

4 Maccabees 4.2-14 [1st century CE]: the story of Simon and Apollonius (as parallel to Saul in Acts 9)

4:2 So **[Simon] came to Apollonius, governor of Syria, Phoenicia, and Cilicia**, and said, 4:3 "I have come here because I am loyal to the king's government, to report that in the Jerusalem treasuries there are deposited tens of thousands in private funds, which are not the property of the temple but belong to King Seleucus." 4:4 When **Apollonius** learned the details of these things, he praised Simon for his service to the king and **went up to Seleucus** to inform him of the rich treasure. 4:5 On **receiving authority to deal with this matter, he proceeded quickly to our country accompanied by the accursed Simon and a very strong military force**. 4:6 He said that he had come with the king's authority to seize the private funds in the treasury. 4:7 The people indignantly protested his words, considering it outrageous that those who had committed deposits to the sacred treasury should be deprived of them, and did all that they could to prevent it. 4:8 But, **uttering threats, Apollonius went on to the temple**. 4:9 While the priests together with women and children were imploring God in the temple to shield the holy place that was being treated so contemptuously, 4:10 and while Apollonius was going up with his armed forces to seize the money, **angels on horseback with lightning flashing from their weapons appeared from heaven, instilling in them great fear and trembling**. 4:11 **Then Apollonius fell down half dead in the temple area that was open to all, stretched out his hands toward heaven, and with tears besought the Hebrews to pray for him and propitiate the wrath of the heavenly army**. 4:12 For he said that he had committed a sin deserving of death, and that if he were delivered he would praise the blessedness of the holy place before all people. 4:13 **Moved by these words, Onias the high priest, although otherwise he had scruples about doing so, prayed for him lest King Seleucus suppose that Apollonius had been overcome by human treachery and not by divine justice**. 4:14 So Apollonius, having been preserved beyond all expectations, went away to report to the king what had happened to him.