

# CONFINEMENT IN CAESAREA



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Lesson 12 for September 22, 2018

**Paul was confined in Caesarea for his own safety.  
He was under Roman jurisdiction.**

**Everyone who had interrogated Paul understood  
that he hadn't done anything illegal.**

**Nevertheless, Paul had to appeal to Caesar to  
avoid being captured by the Jews.**



### **Before Felix. Acts 24.**

- Accusation and defense.



### **Before Festus. Acts 25:1-12.**

- Political issues.



### **Before Agrippa. Acts 25:13-26:32.**

- King Agrippa and Bernice.
- Paul's speech.
- Agrippa's response.

# ACCUSATION AND DEFENSE

"However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets."  
(Acts 24:14 NIV)

Ananias the High Priest hired a lawyer, Tertullus, to accuse Paul before Felix:

1. Paul was encouraging insurrection among the Jews. [NO]
2. He was the leader of the sect of the Nazarenes. [YES]
3. He had tried to profane the Temple. [NO]



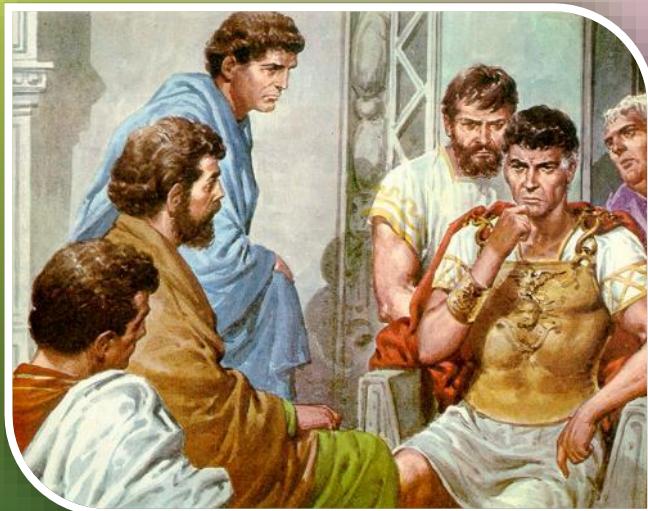
Paul only acknowledged the second “accusation”, although Christianity was not illegal at the time. He explained that he was being accused of preaching the resurrection of Jesus. He was trying to live mercifully before God and men.

Felix was a man of dubious character. He decided to postpone the judgment, hoping to receive a bribe from Paul.



# POLITICAL ISSUES

"But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, 'Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things?'" (Acts 25:9)



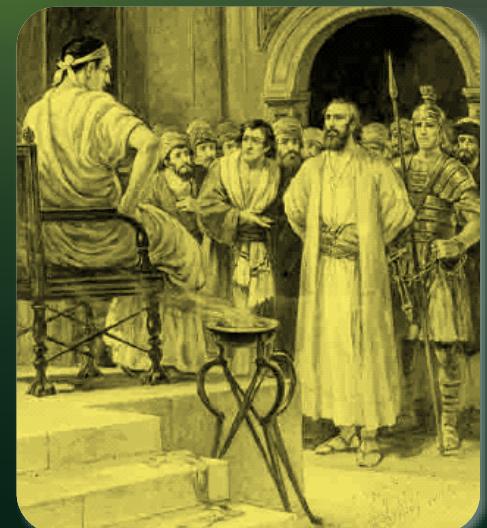
Festus replaced Felix as the governor of Judea in 60 AD. The Jews tried to bring Paul to Jerusalem to kill him during the transfer.

Festus rejected their requests, so the Jews went to Caesarea to accuse Paul again of things "they could not prove."

Paul's defense was simple: "I have done nothing wrong against the Jewish law or against the temple or against Caesar." (Acts 25:8 NIV)

Festus offered Paul a Jewish judgment. This was a political move in favor of the Jews.

Paul appealed to the highest Roman court:  
Caesar (Nero!)





# KING AGRIPPA AND BERNICE

"So the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and had entered the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at Festus' command Paul was brought in." (Acts 25:23)

Believing in the resurrection of Jesus was madness to Festus, but not a crime. What should the accusation before Nero against Paul be?

Herod Agrippa II and Bernice came, and Festus asked for their advice.

They came with great pomp, concealing the troubled relationship between their family and Jesus.



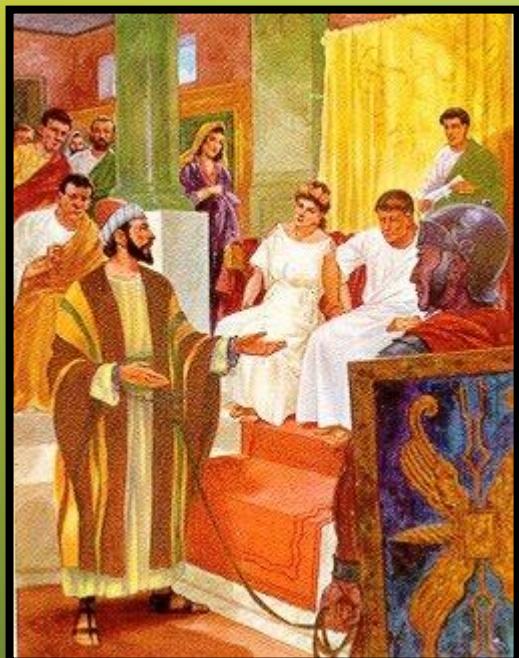
- 👑 His grand-father had tried to kill the baby Jesus.
- 👑 His great-uncle had killed John the Baptist and had judged Jesus.
- 👑 His father had killed the apostle James.

# PAUL'S SPEECH

"I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews." (Acts 26:2)

Paul knew that Agrippa could understand his speech, because he was a Jew and knew the history of Jesus.

Paul's speech was more than a defense. It was also a testimony and a call.



He told his story of being a zealous Pharisee persecuting the Christian Church (v. 4-11)

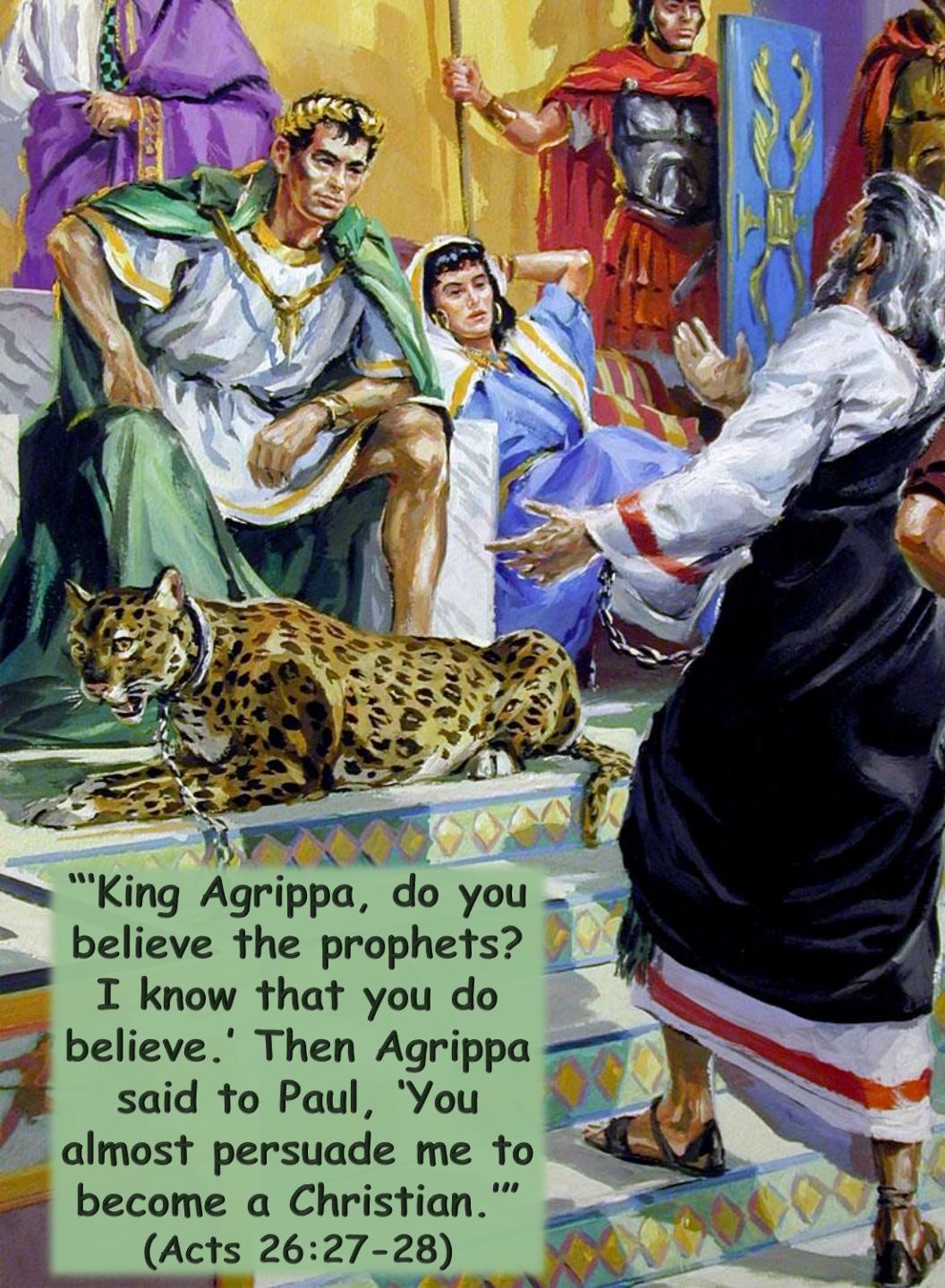


He told of his conversion, and the mission Jesus commanded him to fulfill (v. 12-18)



He denied that he had broken any Jewish law, and he introduced the Messiah (v. 19-23)





# AGRIPPA'S RESPONSE

Festus interrupted Paul. Then Paul tried to prick Agrippa's conscience.

Paul was not worried about being released from his physical chains. He wanted to release his audience from their chains of sin.

Paul's missionary zeal greatly surpassed his care for his own safety.

Vanity? Arrogance? Fear of losing his position? Almost saved!... but lost.

Don't let anything stop you from surrendering your life to Jesus.

"King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.' Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'You almost persuade me to become a Christian.'" (Acts 26:27-28)

**“There is a lesson for us in this experience of Paul’s, for it reveals God’s way of working. The Lord can bring victory out of that which may seem to us discomfiture and defeat. We are in danger of forgetting God, of looking at the things which are seen, instead of beholding by the eye of faith the things which are unseen. When misfortune or calamity comes, we are ready to charge God with neglect or cruelty. If He sees fit to cut off our usefulness in some line, we mourn, not stopping to think that thus God may be working for our good. We need to learn that chastisement is a part of His great plan and that under the rod of affliction the Christian may sometimes do more for the Master than when engaged in active service.”**