμον τῶν Ἰουδαίων οὔτε εἰς τὸ ἱερὸν οὔτε εἰς Καίσαρά τι ἤμαρτον.

while Paul argued in his defense: "I have committed no offense against the law of the Jews, or against the temple, or against Caesar."

DEFENSE (ANTIPHONAL) ASYNDETON A genitive absolute (τοῦ Παύλου ἀπολογουμένου) introduces Paul's threefold denial, structured as a triple οὔτε...οὔτε...οὔτε. The three heads answer the three possible charge-types: Jewish religious law, temple violation (a capital offense under Roman-Jewish agreement), and treason against Caesar.

τοῦ

of

Genitive

article (genitive absolute)

Παύλου

Paul

Genitive

genitive absolute subject

ἀπολογουμένου

defending himself

Pres Mid Ptc Gen Sg Masc · ἀπολογέομαι

genitive absolute (temporal/circumstantial)

→ progressive present (ongoing defense)

ἀπολογέομαι: 'speak in one's defense'; a legal term appearing six times in Acts, always of Paul's formal defense speeches.

ὅτι

that

conjunction introducing direct/indirect discourse

Οὔτε

neither

correlative negative conjunction (first of three)

εἰς

against

preposition + accusative (direction of offense)

τὸν

the

Accusative

article

νόμον

law

Accusative

accusative (object of εἰς)

νόμος: here the Torah / Jewish legal code.

τῶν

of the

Genitive

article

Ἰουδαίων

Jews

Genitive

genitive of possession/source

οὔτε

nor

correlative negative conjunction (second)

εἰς

against

preposition + accusative

τὸ

the

Accusative

article

ἱερόν

temple

Accusative

accusative (object of εἰς)

ἱερόν: the Jerusalem Temple complex; violation of its sanctity was a capital offense recognized by Rome.

οὔτε

nor

correlative negative conjunction (third)

εἰς

against

preposition + accusative

Καίσαρά

Caesar

Accusative

accusative (object of εἰς)

Καῖσαρ: the Roman emperor (Nero, r. 54–68 AD); Paul denies the charge of maiestas (treason).

τι

anything

Accusative

accusative direct object (of ἥμαρτον)

ἥμαρτον

I have sinned / offended

Aor Act Indic 1 Sg · ἁμαρτάνω

main verb

→ constative aorist (summary denial of any offense)

ἁμαρτάνω: 'sin / miss the mark / commit an offense'; here in its broader sense of committing a wrong, not solely theological sin.

9 ὁ Φῆστος δὲ θέλων τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις χάριν καταθέσθαι ἀποκριθεὶς τῷ Παύλῳ εἶπεν· θέλεις εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἀναβὰς ἐκεῖ περὶ τούτων κριθῆναι ἐπ' ἐμοῦ;

Festus, however, wishing to do the Jews a favor, replied to Paul and said: "Do you wish, going up to Jerusalem, to be tried there on these charges before me?"

NARRATIVE COMPLICATION **δὲ** Luke reveals Festus's motive (θέλων χάριν καταθέσθαι) before citing his words, a transparency device. The question is legally odd: a Roman trial conducted at Jerusalem would still be before Festus (ἐπ' ἐμοῦ), but the venue shift to Jerusalem is exactly what Paul fears (cf. v.3). This prompts his appeal.

<p>ὁ the Nominative article (with proper name)</p>	<p>Φῆστος Festus Nominative subject nominative</p>	<p>δὲ however adversative particle</p>	<p>θέλων wishing Pres Act Ptc Nom Sg Masc · θέλω adverbial participle (causal — revealing motive) → progressive present (ongoing political desire) θέλω: 'wish / want'; Luke's disclosure of motive is a characteristic narrative technique.</p>
<p>τοῖς the Dative article</p>	<p>Ἰουδαίοις Jews Dative dative of advantage</p>	<p>χάριν a favor Accusative accusative direct object χάρις: 'favor'; χάριν καταθέσθαι is an idiom for 'to curry favor / win goodwill!'</p>	<p>καταθέσθαι to do / store up Aor Mid Inf · κατατίθημι complementary infinitive (with θέλων) → constative aorist (single act of favor-winning) κατατίθημι: 'lay up / deposit'; in the middle with χάριν, 'to lay up a favor' = to curry goodwill.</p>

ἀποκριθεὶς

answering

Aor Pass Ptc Nom Sg Masc · ἀποκρίνομαι
adverbial participle (attendant circumstance with εἶπεν)

→ constative aorist

ἀποκρίνομαι: deponent; the participle + εἶπεν is a Semitic/LXX construction common in Luke-Acts.

τῷ

to

Dative
article

Παύλῳ

Paul

Dative
dative of indirect object

εἶπεν

said

Aor Act Indic 3 Sg · λέγω
main verb

→ constative aorist

Θέλεις

Do you wish

Pres Act Indic 2 Sg · θέλω
main verb of direct question

→ progressive present (present willingness)

θέλω: 'wish / want'; the question is formally polite but politically loaded.

εἰς

to

preposition + accusative (goal)

Ἱεροσόλυμα

Jerusalem

Accusative
accusative of goal

ἀναβὰς

going up

Aor Act Ptc Nom Sg Masc · ἀναβαίνω
adverbial participle (attendant circumstance with κριθῆναι)

→ constative aorist

ἐκεῖ

there

adverb of place

περὶ

concerning

preposition + genitive (reference)

τούτων

these things

Genitive
genitive of reference (with περὶ)

κριθῆναι

to be tried

Aor Pass Inf · κρίνω
complementary infinitive (with Θέλεις)

→ constative aorist (the trial as a single event)

κρίνω: 'judge / try'; the passive 'to be tried' is Paul's status as defendant.

ἐπ'

before

preposition + genitive (before a judge)

ἐμοῦ

me

Genitive
genitive (before my tribunal)

10 εἶπεν δὲ ὁ Παῦλος· Ἔστως ἐπὶ τοῦ βήματος Καίσαρός εἰμι, οὗ με δεῖ κρίνεσθαι. Ἰουδαίους οὐδὲν ἠδίκησα, ὡς καὶ σὺ κάλλιον ἐπιγινώσκεις.

Paul said: "I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well.

COUNTER-SPEECH **δὲ** Paul's reply reframes the juridical space: Festus's tribunal is Caesar's tribunal (βῆμα Καίσαρος), making a venue transfer a violation of Roman procedure. The note ὡς καὶ σὺ κάλλιον ἐπιγινώσκεις is a forensic apothegm: 'as you yourself know better than you let on.'

εἶπεν

said

Aor Act Indic 3 Sg · λέγω

main verb

→ constative aorist

δὲ

and

continuative particle

ὁ

the

Nominative

article

Παῦλος

Paul

Nominative

subject nominative

Ἔστως

standing

Perf Act Ptc Nom Sg Masc · ἵστημι

predicate participle (with εἰμι)

→ intensive perfect (I am, and remain, standing before)

ἵστημι: 'stand'; the perfect emphasizes Paul's present standing before the tribunal — a legally precise claim.

ἐπὶ

before

preposition + genitive (judicial presence)

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article

βήματος

tribunal

Genitive

genitive of place (at which one stands)

βῆμα: see v.6; here Paul claims this physical tribunal IS Caesar's tribunal in legal terms.

Καίσαρός

of Caesar

Genitive

genitive of possession (Caesar's tribunal)

Καῖσαρ: the emperor; Paul asserts that Roman provincial courts exercise imperial authority.

εἰμι

I am

Pres Act Indic 1 Sg · εἰμί

main verb

→ gnomic present (current legal status)

οὗ

where

Genitive

genitive of place (relative, with δεῖ + inf.)

με

me

Accusative

accusative subject of infinitive (with δεῖ)

δεῖ

it is necessary

Pres Act Indic 3 Sg · δεῖ

impersonal verb of obligation

→ gnomic present (legal necessity)

δεῖ: 'it is necessary'; carries a note of divine as well as legal obligation in Luke-Acts (cf. 19:21; 23:11).

κρίνεσθαι

to be tried

Pres Pass Inf · κρίνω

complementary infinitive (with δεῖ)

→ progressive present (ongoing judicial process)

Ἰουδαίους

the Jews

Accusative

accusative direct object (of ἠδίκησα)

οὐδέν

nothing

Accusative

accusative adverbial (no wrong at all)

ἠδίκησα

I have wronged

Aor Act Indic 1 Sg · ἠδικέω

main verb

→ constative aorist (blanket denial)

ἠδικέω: 'do wrong to / injure'; contrasts with v.8's ἥμαρτον; Paul now addresses Festus directly.

ὥς

as

comparative conjunction

καὶ

also / even

adverbial particle (emphatic)

σύ

you

Nominative

subject nominative (emphatic)

κάλλιον

very well

adverb (comparative: 'better than you're saying')

κάλλιον: comparative adverb of καλῶς; idiomatically 'you know better (than you let on)' — a polite but pointed rebuke.

ἐπιγινώσκεις

you know

Pres Act Indic 2 Sg · ἐπιγινώσκω

main verb

→ gnomic present (a known fact)

ἐπιγινώσκω: 'know fully / recognize'; the ἐπι- prefix intensifies: 'you fully know!'

11 εἰ μὲν οὖν ἀδικῶ καὶ ἄξιον θανάτου πέπραχά τι, οὐ παραιτοῦμαι τὸ ἀποθανεῖν· εἰ δὲ οὐδέν ἐστιν ὧν οὔτοι κατηγοροῦσίν μου, οὐδεῖς με δύναται αὐτοῖς χαρίσασθαι· Καίσαρα ἐπικαλοῦμαι.

"If then I am doing wrong and have done something deserving death, I do not refuse to die; but if there is nothing to the charges these men bring against me, no one can hand me over to them as a favor. I appeal to Caesar!"

CONDITIONAL ANTITHESIS + APPEAL **εἰ μὲν οὖν ... εἰ δὲ** The rhetorical structure is a double conditional: the first (εἰ μὲν) concedes hypothetically that capital punishment would be just; the second (εἰ δὲ) — the real situation — argues that an acquittable case cannot be handed over as a political favor. The final three words Καίσαρα ἐπικαλοῦμαι are the juridical pivot of the whole Caesarean narrative: a formal appellatio Caesaris transferring jurisdiction to Rome. The present middle ἐπικαλοῦμαι ('I am appealing,' performative present) effects the legal act in the moment of utterance.

εἰ

if

conditional conjunction (first protasis)

μὲν

on the one hand

correlative particle (μὲν...δέ)

οὖν

therefore

inferential particle

ἀδικῶ

I am doing wrong

Pres Act Indic 1 Sg · ἀδικέω

verb in first conditional protasis

→ progressive present (if this is what I am doing)

ἀδικέω: 'do wrong'; picks up ἠδίκησα from v.10 — Paul inverts the charge into a hypothesis.

καὶ
and

coordinating conjunction

ἄξιον

worthy

Accusative

predicate adjective (accusative, with τι)

ἄξιος: 'worthy / deserving'; ἄξιον θανάτου = 'deserving death' — a fixed phrase in Acts (cf. 23:29; 26:31).

θανάτου

of death

Genitive

genitive of value/description (with ἄξιον)

θάνατος: death; as a penalty in Roman law.

πέπραχά

I have done

Perf Act Indic 1 Sg · πράσσω

verb in first conditional protasis

→ intensive perfect (if such a thing stands done by me)

πράσσω: 'do / practice'; the perfect emphasizes the standing result of any deed.

τι

anything

Accusative

accusative direct object

οὐ

not

negation

παραιτοῦμαι

I refuse

Pres Mid Indic 1 Sg · παραιτέομαι

main verb of first apodosis

→ progressive present (I am not now refusing, and will not)

παραιτέομαι: 'beg off / decline / refuse'; with infinitive, 'refuse to do.' Paul's willingness to face death if guilty is a forensic topos establishing good faith.

τὸ

the

Accusative

article (with articular infinitive)

ἀποθανεῖν

to die

Aor Act Inf · ἀποθνήσκω

articular infinitive (object of παραιτοῦμαι)

→ constative aorist (death as a single event)

ἀποθνήσκω: 'die'; the articular infinitive functions as a noun-object.

εἰ

but if

conditional conjunction (second protasis)

δὲ

but

adversative particle (correlating with μέν)

οὐδέν

nothing

Nominative

subject of second conditional

ἔστιν

is

Pres Act Indic 3 Sg · εἰμί

verb in second conditional protasis

→ gnomic present

ᾧν

of which

Genitive

genitive (partitive relative — none of what they charge)

οὗτοι

these men

Nominative

subject nominative (of κατηγοροῦσίν)

κατηγοροῦσίν

bring charges

Pres Act Indic 3 Pl · κατηγορέω

verb in relative clause

→ progressive present (ongoing accusations)

κατηγορέω: 'accuse'; see v.5.

μου

against me

Genitive

genitive of person accused

οὐδείς

no one

Nominative

subject nominative

με

me

Accusative

accusative direct object

δύναται

is able

Pres Mid Indic 3 Sg · δύναμαι

main verb of second apodosis

→ gnomic present (legal principle)

δύναμαι: 'be able'; the legal claim: acquittal cannot be overridden by political gift-giving.

αὐτοῖς

to them

Dative

dative of indirect object

χαρίσασθαι

to hand over as a favor

Aor Mid Inf · χαρίζομαι

complementary infinitive (with δύναται)

→ constative aorist (single act of political capitulation)

χαρίζομαι: 'give freely / hand over as a gift/favor'; here the judicial equivalent of a political bribe of acquittal.

Καίσαρα

Caesar

Accusative

accusative direct object (of ἐπικαλοῦμαι)

Καῖσαρ: the emperor; the appeal names Caesar as the authority invoked — a technical legal formula.

ἐπικαλοῦμαι

I appeal

Pres Mid Indic 1 Sg · ἐπικαλέω

main verb (performative present)

→ performative present (the act of appealing accomplished in speaking)

ἐπικαλέω: 'call upon / appeal to'; in the middle with an accusative, 'make formal appeal to'; Latin appellatio Caesaris. The present tense is performative — it accomplishes the legal act in utterance. This transfers jurisdiction to Rome and is irrevocable once accepted.

12 τότε ὁ Φῆστος συλλαλήσας μετὰ τοῦ συμβουλίου ἀπεκρίθη· Καίσαρα ἐπικέκλησαι, ἐπὶ Καίσαρα πορεύση.

Then Festus, after conferring with his advisory council, answered: "You have appealed to Caesar; to Caesar you shall go."

CONSEQUENT **τότε** τότε marks the immediate legal consequence. Festus must confer with his consilium (συμβούλιον) — the formal advisory body; the appeal cannot simply be denied. His response in two parallel clauses mirrors Paul's three-word appeal: the perfect ἐπικέκλησαι confirms its legal completion, and the future πορεύση announces its consequence.

<p>τότε then <i>temporal adverb (immediate consequence)</i></p>	<p>ὁ the Nominative <i>article</i></p>	<p>Φῆστος Festus Nominative <i>subject nominative</i></p>	<p>συλλαλήσας having conferred Aor Act Ptc Nom Sg Masc · συλλαλέω <i>adverbial participle (antecedent action)</i> → constative aorist (the formal consultation) συλλαλέω: 'converse with / confer'; the compound with σύν marks mutual deliberation — a formal process.</p>
<p>μετὰ with <i>preposition + genitive (association)</i></p>	<p>τοῦ the Genitive <i>article</i></p>	<p>συμβουλίου advisory council Genitive <i>genitive of association (with μετὰ)</i> συμβούλιον: 'council / advisory board'; the Roman governor's consilium — senior advisers consulted on legal decisions. Only here in Acts.</p>	<p>ἀπεκρίθη answered Aor Pass Indic 3 Sg · ἀποκρίνομαι <i>main verb</i> → constative aorist</p>

Καίσαρα

Caesar

Accusative

accusative direct object (of ἐπικέκλησαι)

ἐπικέκλησαι

you have appealed

Perf Mid Indic 2 Sg · ἐπικαλέω

main verb (declaration)

→ intensive perfect (the appeal stands completed and on record)

ἐπικαλέω: echoes Paul's ἐπικαλοῦμαι (v.11); the perfect confirms the completed legal act.

ἐπὶ

to

preposition + accusative (goal)

Καίσαρα

Caesar

Accusative

accusative of goal (with εἶμι implied)

πορεύση

you shall go

Fut Mid Indic 2 Sg · πορεύομαι

main verb (official pronouncement)

→ predictive future (the certain consequence of the appeal)

πορεύομαι: 'go / travel'; the future is here an official pronouncement with legal force.

13 Ἡμερῶν δὲ διαγενομένων τινῶν Ἀγρίππας ὁ βασιλεὺς καὶ Βερνίκη κατήντησαν εἰς Καισάρειαν ἀσπασάμενοι τὸν Φῆστον.

After some days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to greet Festus.

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION (NEW SCENE) **δὲ** A genitive absolute (Ἡμερῶν διαγενομένων τινῶν) transitions to the new episode. Agrippa II (son of Herod Agrippa I, cf. 12:1) ruled a northern territory; his presence at Caesarea to greet the new procurator is a diplomatically expected courtesy visit that Luke turns into the setting for Paul's greatest defense.

ἡμερῶν

days

Genitive

genitive absolute subject

δὲ

and

continuative particle

διαγενομένων

having passed

Aor Mid Ptc Gen Pl · διαγίνομαι

genitive absolute (temporal)

→ constative aorist (elapsed time)

διαγίνομαι: 'pass by / elapse' (of time); only here and 27:9 in Acts.

τινῶν

some

Genitive

genitive (partitive adjective modifying ἡμερῶν)

Ἀγρίππας

Agrippa

Nominative

subject nominative

Ἀγρίππας: Herod Agrippa II (c. AD 27–100), son of Agrippa I; ruled territories northeast of Galilee; well-versed in Jewish affairs (cf. 26:3).

ὁ

the

Nominative

article

βασιλεύς

king

Nominative

apposition (title)

βασιλεύς: 'king'; Agrippa held this title though ruling under Roman oversight.

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction

Βερνίκη

Bernice

Nominative

subject nominative (compound)

Βερνίκη: Bernice, Agrippa II's sister (and, according to Josephus, reportedly his consort — a scandalous relationship noted by contemporaries including Juvenal).

κατήντησαν

arrived

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · καταντάω

main verb

→ constative aorist (arrival)

καταντάω: 'arrive / come to'; a Lukan travel word (cf. 16:1; 18:19).

εἰς

at

preposition + accusative (goal)

Καيسάρειαν

Caesarea

Accusative

accusative of goal

ἀσπασάμενοι

to greet

Aor Mid Ptc Nom Pl Masc · ἀσπάζομαι

adverbial participle (purpose/attendant circumstance)

→ constative aorist (the greeting visit)

ἀσπάζομαι: 'greet / welcome'; a courtesy visit to congratulate the incoming procurator.

τὸν

the

Accusative

article

Φῆστον

Festus

Accusative

accusative direct object (of ἀσπασάμενοι)

14 ὥς δὲ πλείους ἡμέρας διέτριβον ἐκεῖ, ὁ Φῆστος τῷ βασιλεῖ ἀνέθετο τὰ κατὰ τὸν Παῦλον λέγων· Ἄνὴρ τίς ἐστιν καταλειμμένος ὑπὸ Φήλικος δέσμιος,

As they stayed there for several days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying: "There is a man who was left a prisoner by Felix,

TEMPORAL CIRCUMSTANCE **ὥς δὲ** Festus's extended narration to Agrippa (vv.14–21) functions as an embedded summary of the whole preceding episode, allowing Luke to re-present key events from the procurator's perspective. The perfect participle καταλειμμένος stresses the ongoing situation: Paul remains in custody as a legacy case.

ὥς

as / while

temporal conjunction

δὲ

and

continuative particle

πλείους

several

Accusative

attributive adjective (comparative)

πλείων: 'more / several'; plural of many days.

ἡμέρας

days

Accusative

accusative of extent (duration)

διέτριβον

were staying

Impf Act Indic 3 Pl · διατρίβω

main verb

→ progressive imperfect (ongoing stay)

διατρίβω: 'spend time / stay'; see v.6.

ἐκεῖ

there

adverb of place

ὁ

the

Nominative

article

Φῆστος

Festus

Nominative

subject nominative

τῷ

to the

Dative

article

βασιλεῖ

king

Dative

dative of indirect object

ἀνέθετο

laid out / referred

Aor Mid Indic 3 Sg · ἀνατίθημι

main verb

→ constative aorist (single act of briefing)

ἀνατίθημι: 'set before / refer / lay out!'; the middle voice indicates consulting for advice or information; used of Paul laying his gospel before the Jerusalem leaders (Gal 2:2).

τὰ

the things

Accusative

accusative direct object (articular, neuter plural = 'the circumstances')

κατά

concerning

preposition + accusative (reference)

τὸν

the

Accusative

article

Παῦλον

Paul

Accusative

accusative (object of κατά)

λέγων

saying

Pres Act Ptc Nom Sg Masc · λέγω

adverbial participle (manner — introducing direct speech)

→ progressive present

ἄνθρωπος

A man

Nominative

subject nominative

ἄνθρωπος: 'man!'; the indefinite ἄνθρωπος τίς introduces Paul as if unknown to Agrippa.

τίς

a certain

Nominative

indefinite pronoun (attributive)

ἐστίν

is

Pres Act Indic 3 Sg · εἰμί

main verb

→ *gnomic present*

καταλειπόμενος

left behind

Perf Pass Ptc Nom Sg Masc · καταλείπω

predicate participle (with ἐστίν — periphrastic perfect)

→ *intensive perfect (still in custody as Felix left him)*

καταλείπω: 'leave behind!'; the perfect passive periphrastic stresses the ongoing state: Paul has been left and remains in custody.

ὑπὸ

by

preposition + genitive (agent of passive)

Φήλικος

Felix

Genitive

genitive of agent

Φήλιξ: Antonius Felix, procurator of Judaea c. AD 52–59; left Paul imprisoned when recalled (24:27).

δέσμιος

a prisoner

Nominative

predicate nominative (with ἐστίν)

δέσμιος: 'prisoner / one in bonds!'; from δέω ('bind'). Paul's legal status.

15 **περὶ οὗ** γενομένου μου εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἐνεφάνισαν οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ πρεσβύτεροι τῶν Ἰουδαίων αἰτούμενοι κατ' αὐτοῦ καταδίκην.

about whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, asking for a judgment of condemnation against him.

ELABORATION (RELATIVE CLAUSE NARRATIVE) **περὶ οὗ** Festus recounts the Jerusalem events from his own perspective. The key word is καταδίκην ('condemnation') — the accusers requested a verdict, not just a hearing. Festus's use of the genitive absolute (γενομένου μου εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα) anchors the narrative chronologically.

περὶ

about

preposition + genitive (reference)

οὗ

whom

Genitive

genitive (relative, object of περι)

γενομένου

having come

Aor Mid Ptc Gen Sg Masc · γίνομαι

genitive absolute (temporal)

→ constative aorist (the visit to Jerusalem)

γίνομαι: 'come / be / happen'; γενομένου μου εἰς = 'when I came to!'

μου

I

Genitive

genitive absolute subject

εἰς

to

preposition + accusative (goal)

Ἱεροσόλυμα

Jerusalem

Accusative

accusative of goal

ἐνεφάνισαν

informed

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · ἐμφανίζω

main verb

→ constative aorist

ἐμφανίζω: see v.2; Festus uses the same legal term.

οἱ

the

Nominative

article

ἀρχιερεῖς

chief priests

Nominative

subject nominative

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction

οἱ

the

Nominative

article

πρεσβύτεροι

elders

Nominative

subject nominative (compound)

πρεσβύτερος: 'elder'; the lay aristocratic leaders of Jerusalem alongside the priestly establishment.

τῶν

of the

Genitive

article

Ἰουδαίων

Jews

Genitive

partitive genitive

αἰτούμενοι

asking for

Pres Mid Ptc Nom Pl Masc · αἰτέω

adverbial participle (purpose/manner)

→ progressive present

αἰτέω: see v.3.

κατ'

against

preposition + genitive (opposition)

αὐτοῦ

him

Genitive

genitive of opposition

καταδίκη

condemnation

Accusative

accusative direct object

καταδίκη: 'sentence of condemnation'; a legal term; they wanted a verdict, not merely a hearing. Harax legomenon in the NT.

16 πρὸς οὓς ἀπεκρίθην ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἔθος Ῥωμαίοις χαρίζεσθαι τινα ἄνθρωπον πρὶν ἢ ὁ κατηγορούμενος κατὰ πρόσωπον ἔχει τοὺς κατηγοροὺς τόπον τε ἀπολογίας λάβοι περὶ τοῦ ἐγκλήματος.

To them I answered that it is not the custom of the Romans to hand anyone over as a favor before the accused has met the accusers face to face and has had an opportunity to make his defense regarding the charge.

REPORTED SPEECH (FESTUS'S EARLIER REPLY) **πρὸς οὓς** Festus quotes his own earlier reply to the Jerusalem authorities, appealing to Roman legal custom (ἔθος Ῥωμαίοις). The two optatives (ἔχει, λάβοι) are in indirect speech after a verb of speaking; they express the required conditions before any surrender. This is Luke's implicit vindication of Roman justice as Paul's protective shield.

πρὸς

to

preposition + accusative (address/reply to)

οὓς

whom

Accusative

accusative (relative, object of πρὸς)

ἀπεκρίθην

I answered

Aor Pass Indic 1 Sg· ἀποκρίνομαι

main verb

→ constative aorist

ὅτι

that

conjunction introducing indirect statement

οὐκ

not

negation

ἔστιν

is

Pres Act Indic 3 Sg · εἰμί

main verb

→ *gnomic present (legal custom)*

ἔθος

custom

Nominative

subject nominative (predicate: 'it is not the custom')

ἔθος: 'custom / practice'; an appeal to Roman mos maiorum (ancestral custom) gives weight to the refusal.

Ῥωμαίους

for Romans

Dative

dative of reference / possession

Ῥωμαῖος: 'Roman!'; Festus appeals to Roman legal identity as the standard.

χαρίζεσθαι

to hand over as a favor

Pres Mid Inf · χαρίζομαι

subject infinitive (with ἔστιν ἔθος)

→ *progressive present (as a general practice)*

χαρίζομαι: see v.11; Festus echoes Paul's own word from v.11 — Paul has already anticipated this defense.

τινα

anyone

Accusative

accusative direct object

ἄνθρωπον

person

Accusative

accusative in apposition to τινα

πρὶν

before

temporal conjunction (with ἦ + optative)

ἢ

than

comparative/complementary particle (with πρὶν)

ὁ

the

Nominative

article (with participle)

κατηγορούμενος

accused

Pres Pass Ptc Nom Sg Masc · κατηγορέω

substantival participle (subject of optative clauses)

→ *progressive present (the one being accused)*

κατηγορέω: here passive as a substantival participle: 'the accused.'

κατὰ

face to face

preposition + accusative (κατὰ πρόσωπον = 'face to face')

πρόσωπον

face

Accusative

idiom (κατὰ πρόσωπον = face to face, in person)

πρόσωπον: 'face'; κατὰ πρόσωπον is a Semitism meaning 'before the face of / face to face!'

ἔχοι

should have

Pres Act Opt 3 Sg · ἔχω

verb in temporal clause (optative after πρὶν ἢ, indirect speech)

→ progressive present optative (ongoing confrontation)

ἔχω: 'have / meet!'

τοὺς

the

Accusative

article

κατηγοροὺς

accusers

Accusative

accusative direct object

κατήγορος: 'accuser'; the Latin equivalent is *accusator*.

τόπον

opportunity

Accusative

accusative direct object (of λάβοι)

τόπος: 'place / opportunity'; τόπον λαμβάνω = 'receive the opportunity!'

τε

and

connective particle (linking ἔχοι and λάβοι)

ἀπολογίας

of defense

Genitive

genitive (objective: opportunity for defense)

ἀπολογία: 'defense / reply'; the noun related to ἀπολογέομαι (v.8).

λάβοι

might receive

Aor Act Opt 3 Sg · λαμβάνω

verb in temporal clause (second optative after πρὶν ἢ)

→ constative aorist optative (the receiving of opportunity)

περὶ

concerning

preposition + genitive (reference)

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article

ἐγκλήματος

charge

Genitive

genitive of reference (with περὶ)

ἐγκλημα: 'charge / indictment'; the formal legal charge. Appears only here and 23:29 in NT.

17 συνελθόντων οὖν αὐτῶν ἐνθάδε ἀναβολὴν μηδεμίαν ποιησάμενος τῇ ἐξῆς καθίσας ἐπὶ τοῦ βήματος ἐκέλευσα ἀχθῆναι τὸν ἄνδρα.

So when they had gathered here, I made no delay, but the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought.

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION (CONSEQUENCE) οὖν Festus demonstrates his procedural correctness: upon the Jerusalem accusers arriving in Caesarea he proceeded immediately (ἀναβολὴν μηδεμίαν ποιησάμενος — 'making no delay at all'). This echoes the account of v.6 but now from Festus's own self-presentation to Agrippa.

συνελθόντων

having come together

Aor Act Ptc Gen Pl Masc · συνέρχομαι

genitive absolute (temporal)

→ constative aorist (the gathering)

συνέρχομαι: 'come together / assemble.'

οὖν

therefore

inferential particle

αὐτῶν

they

Genitive

genitive absolute subject

ἐνθάδε

here

adverb of place

ἀναβολὴν

delay

Accusative

accusative direct object (of ποιησάμενος)

ἀναβολή: 'postponement / delay'; used in legal contexts for a deferral of hearing; ἀναβολὴν ποιέομαι = 'make a delay.' Hapax in NT.

μηδεμίαν

no

Accusative

negative adjective (emphatic: not even one)

ποιησάμενος

having made

Aor Mid Ptc Nom Sg Masc · ποιέω

adverbial participle (attendant circumstance / manner)

→ constative aorist (single act of proceeding without delay)

τῇ

on the

Dative

article (temporal dative)

ἐξῆς

next day

Dative

dative of time (τῇ ἐξῆς = *on the following day*)

ἐξῆς: 'following / next'; temporal adverb used with article as substantive.

καθίσας

having sat down

Aor Act Ptc Nom Sg Masc · καθίζω

adverbial participle (attendant circumstance)

→ constative aorist

καθίζω: see v.6.

ἐπὶ

on

preposition + genitive (position)

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article

βήματος

tribunal

Genitive

genitive of place

βῆμα: see vv.6,10.

ἐκέλευσα

I ordered

Aor Act Indic 1 Sg · κελεύω

main verb

→ constative aorist

ἀχθῆναι

to be brought

Aor Pass Inf · ἄγω

complementary infinitive

→ constative aorist

ἄγω: see v.6.

τὸν

the

Accusative

article

ἄνδρα

man

Accusative

accusative subject of infinitive

18 περὶ οὗ σταθέντες οἱ κατήγοροι οὐδεμίαν αἰτίαν ἔφερον ὧν ἐγὼ ὑπενόουν πονηρῶν,

About him, when the accusers stood up, they brought no charge of the evil things I was supposing;

ELABORATION (SURPRISE) **περὶ οὗ** Festus confesses his own prior assumptions (ὑπενόουν): he had expected serious criminal charges (πονηρῶν — 'evil/wicked things!'). The disappointment of those expectations sets up his astonished report of the actual subject (v.19). This is Luke's rhetorical device: a Roman official expected a crime but found theology.

περὶ

about

preposition + genitive (reference)

οὗ

whom

Genitive

genitive (relative)

σταθέντες

standing up

Aor Pass Ptc Nom Pl Masc · ἴστημι

adverbial participle (temporal — when they stood)

→ constative aorist (taking their position as accusers)

ἴστημι: 'stand'; the passive aorist 'were placed / stood up' — the formal posture for accusation.

οἱ

the

Nominative

article

κατηγοροὶ

accusers

Nominative

subject nominative

κατήγορος; see v.16.

οὐδεμίαν

no

Accusative

negative adjective

αἰτίαν

charge

Accusative

accusative direct object

αἰτία: 'charge / cause'; the basic legal term.

ἔφερον

were bringing

Impf Act Indic 3 Pl · φέρω

main verb

→ conative imperfect (they brought/tried to bring — and failed)

φέρω: 'bring / carry'; ἔφερον αἰτίαν = 'brought a charge.'

ᾧν

of what

Genitive

genitive (partitive relative — none of the things)

ἐγὼ

I

Nominative

subject nominative (emphatic)

ὑπενόουν

was supposing

Impf Act Indic 1 Sg · ὑπονοέω

main verb of relative clause

→ progressive imperfect (Festus's ongoing prior assumption)

ὑπονοέω: 'suppose / suspect'; the imperfect reflects what Festus had been expecting — a candid admission.

πονηρῶν

evil

Genitive

genitive (partitive adjective with ᾧν: 'none of the evil things')

πονηρός: 'evil / wicked / harmful'; Festus expected serious criminal charges.

19 ζητήματα δέ τινα περὶ τῆς ἰδίας δεισιδαιμονίας εἶχον πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ περὶ τινος Ἰησοῦ τεθνηκότος ὃν ἔφασκεν ὁ Παῦλος ζῆν.

but they had certain disputes with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus who had died, whom Paul claimed to be alive.

CLARIFICATION (CONTRAST) **δέ** This is the theological heart of Festus's report. The word δεισιδαιμονία can be neutral ('religion') or pejorative ('superstition'); Festus's tone is detached. His summary of Paul's proclamation — 'a certain Jesus who had died, whom Paul claimed to be alive' — reduces the resurrection to a disputed claim (ἔφασκεν) while inadvertently placing it at the center of the case.

ζητήματα

disputes

Accusative

accusative direct object (of εἶχον)

ζήτημα: 'disputed question / controversy'; a near-technical term for a disputed point (cf. 15:2; 18:15; 23:29).

δέ

but

adversative particle

τινα

certain

Accusative

indefinite adjective (modifying ζητήματα)

περὶ

about

preposition + genitive (reference)

τῆς

the

Genitive

article

ἰδίας

their own

Genitive

attributive adjective (possessive)

ἴδιος: 'one's own'; implies Festus distances himself from the dispute as an outsider.

δεισιδαιμονίας

religion

Genitive

genitive of reference

δεισιδαιμονία: can be 'religious devotion' (positive, cf. 17:22 δεισιδαιμονεστέρους) or 'superstition' (negative); Festus likely means it neutrally-dismissively as an outsider looking at an inner-Jewish dispute.

εἶχον

they had

Impf Act Indic 3 Pl · ἔχω

main verb

→ progressive imperfect (ongoing disputes)

ἔχω: 'have'; ζητήματα ἔχω πρὸς τινα = 'have disputes with someone.'

πρὸς
with

preposition + accusative (in relation to / with)

αὐτὸν
him

Accusative
accusative (object of πρὸς)

καὶ
and

coordinating conjunction

περὶ
about

preposition + genitive (reference)

τινος
a certain

Genitive
indefinite pronoun (modifying Ἰησοῦ)

Ἰησοῦ
Jesus

Genitive
genitive of reference (with περὶ)

Ἰησοῦς: the name; Festus uses the indefinite τινος — 'a certain Jesus' — marking his outsider perspective.

τεθνηκότος
who had died

Perf Act Ptc Gen Sg Masc · θνήσκω
attributive participle (modifying Ἰησοῦ)
→ intensive perfect (the state of being dead)

θνήσκω: 'die'; the perfect participle emphasizes the established fact of Jesus's death — making Paul's counter-claim all the more remarkable to Festus.

ὃν
whom

Accusative
accusative (subject of infinitive ζῆν)

ἔφασκεν
was claiming

Impf Act Indic 3 Sg · φάσκω
main verb of relative clause

→ progressive imperfect (Paul's repeated claim)

φάσκω: 'assert / claim'; suggests a claim being made rather than a fact being reported — Festus's epistemic distance.

ὁ
the

Nominative
article

Παῦλος
Paul

Nominative
subject nominative

ζῆν
to be alive

Pres Act Inf · ζάω
infinitive in indirect statement (acc. + inf.)

→ progressive present (the living state Paul asserts)

ζάω: 'live'; the present infinitive asserts ongoing life — the resurrection claim.

20 ἀπορούμενος δὲ ἐγὼ τὴν περὶ τούτων ζήτησιν ἔλεγον εἰ βούλοίτο πορεύεσθαι εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα κάκει κρίνεσθαι περὶ τούτων.

Being at a loss how to investigate these matters, I asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and to be tried there about these things.

EXPLANATORY **δὲ** Festus now supplies his motive for the Jerusalem proposal (cf. v.9): he was at a loss (ἀπορούμενος). The honest admission reveals that Festus did not know how to handle the dispute theologically and so tried procedurally to hand it back to the Jewish authorities. This mitigates somewhat his political compromise shown in v.9.

ἀπορούμενος

being at a loss

Pres Mid Ptc Nom Sg Masc · ἀπορέω
adverbial participle (causal — explaining the proposal)

→ progressive present (ongoing perplexity)

ἀπορέω: 'be at a loss / be perplexed'; used of genuine epistemic uncertainty (cf. Luke 24:4; John 13:22).

δὲ

and

continuative particle

ἐγὼ

I

Nominative
subject nominative (emphatic)

τὴν

the

Accusative
article

περὶ

concerning

preposition + genitive (reference)

τούτων

these things

Genitive
genitive of reference (with περὶ)

ζήτησιν

investigation

Accusative
accusative of respect / adverbial (ἀπορούμενος τὴν ζήτησιν = at a loss as to the investigation)

ζήτησις: 'inquiry / investigation / controversy'; related to ζήτημα (v.19).

ἔλεγον

I asked/said

Impf Act Indic 1 Sg · λέγω
main verb

→ progressive imperfect (the ongoing conversation / proposal)

λέγω: here in the sense of 'ask / propose'!

εἰ

whether

conjunction in indirect question

βούλοιο

he was willing

Pres Mid Opt 3 Sg · βούλομαι

verb in indirect question (optative in indirect speech)

→ progressive present optative

βούλομαι: 'wish / want'; the optative marks indirect speech in past context.

πορεύεσθαι

to go

Pres Mid Inf · πορεύομαι

complementary infinitive (with βούλοιο)

→ progressive present

εἰς

to

preposition + accusative (goal)

Ἱεροσόλυμα

Jerusalem

Accusative

accusative of goal

κάκεῖ

and there

adverb (crasis: καὶ + ἐκεῖ)

κάκεῖ: crasis of καὶ ἐκεῖ; 'and there!'

κρίνεσθαι

to be tried

Pres Pass Inf · κρίνω

complementary infinitive (second, coordinated with πορεύεσθαι)

→ progressive present

περὶ

concerning

preposition + genitive (reference)

τούτων

these things

Genitive

genitive of reference

21 τοῦ δὲ Παύλου ἐπικαλεσαμένου τηρηθῆναι αὐτὸν εἰς τὴν τοῦ Σεβαστοῦ διάγνωσιν, ἐκέλευσα τηρεῖσθαι αὐτὸν ἕως οὗ ἀναπέμψω αὐτὸν πρὸς Καίσαρα.

But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of the Augustus, I ordered him to be kept until I could send him up to Caesar.

NARRATIVE CONSEQUENCE **δὲ** Festus recounts the outcome: Paul's appeal (ἐπικαλεσαμένου — the same root as v.11–12) for the Σεβαστός's διάγνωσις ('official decision'). Σεβαστός is the Greek equivalent of Augustus, used as a title of the reigning emperor. The genitive absolute wraps the appeal in a subordinate frame, with the main clause (ἐκέλευσα) emphasizing Festus's obedience to Roman procedure.

τοῦ

of

Genitive

article (genitive absolute)

δὲ

but

adversative particle

Παύλου

Paul

Genitive

genitive absolute subject

ἐπικαλεσαμένου

having appealed

Aor Mid Ptc Gen Sg Masc · ἐπικαλέω

genitive absolute (temporal/causal)

→ constative aorist (the completed appeal)

ἐπικαλέω: see vv.11–12; Festus now uses this word in reporting Paul's appeal.

τηρηθῆναι

to be kept

Aor Pass Inf · τηρέω

complementary infinitive (content of appeal)

→ constative aorist

τηρέω: 'keep / guard'; Paul appeals to be held in Roman custody — not handed over.

αὐτὸν

him

Accusative

accusative subject of infinitive

εἰς

for

preposition + accusative (purpose/goal)

τὴν

the

Accusative

article

τοῦ

of the

Genitive

article

Σεβαστοῦ

Augustus

Genitive

genitive of source/agent (decision of the Augustus)

Σεβαστός: Greek equivalent of Latin Augustus; the imperial title, not a personal name. Here refers to Nero as the reigning emperor.

διάγνωσιν

decision

Accusative

accusative of goal (with εἰς)

διάγνωσις: 'investigation / official decision / judgment'; a legal-administrative term for an imperial ruling. Hapax in NT.

ἐκέλευσα

I ordered

Aor Act Indic 1 Sg · κελεύω

main verb

→ constative aorist

τηρεῖσθαι

to be kept

Pres Pass Inf · τηρέω

complementary infinitive

→ progressive present (ongoing custody)

αὐτόν

him

Accusative

accusative subject of infinitive

ἕως

until

temporal conjunction

οὗ

which time

Genitive

genitive (ἕως οὗ = until such time as)

ἀναπέμψω

I should send up

Aor Act Subj 1 Sg · ἀναπέμπω

verb in temporal clause (subjunctive after ἕως οὗ)

→ constative aorist (the single act of sending)

ἀναπέμπω: 'send up / refer'; the compound ἀνα- suggests sending to a higher authority (cf. Luke 23:7 where Pilate sends Jesus up to Herod).

αὐτόν

him

Accusative

accusative direct object

πρός

to

preposition + accusative (goal)

Καίσαρα

Caesar

Accusative

accusative of goal

22 Ἀγρίππας δὲ πρὸς τὸν Φῆστον· Ἐβουλόμην καὶ αὐτὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἀκούσαι. Αὔριον, φησίν, ἀκούσῃ αὐτοῦ.

Agrippa said to Festus: "I myself would like to hear the man." "Tomorrow," he says, "you shall hear him."

NARRATIVE TRANSITION (DIALOGUE) **δὲ** The exchange is rapid and vivid. Agrippa's imperfect ἐβουλόμην is a polite 'potential' or 'inchoative' imperfect ('I was wishing / I should like'); Festus's response using the historic present φησίν and the future ἀκούσῃ is decisive and immediate. The scene-setting audience is thus arranged.

Ἀγρίππας

Agrippa

Nominative
subject nominative

δὲ

and

continuative particle

πρὸς

to

preposition + accusative (address)

τὸν

the

Accusative
article

Φῆστον

Festus

Accusative
accusative (object of πρὸς)

Ἐβουλόμην

I would like

Impf Mid Indic 1 Sg· βούλομαι

main verb (polite imperfect)

→ inchoative/potential imperfect ('I have been wanting to / I should like')

βούλομαι: 'want / wish'; the imperfect here softens the request — a royal politeness.

καὶ

also / myself

adverbial particle (emphatic with αὐτός)

αὐτός

myself

Nominative
emphatic pronoun (subject intensifier)

<p>τοῦ the Genitive article</p>	<p>ἀνθρώπου man Genitive <i>genitive (object of ἀκοῦσαι — genitive of direct object with ἀκούω)</i></p>	<p>ἀκοῦσαι to hear Aor Act Inf · ἀκούω <i>complementary infinitive (with Ἐβουλόμην)</i> → constative aorist (a hearing as a single event) ἀκούω: 'hear!'; with genitive of person = 'hear (a person speak)!'</p>	<p>Αὔριον Tomorrow <i>temporal adverb</i></p>
<p>φησίν he says Pres Act Indic 3 Sg · φημί <i>parenthetical verb (historic present)</i> → historic present φημί: see v.5.</p>	<p>ἀκούση you shall hear Fut Mid Indic 2 Sg · ἀκούω <i>main verb</i> → predictive future (certain arrangement)</p>	<p>αὐτοῦ him Genitive <i>genitive (object of ἀκούση)</i></p>	

23 Τῇ οὖν ἐπαύριον ἐλθόντος τοῦ Ἀγρίππα καὶ τῆς Βερνίκης μετὰ πολλῆς φαντασίας καὶ εἰσελθόντων εἰς τὸ ἀκροατήριον σὺν τε χιλιάρχοις καὶ ἀνδράσιν τοῖς κατ' ἐξοχὴν τῆς πόλεως, καὶ κελεύσαντος τοῦ Φήστου, ἦχθη ὁ Παῦλος.

So the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent men of the city, and at Festus's command Paul was brought in.

CONSEQUENT (SCENE-SETTING) οὖν The elaborate scene-setting accumulates with three genitive absolutes (ἐλθόντος, εἰσελθόντων, κελεύσαντος) piling up before the simple main clause: ἦχθη ὁ Παῦλος. The contrast is deliberate — all the pomp of empire, and then Paul is simply 'brought!' φαντασία ('pomp / show / pageantry') is used nowhere else in the NT.

Τῇ

on the

Dative
article (temporal dative)

οὖν

therefore

inferential particle

ἐπαύριον

next day

Dative
dative of time

ἐλθόντος

having come

Aor Act Ptc Gen Sg Masc · ἔρχομαι
genitive absolute (temporal, first)

→ constative aorist

τοῦ

the

Genitive
article (genitive absolute)

Ἀγρίππα

Agrippa

Genitive
genitive absolute subject

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction

τῆς

the

Genitive
article

Βερνίκης

Bernice

Genitive
genitive absolute subject (compound)

μετὰ

with

preposition + genitive (accompaniment)

πολλῆς

great

Genitive
attributive adjective

φαντασίας

pomp

Genitive
genitive of accompaniment (with μετὰ)

φαντασία: 'show / pomp / pageantry'; from φαίνω ('appear'); NT hapax. The word evokes theatrical display.

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction

εἰσελθόντων

having entered

Aor Act Ptc Gen Pl Masc · εἰσέρχομαι
genitive absolute (temporal, second)

→ constative aorist

εἰς

into

preposition + accusative (goal)

τὸ

the

Accusative
article

ἄκροατήριον

audience hall

Accusative

accusative of goal

ἄκροατήριον: 'audience hall / auditorium'; from ἀκροάομαι ('hear'); the formal hall for official hearings in the praetorium at Caesarea. NT hapax.

σύν

with

preposition + dative (accompaniment)

τε

both

correlative particle (τε...καί)

χιλιάρχους

military tribunes

Dative

dative of accompaniment (with σύν)

χιλιάρχος: 'commander of a thousand / military tribune'; the senior Roman military officers of the garrison.

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction (second of τε...καί)

ἀνδράσιν

men

Dative

dative of accompaniment

τοῖς

the

Dative

article

κατ'

according to

preposition + accusative (standard/rank)

ἐξοχήν

prominence

Accusative

accusative (κατ' ἐξοχήν = pre-eminently, the leading men)

ἐξοχή: 'prominence / eminence'; κατ' ἐξοχήν = 'according to rank / the prominent men.' NT hapax.

τῆς

of the

Genitive

article

πόλεως

city

Genitive

genitive of source/possession

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction (introducing third genitive absolute)

κελεύσαντος

having commanded

Aor Act Ptc Gen Sg Masc · κελεύω

genitive absolute (temporal, third)

→ constative aorist

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article

Φήστου

Festus

Genitive

genitive absolute subject

ἤχθη

was brought

Aor Pass Indic 3 Sg · ἄγω

main verb

→ constative aorist (single act)

ἄγω: 'lead / bring'; simple and unadorned after the elaborate scene-setting.

ὁ

the

Nominative

article

Παῦλος

Paul

Nominative

subject nominative

24 καὶ φησιν ὁ Φῆστος Ἀγρίππα βασιλεῦ καὶ πάντες οἱ συμπαρόντες ἡμῖν ἄνδρες, θεωρεῖτε τοῦτον περὶ οὗ ἅπαν τὸ πλῆθος τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἐνέτυχόν μοι ἔν τε Ἱεροσολύμοις καὶ ἐνθάδε, βοῶντες μὴ δεῖν αὐτὸν ζῆν μηκέτι.

And Festus says: "King Agrippa and all men present with us, you see this man about whom the whole multitude of the Jews petitioned me both at Jerusalem and here, crying out that he ought to live no longer.

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION (FESTUS'S FORMAL ADDRESS) **καὶ** Festus addresses the formal assembly. The historic present φησιν heightens immediacy. The contrast between ἅπαν τὸ πλῆθος ('the whole multitude') and the subsequent Roman findings is rhetorically important. The clamor (βοῶντες — 'crying out') echoes the mob scenes of 22:22 and Luke 23:18.

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction

φησιν

says

Pres Act Indic 3 Sg · φημί

main verb (historic present)

→ historic present

ὁ

the

Nominative

article

Φῆστος

Festus

Nominative

subject nominative

Ἀγρίππα

Agrippa

Vocative

vocative (direct address)

βασιλεῦ

king

Vocative

vocative (title, in apposition)

βασιλεύς: 'king'; the voc. βασιλεῦ — a formal title of address.

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction

πάντες

all

Nominative

adjective (subject, with οἱ ἄνδρες)

οἱ

the

Nominative

article

συμπαρόντες

present with

Pres Act Ptc Nom Pl Masc · συμπάρειμι

attributive participle

→ progressive present

συμπάρειμι: 'be present together with'; a compound participle describing the assembled audience.

ἡμῖν

us

Dative

dative of association (with συμπαρόντες)

ἄνδρες

men

Nominative

subject nominative / vocative of address

θεωρεῖτε

you see

Pres Act Indic 2 Pl · θεωρέω

main verb (indicative or imperative — presenting Paul visually)

→ progressive present (visual attention)

θεωρέω: 'observe / see / behold'; Festus draws the assembly's attention to Paul physically before them.

τούτον

this man

Accusative

accusative direct object

περὶ

about

preposition + genitive (reference)

οὗ

whom

Genitive

genitive (relative, object of περὶ)

ἅπαν

all / the whole

Nominative

adjective (strengthened form of πᾶς)

ἅπας: 'all together / the whole'; stronger than πᾶς, emphasizing totality — the entire Jewish community's demand.

τὸ

the

Nominative

article

πλῆθος

multitude

Nominative

subject nominative

πλῆθος: 'multitude / crowd'; used in Acts for large assembled groups (cf. 4:32; 6:2).

τῶν

of the

Genitive

article

Ἰουδαίων

Jews

Genitive

partitive genitive

ἐνέτυχόν

petitioned

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · ἐντυγχάνω

main verb of relative clause

→ *constative aorist*

ἐντυγχάνω: 'intercede / petition / appeal to'; with dative of person petitioned and περί of the matter.

μοι

me

Dative

dative of indirect object

ἐν

in

preposition + dative (location)

τε

both

correlative particle (τε...καί)

Ἱεροσολύμοις

Jerusalem

Dative

dative of place

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction (second of τε...καί)

ἐνθάδε

here

adverb of place

βοῶντες

crying out

Pres Act Ptc Nom Pl Masc · βοάω

adverbial participle (manner)

→ *progressive present (sustained clamor)*

βοάω: 'cry out / shout'; the vivid present participle captures the urgency and emotion of the crowd's demand.

μὴ

not

negation (with infinitive)

δεῖν

to need / ought

Pres Act Inf · δεῖ

infinitive in indirect statement (content of the cry)

→ *progressive present*

δεῖ: 'it is necessary'; in indirect statement after βοῶντες.

αὐτὸν

him

Accusative

accusative subject of infinitive (with δεῖν)

ζῆν

to live

Pres Act Inf · ζάω

complementary infinitive (with δεῖν — subject ought not to live)

→ *progressive present (the ongoing life they want ended)*

ζάω: 'live'; echoes the claim of v.19 — there Paul claimed a dead man lives; here the crowd demands the living man die.

μηκέτι

any longer

temporal negation (μή + ἔτι)

25 ἐγὼ δὲ κατελάβομην μηδὲν ἄξιον αὐτὸν θανάτου πεπραχέναι· αὐτοῦ δὲ τούτου ἐπικαλεσαμένου τὸν Σεβαστόν, ἔκρινα πέμπειν.

But I found that he had done nothing deserving death; and since this man himself had appealed to the Augustus, I decided to send him.

ADVERSATIVE (FESTUS'S OWN FINDING VS. THE CROWD'S DEMAND) **δὲ** Festus's personal finding (κατελάβομην — 'I apprehended / came to understand') stands against the mob's clamor: he found nothing capital (μηδὲν ἄξιον θανάτου πεπραχέναι, echoing Paul's own language from v.11). The repeated appeal (ἐπικαλεσαμένου) explains his decision; ἔκρινα πέμπειν is the formal judicial decision.

ἐγὼ

I

Nominative

subject nominative (emphatic — Festus's personal verdict)

δὲ

but

adversative particle

κατελάβομην

found / apprehended

Aor Mid Indic 1 Sg · καταλαμβάνω

main verb

→ constative aorist (the conclusion reached)

καταλαμβάνω: 'seize / apprehend / comprehend'; in the middle, 'come to understand / find upon examination!'

μηδὲν

nothing

Accusative

accusative direct object

ἄξιον

worthy

Accusative

predicate adjective

ἄξιος; see v.11; the same formula.

αὐτὸν

him

Accusative

accusative subject of infinitive

θανάτου

of death

Genitive

genitive of value (with ἄξιον)

πεπραχέναι

to have done

Perf Act Inf · πράσσω

infinitive in indirect statement (acc. + inf., object of κατελάβομην)

→ intensive perfect (nothing capital stands to his record)

πράσσω: see v.11; same verb and aspect.

<p>αὐτοῦ of him Genitive <i>genitive absolute subject</i></p>	<p>δὲ and <i>continuative particle</i></p>	<p>τούτου this man Genitive <i>genitive absolute (intensive demonstrative, in apposition to αὐτοῦ)</i></p>	<p>ἐπικαλεσαμένου having appealed Aor Mid Ptc Gen Sg Masc · ἐπικαλέω <i>genitive absolute (causal)</i> → constative aorist ἐπικαλέω: the appeal echoes v.11 and 21.</p>
<p>τὸν the Accusative <i>article</i></p>	<p>Σεβαστόν Augustus Accusative <i>accusative direct object (of ἐπικαλεσαμένου)</i> Σεβαστός: see v.21.</p>	<p>ἔκρινα I decided Aor Act Indic 1 Sg · κρίνω <i>main verb</i> → constative aorist (formal judicial decision) κρίνω: 'judge / decide'; here the official decision to forward Paul to Rome.</p>	<p>πέμπειν to send Pres Act Inf · πέμπω <i>complementary infinitive (with ἔκρινα)</i> → progressive present (the sending as an ongoing process) πέμπω: 'send'; the simple verb chosen over the more loaded ἀναπέμπω (v.21).</p>

26 περὶ οὗ ἀσφαλές τι γράψαι τῷ κυρίῳ οὐκ ἔχω· διὸ προήγαγον αὐτὸν ἐφ' ὑμῶν καὶ μάλιστα ἐπὶ σοῦ, βασιλεῦ Ἀγρίππα, ὅπως τῆς ἀνακρίσεως γενομένης σχῶ τι γράψαι.

about whom I have nothing definite to write to my lord; therefore I have brought him before you all, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the examination has taken place I may have something to write.

EXPLANATORY (THE CORE PROBLEM) **περὶ οὗ** Festus states his dilemma plainly: he has nothing definite (ἀσφαλές) to write to the emperor. The word κύριος ('lord') applied to the emperor is significant – an early instance of imperial cultic language Luke records neutrally. The purpose clause (ὅπως...σχῶ τι γράψαι) explains why Agrippa's hearing is needed: Festus needs something legally cogent for the accompanying letter.

περὶ

about

preposition + genitive (reference)

οὗ

whom

Genitive

genitive (relative)

ἀσφαλές

definite / certain

Accusative

accusative direct object (of γράψαι)

ἀσφαλής: 'certain / reliable / definite';
from α- + σφάλλω ('not liable to fall'); used
in a legal sense of information that will
hold up. Cf. 21:34; 22:30.

τι

anything

Accusative

indefinite pronoun (modifying ἀσφαλές)

γράψαι

to write

Aor Act Inf · γράφω

exegetical infinitive (with ἔχω — 'I have to write')

→ constative aorist (the composition of the letter)

γράφω: 'write'; the accompanying letter (litterae / elogium) was a required legal document for a prisoner sent on appeal.

τῷ

to the

Dative

article

κυρίῳ

lord

Dative

dative of indirect object

κύριος: 'lord'; applied here to the emperor (Nero) — one of the earliest attested uses of dominus as an imperial title. The irony in Luke-Acts (where κύριος is predominantly Jesus) is likely intentional.

οὐκ

not

negation

ἔχω

I have

Pres Act Indic 1 Sg · ἔχω

main verb

→ gnomic present (current state of knowledge)

ἔχω: 'have'; here 'have the ability / have material to.'

διὸ

therefore

inferential conjunction

διό: 'therefore' (strengthened form of διά + ὄ); draws the logical consequence.

προήγαγον

I brought forward

Aor Act Indic 1 Sg · προάγω

main verb

→ constative aorist (single act of presenting Paul)

προάγω: 'lead forward / bring before'; Festus has brought Paul before this assembled audience for examination.

αὐτὸν

him

Accusative

accusative direct object

ἐφ'

before

preposition + genitive (before, in presence of)

ὑμῶν

you (pl.)

Genitive

genitive (before all of you)

καὶ

and

coordinating conjunction

μάλιστα

especially

adverb (superlative — most of all)

μάλιστα: superlative of μάλα; 'especially / above all!'

ἐπὶ

before

preposition + genitive (judicial presence)

σοῦ

you

Genitive

genitive (before you personally)

βασιλεῦ

king

Vocative

vocative (direct address)

Ἀγρίππα

Agrippa

Vocative

vocative (apposition to βασιλεῦ)

ὅπως

so that

purpose conjunction

τῆς

the

Genitive

article (genitive absolute)

ἀνακρίσεως

examination

Genitive

genitive absolute subject

ἀνάκρισις: 'examination / preliminary hearing'; a technical legal term for a pre-trial investigation. Hapax in NT.

γενομένης

having taken place

Aor Mid Ptc Gen Sg Fem · γίνομαι

genitive absolute (temporal)

→ constative aorist

σχῶ

I may have

Aor Act Subj 1 Sg · ἔχω

main verb of purpose clause (subjunctive)

→ constative aorist subjunctive (purpose)

ἔχω: 'have'; the aorist σχῶ is the suppletive form from εἶχον.

τι

something

Accusative

accusative direct object

γράψαι

to write

Aor Act Inf · γράφω

epexegetic infinitive (with σχῶ)

→ constative aorist

27 ἄλογον γάρ μοι δοκεῖ πέμποντα δέσμιον μὴ καὶ τὰς αἰτίας σημάῃναι.

For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner without also indicating the charges against him.

EXPLANATORY GROUND γάρ γάρ provides the rationale for v.26: Roman procedure required a covering letter (elogium) specifying the charges when a prisoner was transferred. The word ἄλογον ('unreasonable / without reason') echoes Roman legal rationality. The chapter ends with the procedural problem still unsolved — creating the narrative necessity for the hearing of chapter 26.

ἄλογον

unreasonable

Accusative

predicate adjective (accusative in impersonal construction)

ἄλογος: 'without reason / irrational / unreasonable'; from α- + λόγος; only here in Acts.

γάρ

for

explanatory particle

μοι

to me

Dative

dative of reference (δοκεῖ μοι = it seems to me)

δοκεῖ

it seems

Pres Act Indic 3 Sg · δοκέω

main verb (impersonal)

→ *gnomic present*

δοκέω: 'seem / think'; δοκεῖ μοι = 'it seems to me / I think'; a common formula for personal judgment.

πέμποντα

sending

Pres Act Ptc Acc Sg Masc · πέμπω

adverbial participle (circumstantial — accusative, agreeing with implied subject of δοκεῖ)

→ *progressive present (the act of sending)*

πέμπω: 'send'; the participle agrees with the implied accusative subject (me, the sender).

δέσμιον

a prisoner

Accusative

accusative direct object (of πέμποντα)

δέσμιος: see v.14.

μὴ

not

negation (with infinitive)

καὶ

also

adverbial particle (emphatic: 'also / at the same time')

τὰς

the

Accusative

article

αἰτίας

charges

Accusative

accusative direct object (of σημάνας)

αἰτία: 'charge / cause'; the formal written charges required in a Roman transfer.

σημαῖνας

to indicate

Aor Act Inf · σημαίνω

subject infinitive (of ἄλογον ... δοκεῖ, with πέμποντα)

→ constative aorist (the single act of specifying charges in writing)

σημαίνω: 'indicate / signify / report'; used in Acts for official reporting (cf. 11:28; 25:27). The chapter ends on a note of bureaucratic necessity that drives the narrative into ch. 26.

On the text. The chapter records the second Roman hearing of Paul, this time before the new procurator Porcius Festus (succeeded Felix, c. AD 59/60). Three movements dominate. First, the Jerusalem high-priestly party petitions Festus to transfer Paul to Jerusalem for trial — intending, Luke notes, to ambush and kill him en route (25:1–5); Festus declines, inviting the accusers to Caesarea. Second, the brief Caesarean hearing (25:6–12): the Jews level serious but evidentially thin charges; Paul denies all; Festus, eager to curry favor with Jerusalem, asks whether Paul would consent to being tried there — provoking Paul's climactic appeal to Caesar (Καίσαρα ἐπικαλοῦμαι, v.11), the juridical pivot of the last chapters of Acts. Once made, the appeal is legally binding: Festus confers with his advisory council (συμβούλιον, v.12) and grants it. Third, the consultative visit of Agrippa II and Bernice (25:13–27): Festus briefs the king on the strange case, acknowledging that he found Paul guilty of nothing worthy of death (v.25), yet is unable to articulate clear charges to accompany a prisoner to the emperor's court. The chapter closes with Agrippa agreeing to hear Paul personally — setting up the great defense speech of chapter 26. The key crux is 25:11: the present-tense middle ἐπικαλοῦμαι ('I appeal') carries technical legal force (Latin appellatio Caesaris), transferring jurisdiction to Rome. The legal procedure presupposes Roman citizenship (cf. 22:25–29), and Paul's use of it is the decisive turning point that ensures his transport to Rome.

On the labels. Parsing gives Tense·Voice·Mood·Person·Number (+ Case·Number·Gender for participles) and lemma. The *syntactic-function* and **semantic-force** tiers follow standard intermediate-grammar categories (e.g. Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the*

Basics); both involve interpretive judgment, and the majority reading has been chosen where opinions differ. Lexical notes condense commonly cited data (etymology, sense range, synonym contrasts, NT frequency, OT/LXX echoes) and are no substitute for a lexicon.

On the discourse tier. Discourse structure operates above the word, so it is shown at the clause/verse level (the connective, the relation it signals, and the role of the clause) and summarized in the chapter outline. Relation labels, any proposed chiasm, and the paragraph divisions reflect a common reading of the argument; other discourse analyses segment and label some relations differently.