

Chapter 10

Paul's Two-Year Imprisonment in Caesarea

Acts 23:33 – 27:2

A. ARRIVAL IN CAESAREA. Acts 23:33-35

1. The letter was delivered to the governor. **Acts 23:35**
2. Paul was presented to the governor. **Acts 23:35**
3. Paul was confined to Herod's judgment hall. **Acts 23:25**

Acts 24

B. PAUL APPEARED BEFORE FELIX THE GOVERNOR. Acts 24:1-9

1. It had been five days since Paul had arrived in Caesarea and twelve days since he had arrived in Jerusalem at the end of the 3rd missionary journey. **Acts 24:1**
2. Ananias, elders, and an orator named Tertullus arrived from Jerusalem to speak against Paul. **Acts 24:1**
3. Tertullus's speech. **Acts 24:5**
 - a. Flattered the governor. **Acts 24:2-3**
 - b. Accusations against Paul. **Acts 24:4-6**
 1. "For we have found this man a plague" **Acts 24:5**
 2. "A creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world." **Acts 24:5**
 3. "A ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes" **Acts 24:5**.
 4. Tried to profane the temple." **Acts 25:6**
 - c. A careful examination of Acts 22 & 23 will reveal:
 1. Tertullus revealed only what was advantageous to the Jewish side of the matter.
 2. Tertullus omitted the conspiracy against Paul.
 3. Tertullus made it appear that Lysias had used extreme force in interfering in the matter.
 - d. **Acts 24:9** – "And the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so."
4. Paul's defense. **Acts 24:10-21**
 - a. Acknowledged the position and experience of Felix. **Acts 24:10**
 - b. Paul began to review the events of the past 12 days. **Acts 24:11**

c. Acknowledged his innocence and stated that the Jews could not prove their charges against him and that they should be present to object.

Acts 24:12-13

d. revealed that since certain Jews of Asia (Ephesus) brought the charges against him, they should be present to object. **Acts 24:18-19**

e. Said he was called into question because of the resurrection. **Acts 24:21**

5. Felix's response. **Acts 24:22-23**

a. Deferred them to wait the arrival of captain Lysias. **Acts 24:22**

b. Commanded a centurion to:

1. "Keep Paul." **Acts 24:23**

2. "Let him have liberty." **Acts 23:24**

3. "Forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him." **Acts 24:23**

C. PAUL APPEARED BEFORE FELIX AND DRUSILLA. Acts 24:26-26

1. Drusilla was a Jew. **Acts 24:24**

2. They heard Paul ". . . Concerning the faith in Christ." **Acts 24:24**

3. Paul reasoned of: **Acts 24:25**

a. "Righteousness"

b. "Self-control"

c. "Judgment to come"

4. Felix trembled. **Acts 24:25** – ". . . Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

5. Felix hoped to be bribed for Paul's release. **Acts 24:26**

D. AFTER TWO YEARS, PORCIUS FESTUS SUCCEEDED FELIX AS GOVERNOR OF JUDEA. Acts 24:27

Acts 25

E. FESTUS BEGAN HIS DUTIES.

1. **THREE** days after his arrival in Caesarea, Festus went to Jerusalem.

Acts 25:1

a. The high priest and "chief of the Jews" tried to get Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem for trial. **Acts 25:2-3**

b. Festus chose to leave Paul in Caesarea but invited the Jews to return with him to accuse Paul. **Acts 25:4-5**

c. Festus remained in Jerusalem "more than ten days" then returned to Caesarea. **Acts 25:6**

2. The day after his return to Caesarea, he called for Paul to appear before him. **Acts 25:6**

- F. PAUL'S DEFENSE BEFORE AGRIPPA, BERNICE, AND FESTUS. Acts 24:13 – 26:32**
1. Paul's defense before Festus and the Jews from Jerusalem. **Acts 25:7-12**
 - a. The Jews ". . . Laid many serious complaints against Paul, which they could not prove. **Acts 25:7**
 - b. In answering for himself, Paul said he had not:
 1. Offended against the law of the Jews. **Acts 25:8**
 2. Offended against the temple. **Acts 25:8**
 3. Offended against Caesar. **Acts 25:8**
 - c. Festus wanted to show the Jews "a favor." **Acts 25:9**
 1. Asked Paul if he would go to Jerusalem and be judged. **Acts 25:9**
 2. Paul refused on the basis of his innocence. **Acts 25:11-11** - So Paul said, "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know.

11 For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar."
 - d. Paul exercised his right as a Roman citizen to appeal his case to Caesar. Acts 25:11-12
 1. ". . . I appeal to Caesar." **Acts 25:11**
 2. **Acts 25:12** – "Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, "**You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go!**"
 2. Paul's defense before King Agrippa and Bernice. **Acts 25:14-21**
 - a. King Agrippa and Bernice came to Caesarea to greet Porcius Festus. Acts 25:13
 1. Festus reviewed Paul's case with Agrippa and Bernice.
 2. Agrippa agreed to hear Paul's case the next day. **Acts 25:22**
 - b. Festus addressed the gathering. **Acts 25:23-27**
 1. Present for the hearing were: **Acts 25:23**
 - a. King Agrippa
 - b. Bernice
 - c. Commanders
 - d. Principal men of the city
 2. The command was given for Paul to be brought in. **Acts 25:23**
 3. Festus explained that the purpose of the hearing was to determine what to write to Caesar. **Acts 25:24-27** – "And Festus said: 'King Agrippa and all the men who are here present with us, you see this man about whom the whole assembly of the Jews petitioned me, both at Jerusalem and here, crying out that he was not fit to live any longer.

25 But when I found that he had committed nothing deserving of death, and that he himself had appealed to Augustus, I decided to send him.

26 I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning him. Therefore I have brought him out before you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the examination has taken place I may have something to write.

27 For it seems to me unreasonable to send a prisoner and not to specify the charges against him.”

Acts 26

- c. Agrippa gave Paul permission to speak for himself. **Acts 26:1**
- d. Paul spoke of:
 - 1. Agrippa's familiarity with Jewish customs. **Acts 26:1**
 - 2. His belief in the resurrection. **Acts 26:2-3**
 - 3. His life before obeying the gospel of Christ. **Acts 26:9-12**
 - 4. His conversion. **Acts 26:12-19**
NOTE: This is the 3rd account of Paul's conversion in Acts. **Acts 2, 22, 26**
 - 5. His obedience to the heavenly vision. **Acts 26:19-20** – “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.”
 His work after becoming a Christian. **Acts 26:20** – “But declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”
- e. Festus responded with a loud voice, “. . . Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!” **Acts 26:24**
- f. Paul's question to King Agrippa: “King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.” **Acts 26:27**
- g. King Agrippa's response: “Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”” **Acts 26:28**
- h. It was Paul's desire that they become Christians. **Acts 26:29**
- i. Festus, Agrippa, and Bernice talked privately then concluded, “. . . "This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains."
 32 Then Agrippa said to Festus, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar." **Acts 26:21-32**