

~MILITARY COMMANDER (103)

[Greek, *khi-li'ar-khos*]

- The Greek word *khi-li'ar-khos* or chiliarch means, commander of 1,000 soldiers. With the exception of its use in Revelation, it refers to a Roman military tribune. There were six tribunes in each Roman legion. The legion, however, was not divided into six different commands, rather, each tribune commanded the whole legion one sixth of the time. For each two-month period, two tribunes served on alternate days.

See Also ARMY (Roman)

- Such a **military commander** was vested with great authority. He nominated and assigned centurions. He presided at courts-martial and could order capital punishment. He had a body of attendants serving as aides. His rank was recognized by his dress, a purple stripe on his toga and a gold ring of distinction.

- At one time these tribunes were elected by the people, later the Senate and other civil or military personnel were primarily responsible for their appointment. Normally ten years infantry duty or five years in the cavalry were required. Augustus allowed sons of senators to begin their careers as tribunes. Tiberius reserved the right of appointment to himself.

- At the celebration of Herod's birthday these **commanders** were among the honored guests entertained by the dancer Salome. In the presence of such men of rank, Herod felt compelled to keep his oath and so ordered John the Baptizer beheaded.

- But a convenient day came along when Herod spread an evening meal on his birthday for his top-ranking men and the **military commanders** and the foremost ones of Galilee. (Mark 6:21)

- And the daughter of this very Herodias came in and danced and pleased Herod and those reclining with him. The king said to the maiden; Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you. (Mark 6:22)

- Yes, he swore to her; Whatever you ask me for, I will give it to you, up to half my kingdom. (Mark 6:23)

- And she went out and said to her mother; What should I ask for? She said; The head of John the baptizer. ([Mark 6:24](#))
- Immediately she went in with haste to the king and made her request, saying; I want you to give me right away on a platter the head of John the Baptist. ([Mark 6:25](#))
- Although he became deeply grieved, yet the king did not want to disregard her, in view of the oaths and those reclining at the table. ([Mark 6:26](#))
- A **military commander**, chiliarch, accompanied the soldiers who arrested Jesus.
- Then the soldier band and the **military commander** and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. ([John 18:12](#))
- In about **56 C.E.**, Claudius Lysias was the **military commander** of the Jerusalem garrison. He was the one who rescued Paul both from the street mob and from the rioting Sanhedrin and who wrote a letter of explanation to Governor Felix when Paul was secretly slipped down to Caesarea.
- And the whole city was set in an uproar, and a running together of the people occurred, and they laid hold of Paul and dragged him outside the temple. And immediately the doors were closed. ([Acts of Apostles 21:30](#))
- However, Felix, knowing quite accurately the matters concerning this Way, began to put the men off and said; Whenever Lysias the **military commander** comes down, I shall decide upon these matters involving you. ([Acts of Apostles 24:22](#))
- **Military commanders** were present in numbers when Paul appeared before Herod Agrippa II.
- Therefore, on the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with much pompous show and entered into the audience chamber together with **military commanders** as well as men of eminence in the city, and when Festus gave the command, Paul was brought in. ([Acts of Apostles 25:23](#))

- **Military commanders** are also mentioned in John's vision, in the book of Revelation, as being among those against whom God's judgments are executed.
- And the kings of the earth and the top-ranking ones and the **military commanders** and the rich and the strong ones and every slave and every free person hid themselves in the caves and in the rock-masses of the mountains. ([Revelation 6:15](#))
- That you may eat the fleshy parts of kings and the fleshy parts of **military commanders** and the fleshy parts of strong men and the fleshy parts of horses and of those seated upon them, and the fleshy parts of all, of freemen as well as of slaves and of small ones and great. ([Revelation 19:18](#))