

## ~PRAETORIAN GUARD (113)

- A special group of Roman soldiers, originally organized by Augustus as an imperial bodyguard for the emperor. It consisted of nine, later increased to ten, cohorts of 1,000 men each. They were all Italian volunteers, their pay was double or triple that of a soldier in the legions.
- Tiberius concentrated this corps delite in Rome by constructing fortified barracks North of the walls of the city. Though cohorts might be sent to foreign lands, three were always stationed in Rome, one being in barracks adjacent to the emperors palace.
- Since the Praetorian Guard were basically the only permanent troops in Italy, they came to constitute a powerful political force in supporting or overthrowing an emperor.
- Eventually the size and makeup of the Praetorian Guard changed, men from the provinces even being admitted. It was finally abolished by Emperor Constantine in 312 C.E.
- In the Gospels and Acts of Apostles, the Latinism *prai-to'ri-on* is used with regard to a palace or residence. The tent of an army commander had been known as *praetorium*, and so, in time, the term was applied to the residence of a provincial governor. Thus Pilate interrogated Jesus in the *praetorium*, or governor's palace.
- Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the governor's palace. It was now early in the day. But they themselves did not enter into the governor's palace, that they might not get defiled but might eat the Passover. (John 18:28)
- So Pilate entered into the governor's palace again and called Jesus and said to him; Are you the king of the Jews? (John 18:33)
- And he entered into the governor's palace again and said to Jesus; Where are you from? But Jesus gave him no answer. (John 19:9)
- Evidently there, judgments were rendered and troops were barracked.

- Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's palace and gathered the whole body of troops together to him. (**Matthew 27:27**)
- The soldiers now led him off into the courtyard, that is, into the governor's palace, and they called the whole body of troops together. (**Mark 15:16**)
- At Caesarea, Paul was kept under guard in the **praetorian** palace of Herod.
- I shall give you a thorough hearing, he said; when your accusers arrive also. And he commanded that he be kept under guard in the **praetorian** palace of Herod. (**Acts of Apostles 23:35**)

#### See Also GOVERNOR'S PALACE

- In view of this usage, some have suggested that *prai-to'ri-on* at;
- So that my bonds have become public knowledge in association with Christ among all the **Praetorian Guard** and all the rest. (**Philippians 1:13**)
- Applied to Neros palace on Palatine Hill or to a judgment hall where Paul's case might be heard. However, the *Cyclopaedia* by MClintock and Strong [Vol. VIII, p. 469] points out:
  - It was not the imperial palace, for this was never called *praetorium* in Rome, nor was it the judgment-hall, for no such building stood in Rome, and the name *praetoria* was not until much later applied to the courts of justice. When first imprisoned in Rome, Paul was permitted to stay by himself with the soldier guarding him.
- When, finally, we entered into Rome, Paul was permitted to stay by himself with the soldier guarding him. (**Acts of Apostles 28:16**)
- So his prison bonds would have become public knowledge in association with Christ among the soldiers of the **Praetorian Guard**, and especially so if his guard was changed daily. As a consequence, many translators understand *prai-to'ri-on* at;
- So that my bonds have become public knowledge in association

with Christ among all the **Praetorian Guard** and all the rest.  
(**Philippians 1:13**)

- To signify the **Praetorian Guard** and not some building or judicial body. **RS, NW, AS, TC**
- The **Textus Receptus** includes at;
- When, finally, we entered into Rome, Paul was permitted to stay by himself with the soldier guarding him. (**Acts of Apostles 28:16**)
- The centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard. **KJ** This latter officer has been explained by some to have been Sextus Afranius Burrus, the prefect of the **Praetorian Guard** under Nero until **62 C.E.**
- **Darby** even renders it: **the centurion delivered up the prisoners to the praetorian prefect.** However, **Darbys** version puts this material in brackets as an instance where there are variations in the manuscripts. Other modern versions omit the phrase altogether since it is not in ancient manuscripts such as the **Sinaitic, Alexandrine, and Vatican No. 1209**  
**RS, AT, NW, JB**