

Paul on Trial - Part 06 – Acts 25-26

Paul's Witness before Kings

1. Paul in Bonds (24:22-27)

- a. 24:23,27 – More than 2 years Paul was bound by Felix for the Jews' sake

2. New Hearing, New Governor (25:1-12)

- a. Festus goes to Jerusalem and is petitioned to release Paul to their hands - 25:1-5
- b. There is still a plot to assassinate Paul, but Festus follows Romans law – 25:16
- c. Paul's defense is the same; no offense against the law, temple, or Rome – 25:8
 - i. Paul was not caught doing any of these things – but purified in a temple.
 - ii. Just as the Lord was arrested at a certain time Matt 26:45, so with Paul
- d. Israel has no case; even Festus knew Paul was not an offender of Israel's law.
- e. Festus proposes to move the trial to Jerusalem, Paul appeals to Caesar - 25:6-12
- f. “*no man may deliver me unto them*” – as the Lord promised – Acts 23:11

3. King Agrippa (25:13-27)

- a. The Herods were rulers of the Jews and knew their customs and law
- b. Grandad Herod – Matt 2:1, 2:13-14; Great Uncle Herod Antipas – Matt 14:1-4
- c. Daddy Agrippa I - Acts 12:1-4; Agrippa II had lost control of Jerusalem
- d. Agrippa may represent the last vestige of Jewish representation in Israel
- e. Festus needs Agrippa to help him frame the accusation for his appeal to Caesar

4. Paul Testifies Before a King (26:1-16)

- a. Paul repeats here what he preached in Acts 22 before the Jews
- b. He was raised in Jerusalem and was a Pharisaic Jew – Acts 25:3-4
- c. “*for the hope of the promise*” which is clearly resurrection - 25:6-8; 24:15, 21; 23:6
- d. Paul was sympathetic to the anti-Christian attitude – 26:9-11
- e. Paul tells again his encounter with Jesus – 26:12-16
- f. “*will appear unto thee*” – Paul speaks with the Lord multiple times – 2 Cor 12:1-4

5. Paul Preaches What? (26:17-32)

- a. What did Paul preach among Gentiles? An offense to the law? No. 26:18-20
- b. Paul is being helped by God in this trial before kings - 26:22; 1 Cor 15:10, Ro 15:15
- c. “*I continue unto this day*” – with the same defense since Jerusalem in Acts 21
- d. What did Moses say should come? Christ, his death, resurrection – Lk 2:32, 1Pe1:3
- e. Light to the gentiles – Isa 42:1, 42:6, 49:6 – which is not contrary to the mystery
- f. Paul is interrupted, but appeals to King's knowledge of scripture – 1 Co 1:23-26
- g. Agrippa does not convert, but says the argument is convincing - 26:28-29
- h. What is the result of this final hearing before the half Jewish king?
 - i. Rejection and giving Paul's message of salvation over to Gentiles (Rome).