



Acts: The Power of the Gospel





	Week	Topic
1	6/07/2026	Introduction to Acts/Review Chapters 1-14 Chapter 15: Jerusalem Council
2	6/14/2026	Chapter 16: 2 nd Missionary Journey: Philippi
3	6/21/2026	Chapter 17: Thessalonica, Athens
4	6/28/2026	Chapter 18: Corinth, Returning to Antioch
5	7/05/2026	July 4 th Weekend
6	7/12/2026	Chapter 19: 3 rd Missionary: Paul at Ephesus Chapter 20: Journey to Greece
7	7/19/2026	Chapter 21: Paul returns to Jerusalem
8	7/26/2026	Chapter 22: Paul Addresses Jerusalem Mob
9	8/02/2026	Chapter 23: Plot against Paul
10	8/09/2026	Chapter 24: Paul accused of Seditious
11	8/16/2026	Chapter 25: Paul appeals to Ceasar
12	8/23/2026	Chapter 26: Paul testimony before Agrippa II
13	8/30/2026	Chapter 27: Paul sent to Rome Chapter 28: Paul's ministry on Malta and Rome

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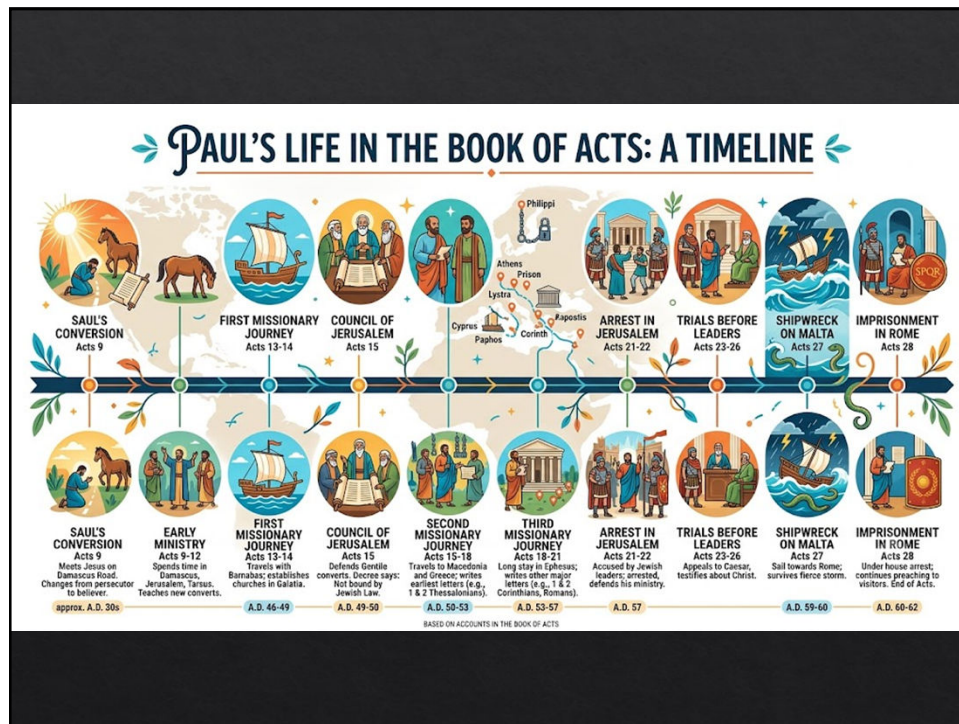
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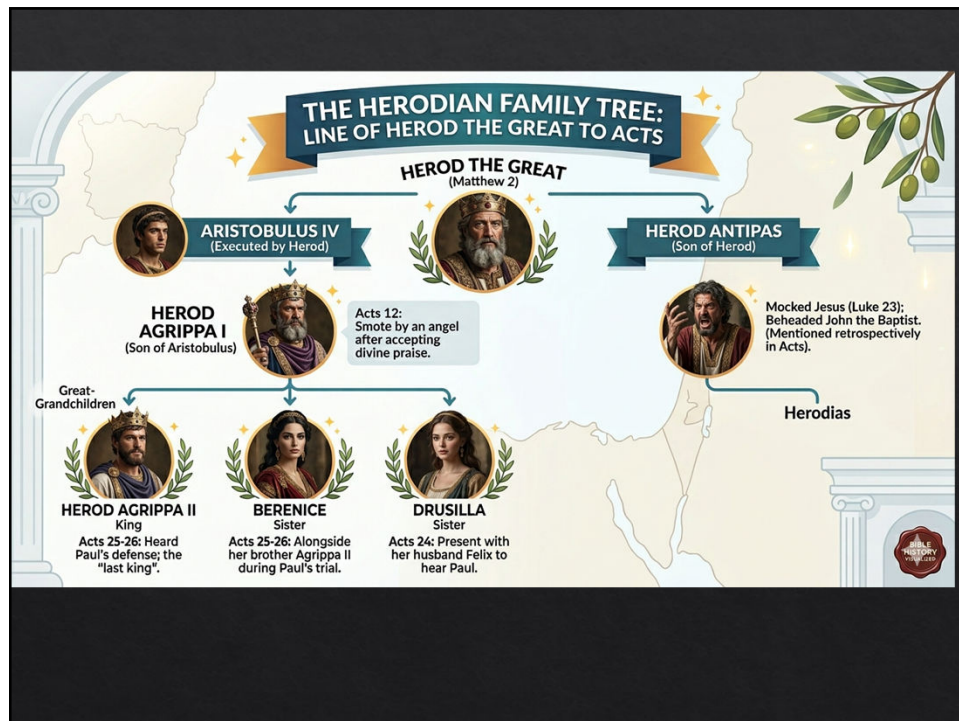
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2



3



4



5



Felix & Drusila



Review of Acts 24

- Trial before Felix
- Paul defend himself
- Felix procrastinates
- Drusilla hears Paul
- Paul is given access to his friends and support
- 2-years he is under Felix
- Felix quells Ceaserian riots with a slaughter
- Recalled to Rome replaced
- Portius Festus

6

Porcius Festus Takes Over

THE SICARII

WHOM PORCIUS FESTUS HAD HUNTED DOWN

During the procuratorship of Porcius Festus (circa 59–62 CE), the Sicarii—Jewish dagger-men who opposed Roman rule through stealth and assassination—were hunted down and suppressed. Many were captured, imprisoned, or slain.

From the hills and wilderness of Judea, they struck terror into friend and foe alike.



Bronze coin minted by Porcius Festus. Source: FORVM Ancient Coins

Porcius Festus was sent by Nero to replace Felix, with his term generally dated between 58 and 60 CE (most historians point to 59 CE). History describes Festus as a much fairer and more capable administrator than his corrupt predecessor.

Quelling the Sicarii: Festus immediately had to deal with the *Sicarii* (dagger-men)—extremist zealots who mingled in crowds to assassinate Roman sympathizers. According to Josephus, Festus successfully hunted down a massive group of bandits and an imposter who had led them into the wilderness.

7

Porcius Festus Takes Over



PORCIUS FESTUS MEETS THE JEWISH HIGH PRIEST IN JERUSALEM
After replacing Felix, Festus conferred with the chief priests and leaders of the Jews, as recorded in Acts 24 and 25.

The Trial of Paul: Festus inherited Paul's unresolved case. Wanting to establish a good relationship with the local leadership, Festus suggested moving Paul's trial to Jerusalem. Knowing his enemies were planning an ambush on the road, Paul invoked his right as a Roman citizen and appealed directly to Caesar. Festus famously replied that since Paul appealed to Caesar, he must go to Rome (Acts 25:12).

A Short Tenure: Festus's attempts to restore order were cut short. He served only two or three years before dying in office around 62 CE and being succeeded by Albinus.

8



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PORCIUS FESTUS MEETS
THE JEWISH HIGH PRIEST IN JERUSALEM
*After replacing Felix, Festus conferred with the chief priests
and leaders of the Jews, as recorded in Acts 24 and 25.*

Acts 25;1-12 4 of 6 Defenses of Paul

1. Acts 22:1-21 (Jewish Temple Defense)
2. Acts 22:30-23:10 (Paul before the Sanhedrin)
3. Acts 24:10-21 (Paul before Felix)
4. Acts 25:1-12 (Paul before Festus)
5. Acts 26:1-29 (Paul before Agrippa and Bernice)
6. Acts 28:17-29 (Paul in Rome)

Acts 25:1-3

1 Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea.

2 And the chief priests and the principal men of **the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him,**

9



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What is your story?



Who are you?

What was your life like before Jesus

How did you find Jesus?

How was your life changed?

10

Chapter 25: Paul Before the Romans



11



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Acts 25:1-3

3 asking as a **favor against Paul** that he summon him to Jerusalem—because **they were planning an ambush** to kill him on the way.

12



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Acts 25:4-6

4 Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself intended to go there shortly.

5 “So,” said he, “**let the men of authority among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them bring charges against him.**”

13



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Acts 25:4-6

6 After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and **ordered Paul to be brought.**

14



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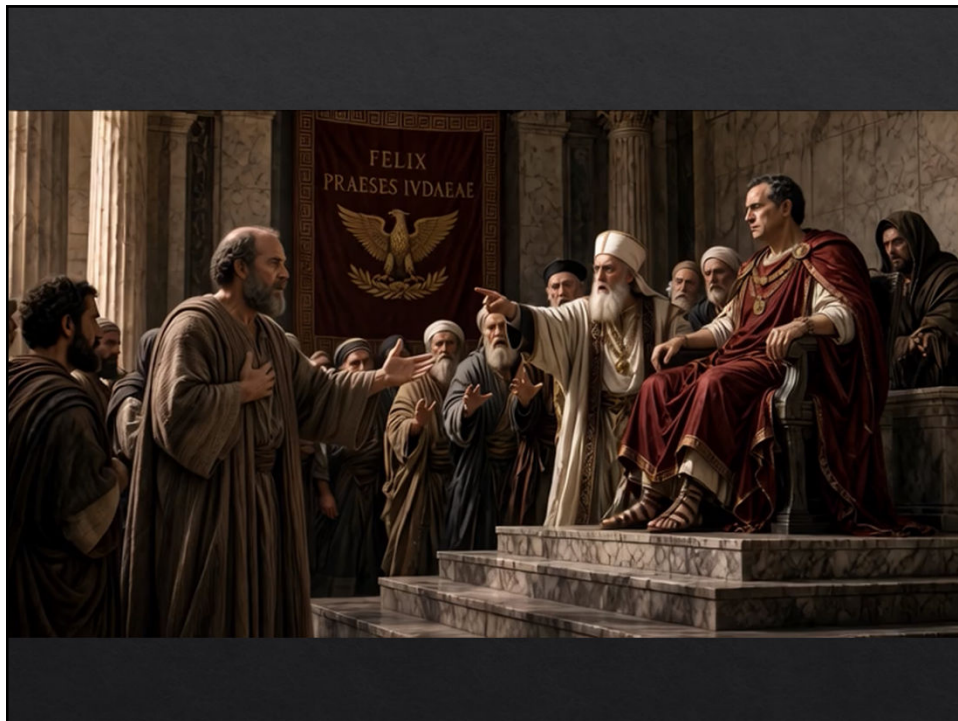


Acts 25:7-8

7 When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove.

8 Paul argued in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense.”

15



16



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Acts 25:9
9 But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?”

Roman Jurisprudence is the study, theory, and science of law developed in ancient Rome. It represents the foundational legal framework and philosophy that governed the Roman Republic and Empire, and it continues to serve as **the basis for the civil law systems used in much of the world today**. At its core, Roman jurisprudence was not just a list of rules, but a sophisticated system of reasoning focused on the practical application of legal principles to achieve fairness and justice.

17



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Acts 25:10-11
10 But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. 11 If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.”

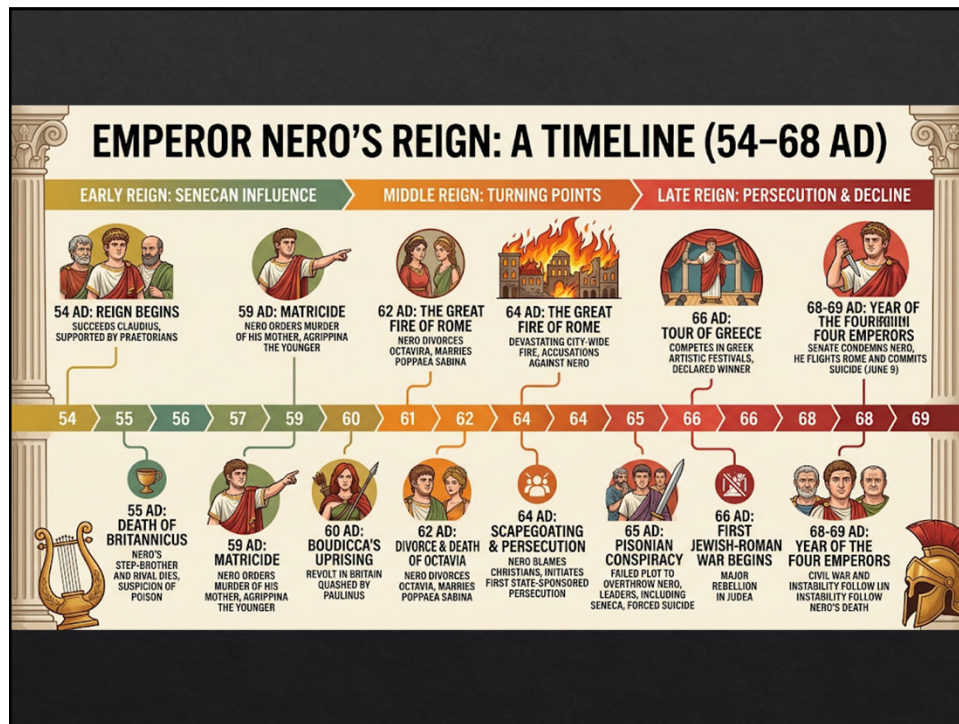


Roman emperor
 12 October 34 – 9 June 68
 Praetorian Prefect
 12 October 34 – 9 June 68
 Praetorian Prefect
 12 October 34 – 9 June 68

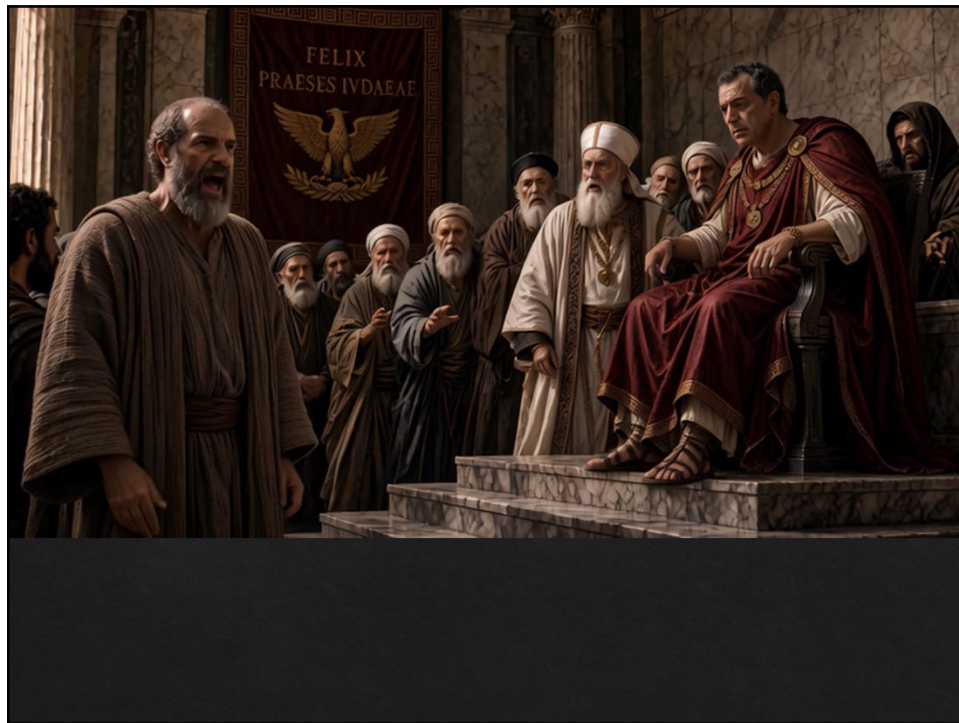
Nero became emperor in AD 54, aged 16. His tutor, **Seneca**, prepared Nero's first speech before the Senate. During this speech, Nero spoke about "eliminating the ills of the previous regime

Golden Years 54-59
 Christian Persecution 64-65

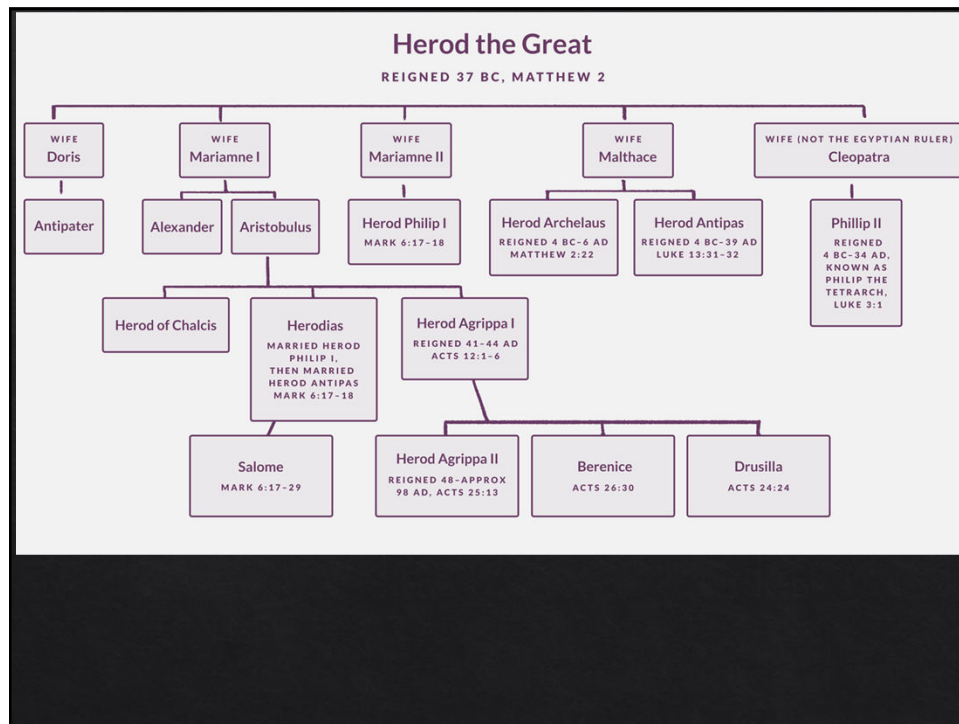
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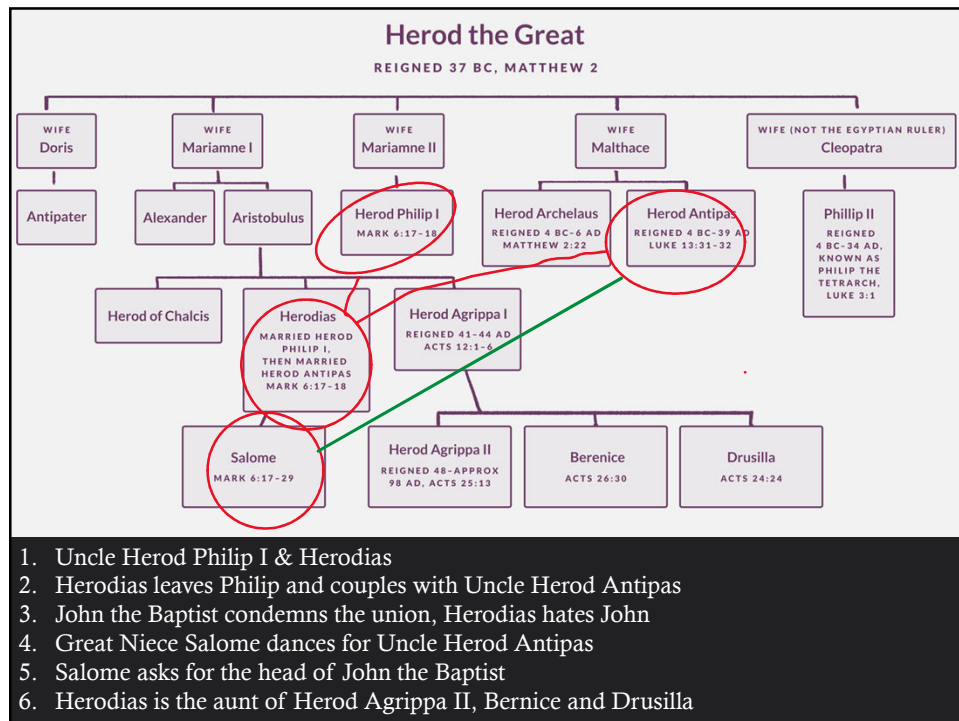
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20



21



22



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Acts 25:12-13

12 Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”

13 Now when some days had passed, **Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus.**



23



King Agrippa II: He was the great-grandson of Herod the Great (who ruled when Jesus was born) and the son of Herod Agrippa I (who persecuted the early church in Acts 12). As a Roman client king, he ruled territories north and east of the Sea of Galilee. Importantly, Rome had granted him the authority to appoint the Jewish High Priest and act as the curator of the Temple in Jerusalem. Because of this, he was considered the premier expert on Jewish customs, religion, and law in the region.

Bernice: Bernice was Agrippa's sister. She was a powerful, wealthy, and politically connected woman. After being widowed, she moved in with her brother, which sparked widespread and scandalous rumors of incest among both Jewish and Roman historians. (Later in life, she would famously become the **mistress of the Roman Emperor Titus**).



24

Beirut, Inscription mentioning Queen Berenice and King Agrippa II



Description Beirut, Inscription mentioning Queen Berenice and King Agrippa II

Details [Rex magnus Agrippa Philocaesar et r[egina] Berenice regis magni A[grippae] filii]
[coloniae Iuliae Augustae Felici Beryto impensis suis balneum(?) quod rex Herodes proav[s]
eorum fecerat ve[tustate] dilapsum]
[refecerunt et renoverunt stat[ui]s(?) marmoribusque et columnis [s]ex.

"The great King [Agrippa Philocaesar](#) and Queen [Berenice](#), children of the great King [Agrippa](#), restored in the colonia of [Julia Augusta Felix Berytus](#), from their own money, this bathhouse (?), which their ancestor, King [Herod](#), had built and which had fallen to ruins, and re-erected the marble statues and these six columns."

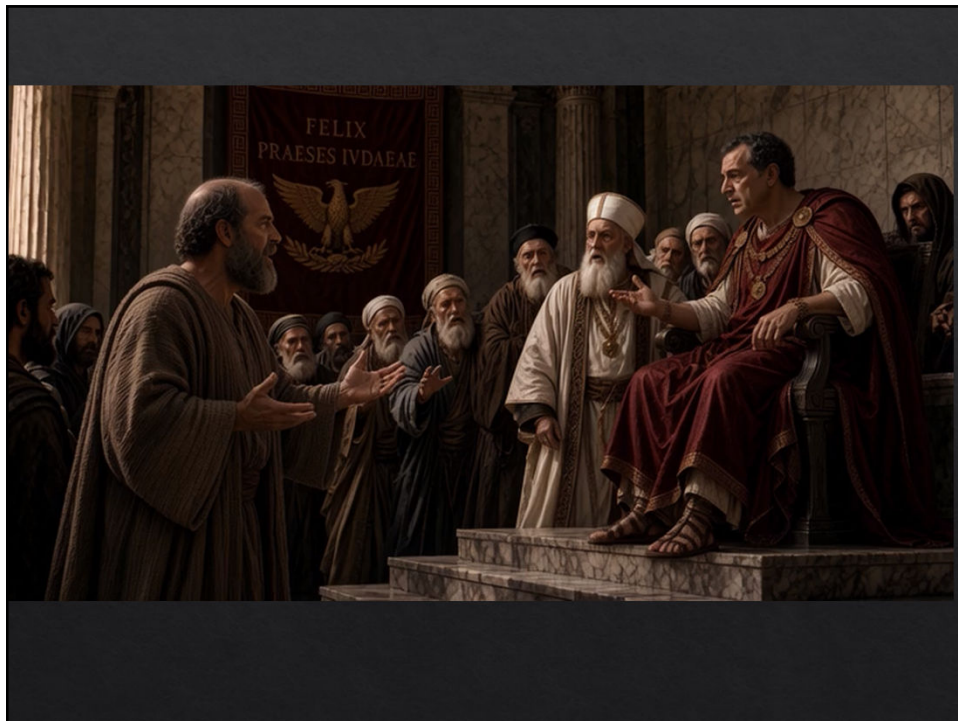
Date 48 CE–ca. 100 CE

Inscriptionnr EDCS-15300229

Creator [Jona Lendering](#)

Museum [Beirut, National Museum](#)

25



26



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Acts 25:14-15

14 And as **they stayed there many days**, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man left prisoner by Felix, 15 and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of **the Jews laid out their case against him**, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him.



27



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Acts 25:16-17

16 I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to give up anyone before the accused met the accusers face to face and had opportunity to make his defense concerning the charge laid against him. 17 So when they came together here, I made no delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought.



28



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Acts 25:18-19

18 When the accusers stood up, they brought no charge in his case of such **evils as I supposed**.

19 Rather they had certain points of dispute with him about **their own religion** and about a certain **Jesus, who was dead**, but whom Paul asserted to **be alive**.

29



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Acts 25:1-27

20 Being **at a loss how to investigate these questions**, I asked whether he wanted to go to Jerusalem and be tried there regarding them.

21 But when **Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of the emperor**, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to Caesar.”

30



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Acts 25:1-27

22 Then **Agrippa** said to **Festus**, “I would like to hear the man myself.”

“Tomorrow,” said he, “you will hear him.”

23 So on the next day **Agrippa and Bernice** came with great pomp, and they entered the audience hall with the **military tribunes** and the **prominent men of the city**. Then, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.

31



Auxiliary Troops (1st Century CE): Rather than full legionaries (heavy Roman citizen infantry), the permanent troops headquartered at Caesarea were primarily **auxiliaries**—recruited locally or from non-citizen provincial populations (such as Samaritans, Syrians, and Greeks).

Composition:

5 Infantry Cohorts: Each cohort typically consisted of about **500 to 1,000 men**.

1 Cavalry Regiment (Ala): A cavalry unit of about **500 horsemen**.

32



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Acts 25:1-27

24 And Festus said, “King Agrippa and all who are present with us, **you see this man about whom the whole Jewish people petitioned me,** both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live any longer.

25 But **I found that he had done nothing deserving death.** And as he himself appealed to the emperor, I decided to go ahead and send him.

33



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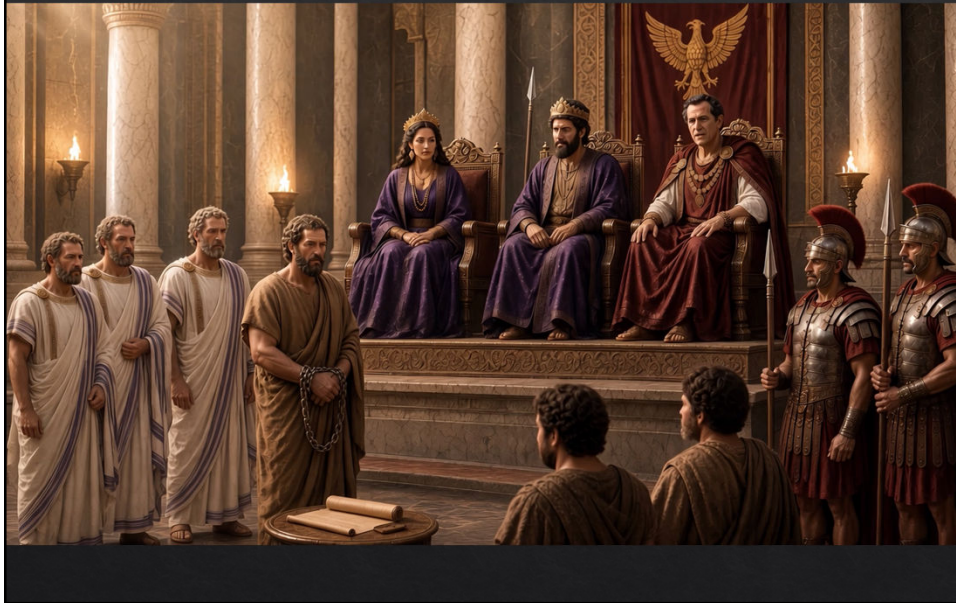
Acts 25:1-27

26 But I have nothing definite to write to my lord about him. **Therefore I have brought him before you all,** and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that, after we have examined him, I may have something to write.

27 For it seems to me **unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him.”**

34

Chapter 26: Paul Testimony



35



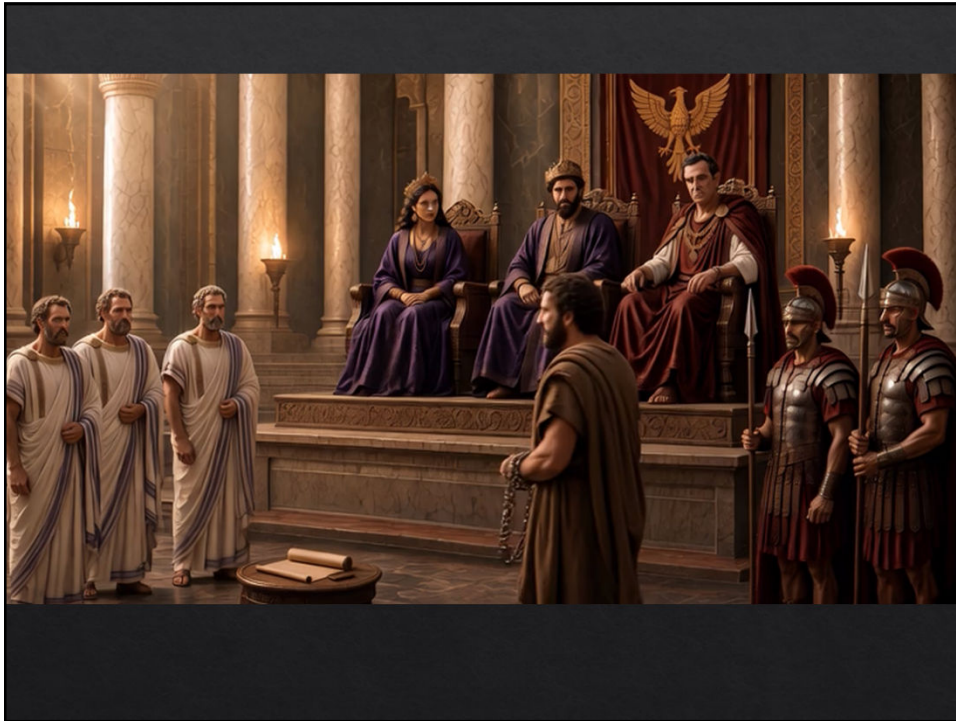
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Acts 26:1-2

1 So Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:
2 "I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews,

36



37



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Acts 26:3-5

3 especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

4 “My manner of life **from my youth**, spent from the beginning among my own nation and **in Jerusalem**, is known by all the Jews.

5 They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion **I have lived as a Pharisee.**



38



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Acts 26:6-8

6 And now I stand here on trial **because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers,**
 7 to which our twelve tribes **hope** to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king!
 8 Why is it thought incredible by any of you that **God raises the dead?**

39



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Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth... Acts 26:9-11

Acts 26:9-11

9 **"I myself was convinced** that I ought to do many things in **opposing the name of Jesus** of Nazareth.
 10 And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but **when they were put to death I cast my vote against them.**
 11 And I punished them often in all the synagogues and **tried to make them blaspheme,** and in raging fury against them **I persecuted** them even to foreign cities.

40



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Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth... Acts 26:9-11

Acts 26:9-10

9 “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

10 And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them.

Paul an Illustration of God's Grace

- Opposed Jesus
- Locked up Christians
- Put Christians to death
- Hunted Christians
- Responsible for 24% of the New Testament

41



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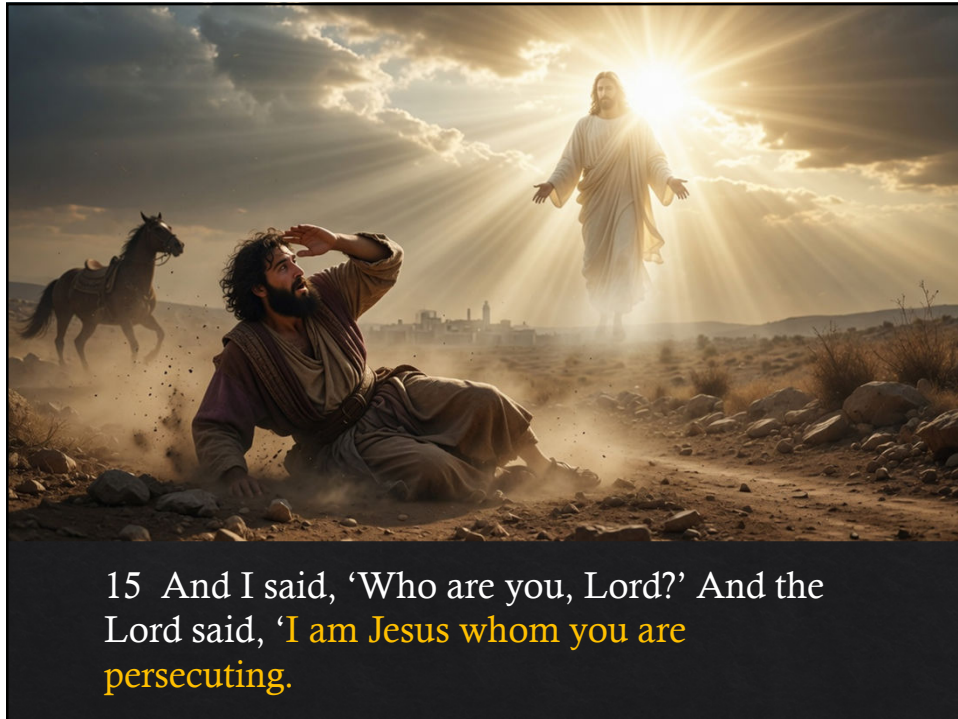
Acts 26:12-14

12 “In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.

13 At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me.

14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

42



43



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Acts 26:16-17

16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,

17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you

44



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Acts 26:1-32

18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

19 "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

45



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Acts 26:20

20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

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The Christian Faith is the completion of
What the prophets proclaimed

The **New Covenant** proclaimed by
Jeremiah would replace the **Mosaic
Covenant**

The death of Messiah paid for the sins of
the world

Acts 26:21-22

21 For this reason the
Jews seized me in the
temple and tried to kill
me.

22 To this day I have
had the help that comes
from God, and so I
stand here testifying
both to small and great,
saying **nothing but what
the prophets and Moses
said would come to
pass:**

47

The New Covenant



Jeremiah 31:31-33

31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares
the LORD, when **I will make a new
covenant with the house of Israel** and the
house of Judah,

32 not like the covenant that I made with
their fathers on the day when I took them
by the hand to bring them out of the land of
Egypt, **my covenant that they broke**, though
I was their husband, declares the LORD.

33 For this is the covenant that I will make
with the house of Israel after those days,
declares the LORD: **I will put my law
within them, and I will write it on their
hearts.** And I will be their God, and they
shall be my people.

48

The Christ to Suffer

Isaiah 53	Psalms 22	Daniel 9:24-26	Isaiah 50	Zechariah	Deuteronomy 18
Isaiah 53:5 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.	Psalms 22:16 16 For dogs have compassed me; the assembly of evildoers have enclosed me; they pierced my hands and my feet.	Daniel 9:26 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.	Isaiah 50:6 6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.	Zechariah 11:13 13 Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter.	Deuteronomy 18:18-19 18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.



Acts 26:23

23 that **the Christ must suffer** and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would **proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.**"

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Acts 26:24

24 And as he was saying these things in his defense, **Festus said with a loud voice**, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind."



50



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Acts 26:25-26

25 But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but **I am speaking true and rational words.**

26 For **the king knows** about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner.

51



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Acts 26:27-28

27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.'

28 And Agrippa said to Paul, "**In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?**"

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Acts 26:27-29

27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.”

28 And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?”

29 And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”

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Acts 26:30-32

30 Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them.

31 And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.”

32 And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

54