

¹فَتَقَرَّسَ بُولُسُ فِي الْمَجْمَعِ وَقَالَ: أَيُّهَا الرِّجَالُ الْإِخْوَةُ، إِنِّي بِكُلِّ صَمِيرٍ صَالِحٍ قَدْ عِشْتُ لِلَّهِ إِلَى هَذَا الْيَوْمِ.² فَأَمَرَ خَتَانِيَا، رَيْسُ الْكَهَنَةِ، الْوَاقِفِينَ عِنْدَهُ أَنْ يَضْرِبُوهُ عَلَى قِمِهِ.³ جَبِينِيذَ قَالَ لَهُ بُولُسُ: سَيَضْرِبُكَ اللَّهُ، أَيُّهَا الْخَائِطُ الْمُبَيِّضُ، أَقَانْتُ جَالِسٌ تَحْكُمَ عَلَيَّ حَسَبَ النَّامُوسِ وَأَنْتَ تَأْمُرُ بِضَرْبِي مُخَالِفًا لِلنَّامُوسِ؟⁴ فَقَالَ الْوَاقِفُونَ: أَنْتَ سَتَمُرُ رَيْسَ كَهَنَةِ اللَّهِ؟⁵ فَقَالَ بُولُسُ: لَمْ أَكُنْ أَغْرِفُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، أَنَّهُ رَيْسُ كَهَنَةٍ لِأَنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: "رَيْسُ سَعْيِكَ لَا تَقُلْ فِيهِ سُوءًا".

⁶وَلَمَّا عَلِمَ بُولُسُ أَنَّ قِسْمًا مِنْهُمْ صَدُوقِيُّونَ وَالْآخَرُ قَرَّسِيُّونَ صَرَخَ فِي الْمَجْمَعِ: أَيُّهَا الرِّجَالُ الْإِخْوَةُ، أَنَا قَرَّسِيٌّ ابْنُ قَرَّسِيٍّ، عَلَى رَجَاءِ قِيَامَةِ الْأَمْوَاتِ أَنَا أَحَاكُمُ.⁷ وَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا حَدَثَتْ مُتَارَعَةٌ بَيْنَ الْقَرَّسِيِّينَ وَالصَّدُوقِيِّينَ وَانْسَقَبَتِ الْجَمَاعَةُ.⁸ لِأَنَّ الصَّدُوقِيِّينَ يَقُولُونَ إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ قِيَامَةٌ وَلَا مَلَكَ وَلَا رُوحَ، وَأَمَّا الْقَرَّسِيُّونَ فَيَقْفِرُونَ بِكُلِّ ذَلِكَ.⁹ فَحَدَّثَ صَيَاخٌ عَظِيمٌ وَتَهَصَّنَ كَتَبُهُ قِسْمُ الْقَرَّسِيِّينَ وَطَفِقُوا يُخَاصِمُونَ قَائِلِينَ: لَسْنَا نَجِدُ شَيْئًا رَدْبًا فِي هَذَا الْإِنْسَانِ، وَإِنْ كَانَ رُوحٌ أَوْ مَلَكَ قَدْ كَلَّمَهُ فَلَا نُحَارِبَنَّ اللَّهَ.

¹⁰وَلَمَّا حَدَثَتْ مُتَارَعَةٌ كَثِيرَةٌ اخْتَشَى الْأَمِيرُ أَنْ يَفْسَحُوا بِبُولُسٍ، فَأَمَرَ الْعَسْكَرَ أَنْ يَنْزِلُوا وَيَحْتَصِفُوهُ مِنْ وَسْطِهِمْ وَيَأْتُوا بِهِ إِلَى الْمُعَسَّكِرِ.¹¹ وَفِي اللَّيْلَةِ الثَّلَاثَةِ وَقَفَ بِهِ الرَّبُّ وَقَالَ: ثِقْ، يَا بُولُسُ، لِأَنَّكَ كَمَا سَهَدْتَ بِمَا لِي فِي أَوْرَشَلِيمَ هَكَذَا يَتَّبِعِي أَنْ تَشْهَدَ فِي رُومِيَّةٍ أَيْضًا.

مَكِيدَةُ قَتْلِ الرَّسُولِ بُولُسِ

¹²وَلَمَّا صَارَ النَّهَارُ صَنَعَ بَعْضُ الْيَهُودِ اتِّفَاقًا وَحَرَمُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ قَائِلِينَ: إِنَّهُمْ لَا يَأْكُلُونَ وَلَا يَشْرَبُونَ حَتَّى يَقْتُلُوا بُولُسَ.¹³ وَكَانَ الَّذِينَ صَنَعُوا هَذَا التَّخَالَفَ أَكْثَرُ مِنْ أَرْبَعِينَ.¹⁴ فَتَقَدَّمُوا إِلَى رُؤَسَاءِ الْكَهَنَةِ وَالشُّيُوخِ وَقَالُوا: قَدْ حَرَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا جِزْمًا أَنْ لَا تَذُوقَ شَيْئًا حَتَّى تَقْتُلَ بُولُسَ.¹⁵ وَالْآنَ أَعْلِمُوا الْأَمِيرَ أَنَّكُمْ مَعَ الْمَجْمَعِ لِكَيْ يَنْزِلَهُ إِلَيْكُمْ عَدَا كَأَنَّكُمْ مُرْمِعُونَ أَنْ تَفْخَضُوا بِأَكْثَرِ تَذْقِيقِ عَمَّا لَهُ، وَتَحْنُ، قَبْلَ أَنْ يَقْتَرِبَ، مُسْتَعِدُّونَ لِقَتْلِهِ.¹⁶ وَلَكِنَّ ابْنَ أَحْبَ بُولُسَ سَمِعَ بِالْكَمِينَ فَجَاءَ وَدَخَلَ الْمُعَسَّكِرَ وَأَجْبَرَ بُولُسَ.¹⁷ فَاسْتَدْعَى بُولُسَ وَاجِدًا مِنْ قُوَادِ الْمَنَاتِ وَقَالَ: اذْهَبْ بِهَذَا النَّسَابِ إِلَى الْأَمِيرِ لِأَنَّ عِنْدَهُ شَيْئًا يُخِيرُهُ بِهِ.¹⁸ فَأَحْذَهُ وَأَخْصَرَهُ إِلَى الْأَمِيرِ وَقَالَ: اسْتَدْعَانِي الْأَسِيرُ

¹And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.²And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.³Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?⁴And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest?⁵Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.⁶But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.⁷And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided.⁸For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.⁹And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God.¹⁰And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle.¹¹And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer,

بُولُسُ وَطَلَبَ أَنْ أُخْضَرَ هَذَا الشَّابَّ إِلَيْكَ وَهُوَ عِنْدَهُ
 شَيْءٌ لِيَقُولَهُ لَكَ.¹⁹ فَأَخَذَ الْأَمِيرُ يَدَيْهِ وَتَحَى بِهِ مُنْفَرِداً
 وَاسْتَحْزَرَهُ: مَا هُوَ الَّذِي عِنْدَكَ لِتُخْبِرَنِي بِهِ؟²⁰ فَقَالَ: إِنَّ
 الْيَهُودَ تَعَاهَدُوا أَنْ يَطْلُبُوا مِنْكَ أَنْ تُنْزِلَ بُولُسَ عِداً إِلَى
 الْمَجْمَعِ كَأَنَّهُمْ مُزْمِعُونَ أَنْ يَسْتَحْجِرُوا عَنْهُ بِأَكْثَرِ
 تَذْقِيقٍ.²¹ فَلَا تَقْدِرُ إِلَيْهِمْ لِأَنَّ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ أَرْبَعِينَ رَجُلًا مِنْهُمْ
 كَامِنُونَ لَهُ، قَدْ حَرَمُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ أَنْ لَا يَأْكُلُوا وَلَا يَشْرَبُوا
 حَتَّى يَقْتُلُوهُ. وَهُمْ الْآنَ مُسْتَعِدُّونَ مُسْتَطَرِّوْنَ الْوَعْدَ
 مِنْكَ.²² فَأَطْلَقَ الْأَمِيرُ الشَّابَّ مُوصِياً إِياهُ أَنْ: لَا تَقُلْ
 لِأَحَدٍ إِنَّكَ أَعْلَمْتَنِي بِهِذَا.

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²³ ثُمَّ دَعَا اثْنَيْنِ مِنْ فُؤَادِ الْمَنَاتِ وَقَالَ: أَعِدَّا مَنِيَّ
 عَسْكَرِيَّ لِيَذْهَبُوا إِلَى قَيْصَرِيَّةَ وَسَبْعِينَ فَارِساً وَمَنِيَّ
 رَامِحٍ مِنَ السَّاعَةِ الثَّالِثَةِ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ،²⁴ وَأَنْ يُقَدِّمَا دَوَابَّ
 لِزُرْكِ بُولُسَ وَبُوصِلَاهُ سَالِماً إِلَى فِيلَكْسَ
 الْوَالِي. وَكَتَبَ رِسَالَةً خَاصَّةً هَذِهِ الصُّورَةَ:²⁵
²⁶ كَلُودِيُوسُ لِيَسِيَّاسُ يُهْدِي سَلاماً إِلَى الْعَزِيزِ فِيلَكْسَ
 الْوَالِي. هَذَا الرَّجُلُ لَمَّا أَمْسَكَهُ الْيَهُودُ وَكَانُوا مُزْمِعِينَ
 أَنْ يَقْتُلُوهُ أَقْبَلْتُ مَعَ الْعَسْكَرِ وَأَنْقَذْتُهُ إِذْ أُخِذْتُ أَنَّهُ
 رُومَانِيٌّ.²⁸ وَكُنْتُ أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَعْلَمَ الْعِلَّةَ الَّتِي لِأَجْلِهَا كَانُوا
 يَسْتَكُونُ عَلَيْهِ فَأَتَرْتُهُ إِلَى مَجْمَعِهِمْ،²⁹ فَوَجَدْتُهُ مَسْكُوراً
 عَلَيْهِ مِنْ جِهَةِ مَسَائِلِ تَامُوسِيهِمْ، وَلَكِنْ يَشْكُو تَسْجُوقَ
 الْمَوْتِ أَوْ الْقُبُودِ لَمْ تَكُنْ عَلَيْهِ،³⁰ ثُمَّ لَمَّا أَعْلِمْتُ بِمَكِيدَةِ
 عَتِيدَةٍ أَنْ تُصِيبَ عَلَى الرَّجُلِ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ أَرْسَلْتُهُ لِلْوَقْتِ
 إِلَيْكَ أَمِيراً الْمُسْتَكِينِ أَيْضاً أَنْ يَقُولُوا لَدَيْكَ مَا عَلَيْهِ. كُنْ
 مُعَافِئاً.

³¹ فَالْعَسْكَرُ أَخَذُوا بُولُسَ كَمَا أَمَرُوا وَذَهَبُوا بِهِ لَيْلاً إِلَى
 أَنْبِيَّاتَرِيَسَ. وَفِي الْغَدِ تَرَكُوا الْفُرْسَانَ يَذْهَبُونَ مَعَهُ
 وَرَجَعُوا إِلَى الْمُعَسْكَرِ.³³ وَأُولَئِكَ لَمَّا دَخَلُوا قَيْصَرِيَّةَ
 وَدَفَعُوا الرِّسَالَةَ إِلَى الْوَالِي أَخْضَرُوا بُولُسَ أَيْضاً
 إِلَيْهِ.³⁴ فَلَمَّا قَرَأَ الْوَالِي الرِّسَالَةَ وَسَأَلَ، مِنْ أَبِيهِ وَلَايَةِ هُوَ
 وَوَجَدَ أَنَّهُ مِنْ كِيلِيكِيَّةَ،³⁵ قَالَ: سَأَسْمَعُكَ مَتَى حَضَرَ
 الْمُسْتَكُونُ عَلَيْكَ أَيْضاً. وَأَمَرَ أَنْ يُحْرَسَ فِي قَصْرِ
 هِيرُودُسَ.

Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.¹² And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.¹³ And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy.¹⁴ And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.¹⁵ Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to morrow, as though ye would enquire something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.¹⁶ And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.¹⁷ Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.¹⁸ So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.¹⁹ Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and went with him aside privately, and asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?²⁰ And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would enquire somewhat of him more perfectly.²¹ But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an

oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.²² So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.²³ And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night;²⁴ And provide them beasts, that they may set Paul on, and bring him safe unto Felix the governor.²⁵ And he wrote a letter after this manner:²⁶ Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix sendeth greeting.²⁷ This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, having understood that he was a Roman.²⁸ And when I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him forth into their council:²⁹ Whom I perceived to be accused of questions of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds.³⁰ And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what they had against him. Farewell.³¹ Then the soldiers, as it was commanded them, took Paul, and brought him by night to Antipatris.³² On the morrow they left the horsemen to go with him, and returned to the castle:³³ Who, when they came to Caesarea, and delivered the epistle to the governor, presented Paul also before him.³⁴ And when the governor

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had read the letter, he asked of what province he was. And when he understood that he was of Cilicia;³⁵ I will hear thee, said he, when thine accusers are also come. And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's judgment hall.