

ACTS

THE PERPETUAL POWER OF THE GOSPEL

“Spoken as One with Authority”

Acts 22:30-23:11

22:30 But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them.

23:1 And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.” **2** And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. **3** Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?”

4 Those who stood by said, “Would you revile God’s high priest?” 5 And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’” 6 Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.”

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7 And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. 9 Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?"

10 And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks. **11** The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”

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Two main points:

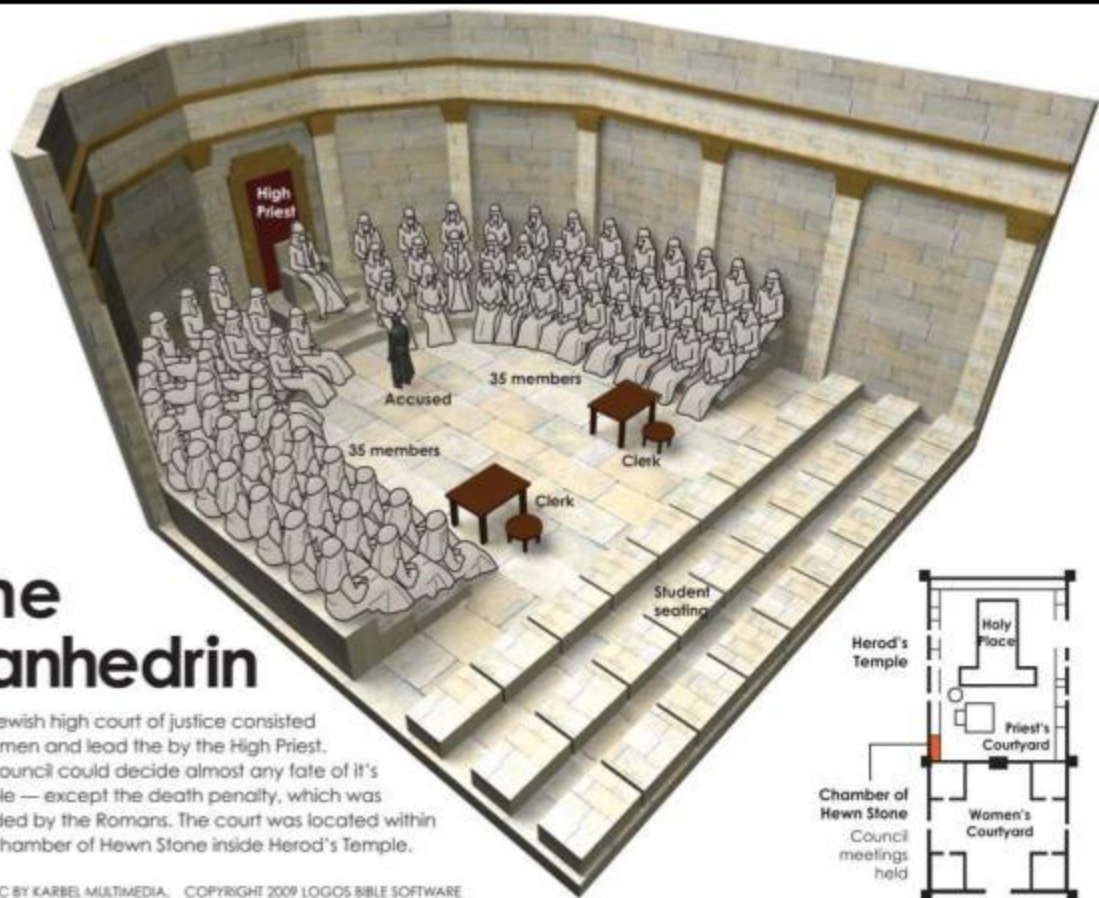
1. Jesus spoke with authority.
2. Why is this a good thing?

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The Sanhedrin

The Jewish high court of justice consisted of 71 men and led by the High Priest. The council could decide almost any fate of its people — except the death penalty, which was decided by the Romans. The court was located within the Chamber of Hewn Stone inside Herod's Temple.

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Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD. Fasten a blue cord to it to attach it to the turban; it is to be on the front of the turban. It will be on Aaron's forehead, and **he will bear the guilt** involved in the sacred gifts the Israelites consecrate, whatever their gifts may be: it will be on Aaron's forehead continually so that they will be acceptable to the LORD. - Exodus 28:36-38



Turban
Plate (Diadem)

Take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel in the order of their births—six names on one stone and the remaining six on the other. Engrave the names of the sons of Israel on the two stones the way a gem cutter engraves a seal. Then mount the stones in gold filigree settings and fasten them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. Aaron is to **bear the names on his shoulders** as a memorial before the LORD. - Exodus 28:9-5



Tunic
Breastpiece

Fashion a breastpiece for making decisions - the work of a skilled craftsman. Make it like the ephod, of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen. It is to be square - a span long and a span wide - and folded double. Then mount four rows of precious stones on it. In the first row there shall be a ruby, a topaz and a beryl; in the second row a turquoise, a sapphire and an emerald; in the third row a jacinth, an agate and an amethyst; in the fourth row a chrysolite, an onyx and a jasper. Mount them in gold filigree settings. There are to be twelve stones, one for each of the names of the sons of Israel, each engraved like a seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes. ...

Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, **he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart** on the breastpiece of decision as a continuing memorial before the LORD. - Exodus 28:15-21, 28

Ephod

Robe

Colossians 1 “For by him (or, ‘by means of him’) all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

John 1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not made anything that was made.”

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Four reasons why this is good news:

1. His authority is not corrupted by sin, so he will never abuse it.
2. His authority is an outpouring of his character and nature, which is good.
3. His authority was exemplified by service.
4. His authority can be trusted because he loves you so much he laid it aside to rescue you.

Ways Jesus still speaks to us:

1. personally / directly (e.g. prayer)
2. through others
3. Scripture

Ways to discern:

1. others to speak into it
2. prayer, wisdom from Holy Spirit
3. Scripture