

Paul on Trial

A Review of Paul's Trial from Jerusalem to Rome

1. Why Study Paul's Trial

- a. Rom 1:24, 26, 28 explains the fall of nations; Rom 11:11 the fall of Israel.
- b. The Acts of the Apostles are the acts toward fallen unbelieving Israel
- c. Luke-Acts records Israel's rejection of salvation – Luke 1:69, 77, Acts 4:12, 28:28
- d. It is more than just a legal trial, but a spiritual trial for the Jews.
 - i. 3x rejection - Antioch - Acts 13:46, Corinth - Acts 18:6, Rome - Acts 28:28
 - ii. Without the trial “what happened to Israel?” would be left unanswered.
- e. Politically, they already fell (Mat 22:21, Jo 4:22), but now spiritually – Ro 11:32

2. Paul vs. Israel

- a. Acts 21-28 explains Paul's arrest and trial from Jerusalem to Rome by the Jews
- b. Prosecution: Jews from Asia (21:27), high priest Ananias (24:1), chief Jews
- c. Defendant: Paul (Phil 3:5-7) – Jew, Roman, Cilician, apostle of the Gentiles
 - i. Paul was no stranger to persecution, pain, and prison - 2 Cor 11:22-27
- d. Charges: teaching against the law, Israel, and the temple – Acts 21:28, 24:5
 - i. A similar charge from unbelievers against Stephen – Acts 6:8-15
- e. Courts: Public opinion, Jerusalem council, governor, King's court, Caesar's

3. Paul on Trial Today

- a. Paul was sent to the Gentiles, kings, and children of Israel – Acts 9:15
- b. Paul was sent with a dispensation of the gospel: Rom 15:8, 15:16, Eph 3:2, Gal 1:1
- c. Religious men reject mid-Acts Pauline grace saying it promotes licentiousness
 - i. The 'Jew' in mind cannot understand free grace going to sinners.
- d. Acts 28ers deny that Paul teaches the mystery in Acts b/c Paul sounds Jewish
 - i. Why is he going to Jew first? Why is he taking vows? Why the baptism?
 - ii. The 'Gentile' in mind wants no teaching of the law, Israel, or prophecy
- e. Mid-Acts Paul alone explains how grace establishes the law – Rom 3:21,31, 8:4

4. Trouble Passages

- a. Acts 21:26 – Why did he go to Jerusalem? Why did Paul take a vow?
- b. Acts 22:16 – Why did Paul say he was baptized to wash away sins?
- c. Acts 25:8, 26:21, 28:20 – neither against the law, none other things, hope of Israel?

5. Brief Outline

- a. Acts 21 – Paul goes to Jerusalem, there is a riot, he is beaten and arrested
- b. Acts 22-23 – Paul's public defense to the Jews; a council is held; both end in riot
- c. Acts 24 – Trial before governor Felix; Paul bound for years
- d. Acts 25 – Retrial before governor Festus; Paul appeals to Caesar in Rome
- e. Acts 26 – King Agrippa holds a hearing as an expert of Jewish law/tradition
- f. Acts 27-28 – Paul goes to Rome; Gentiles receive him, but the chief Jews do not