

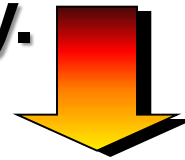
Defense Before the Sanhedrin~

ACTS 23

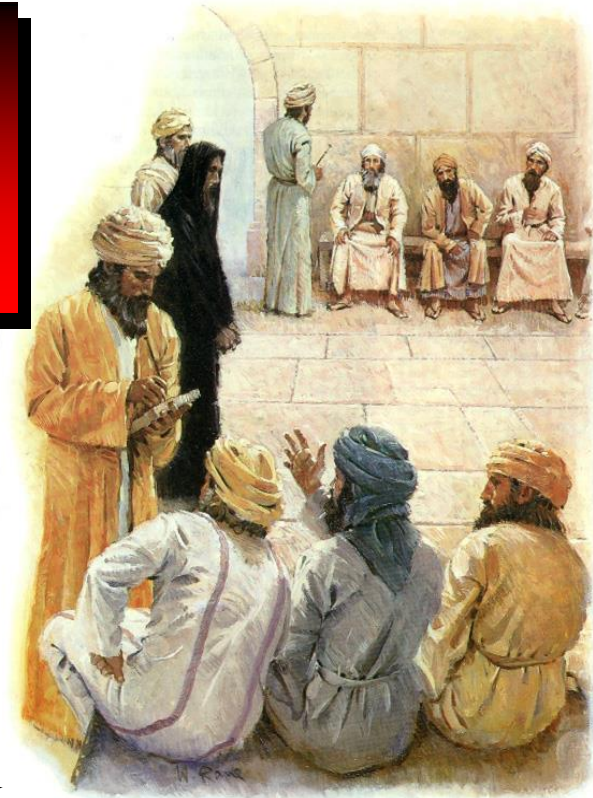
Defense Before the Sanhedrin ~ Acts 23:1-10

Intro: Paul brought here to get the facts for the riot (Acts 22:30) by **Claduius Lysias** (Acts 23:26)

Acts 23:1 And Paul looking *intently at the Council* said, Brethren, I have lived my life *with a perfectly good conscience* before God up to this day.

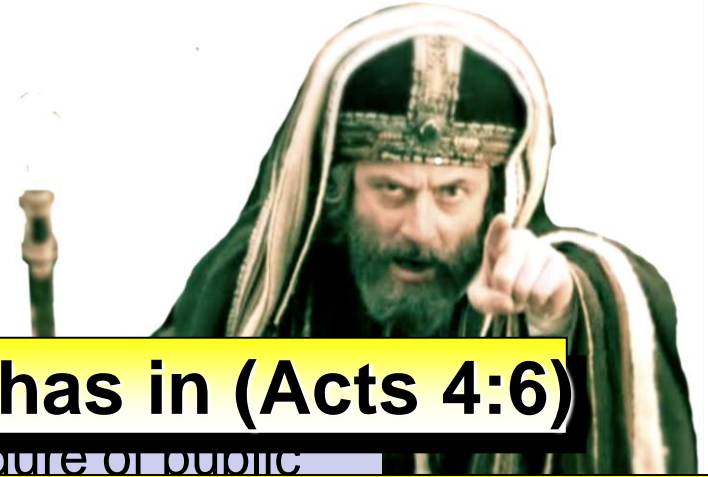


Paul killed Christians (Acts 22:4) so what does that tell us about consciences being our guide?



Defense Before the Sanhedrin ~ Acts 23:1-10

23:2 The High Priest Ananias said to those standing by:
“*Strike him on the Mouth !*”



New man since Annas & Caiaphas in (Acts 4:6)

Judicial procedure of public

Command in violation of (Deut 19:18)

“*Judges shall investigating thoroughly*”

Ananias was a typical Sadducee: wealthy, haughty, unscrupulous, filling his office for selfish & political reasons. Anti-nationalistic, friendly to Rome. ISBE He was greedy & overbearing. Wycliff

~ **SANHEDRIN HELD NO JUSTICE** ~

Not for Jesus (Mat 26:59); Not for Apostles (Acts 5:33, 40).
Not for Stephen (6:15; 7:1,57-59). Not for Paul (Acts 23:2)

Defense Before the Sanhedrin ~ Acts 23:1-10

23:3 God is going to strike you...

He would be assassinated by the popular Zealots called Sicarii at the beginning of the Jewish war AD 67 for being a Roman sympathizer. *Just eight years after Paul's statement.*

ISBE & McClintok Encyc (Josephus Jewish Wars. ii. 17. 9)

23:3 you white-washed wall..

You're Corruption covered over with a thick layer of paint. You're just hypocritical dirt.



You try me *According* to Law & strike me in a *Violation* of Law = Hypocrisy

Defense Before the Sanhedrin ~ Acts 23:1-10

23:5 Paul said “*I was not aware* that he was High Priest..

“WHY” he was unaware is unknown:

- The HP was not wearing his official robes?
- The HP was not seated in official chair?
- Paul has been out of country too long?



Ananias was— (*McClintok & ISBE re Josephus*)

AD 48 Nominated by Herod of Chalcis

AD 52 Sent to Rome of Syria to answer for violent treatment of Samaritans & was acquitted by Claudius Caesar. Ananias retained his office.

AD 59 Deposed by Herod Agrippa

5 AD 67 Assassinated as a sympathizer by zealots.

Defense Before the Sanhedrin ~ Acts 23:1-10

23:5 For it is written “You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.”

Paul quotes (Ex.22:28) “You shall not curse ...a ruler of your people”

Strong's says this Hebrew word (7034) means:

1. To curse
2. To despise
3. To bring into contempt

**Paul certainly
did all three!**

Strong's says the Greek equivalent word (2556) in Acts 23:5 means: “intrinsically worthless”

Did Paul change his *opinion* of this man?

Defense Before the Sanhedrin ~ Acts 23:1-10

23:6 Perceiving that one group were **Sadducees** & the other **Pharisees**, Paul began crying out in the Council, "Brethren, I am a **Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope & resurrection of the dead.**"



Psychology: Divide & Conquer

Sadducees: Denied existence of good & bad angels alike. Josephus says: "The doctrine of the Sadducees is this," "*that souls die with the bodies.*"

(Antiq, book 18, chap 1, section 4), "*They take away the belief of the immortal duration of the soul, & the punishments & rewards in Hades.*" (Jewish Wars, book ii. chapter 8, section 14)

Defense Before the Sanhedrin ~ Acts 23:1-10

23:9 The scribes of the Pharisaic party stood up and began to argue heatedly, saying...

Here are the lawyers of "Paul's own Party"

We find nothing wrong with this man; suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?"



1. Paul's claim on road to Damascus (22:6-7)
2. Paul's claim after his conversion (22:17, 21)

The trial is OVER – since the Supreme Court Justices don't even agree.

Defense Before the Sanhedrin ~ Acts 23:1-10

23:10 As a great dissension was developing, the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them and ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force, and bring him into the barracks.

Claudius Lysias
couldn't get the facts:

- 1) From the Crowd
- 2) From Paul's Speech
- 3) From Beating of Paul
- 4) From Sanhedrin Trial



Defense Before the Sanhedrin ~ Acts 23:1-10

23:11 On the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his side and said, " *Take courage*; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also."



Paul was encouraged in:

Corinth Acts 18:9-10 " *Do not be afraid...*

Jerusalem Acts 23:11 *Take courage..*

On Ship Acts 27:22 " *Keep up your courage*

Plot on Paul's Life ~ Acts 23:11-22

23:12 When it was day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul.

Talmud says when a vow becomes impossible to carry out, it ends. (Nedarim, 3.1.3)



v. 13 Forty formed the plot against Paul

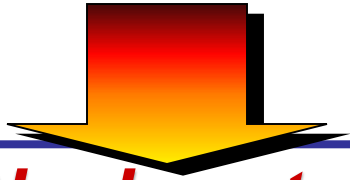
v.14 Informed chief priest & elders of intent to kill Paul (*likely just the Sadducees*)

v.15 Council implicated to pretend to examine him again.

v.15 Conspirators will kill him before his trial.

Plot on Paul's Life ~ Acts 23:11-22

23:16 **But the son of Paul's sister heard** of their ambush, and he came and entered the barracks and told Paul.



v. 16 **Nephew told Paul** in Antonia

v.17 **Paul called** Centurion

v.18 **Nephew Led** to Chiliarch (*commander of 1,000 troops*)

v.20 **Ambush Plot told:** conspirators are waiting

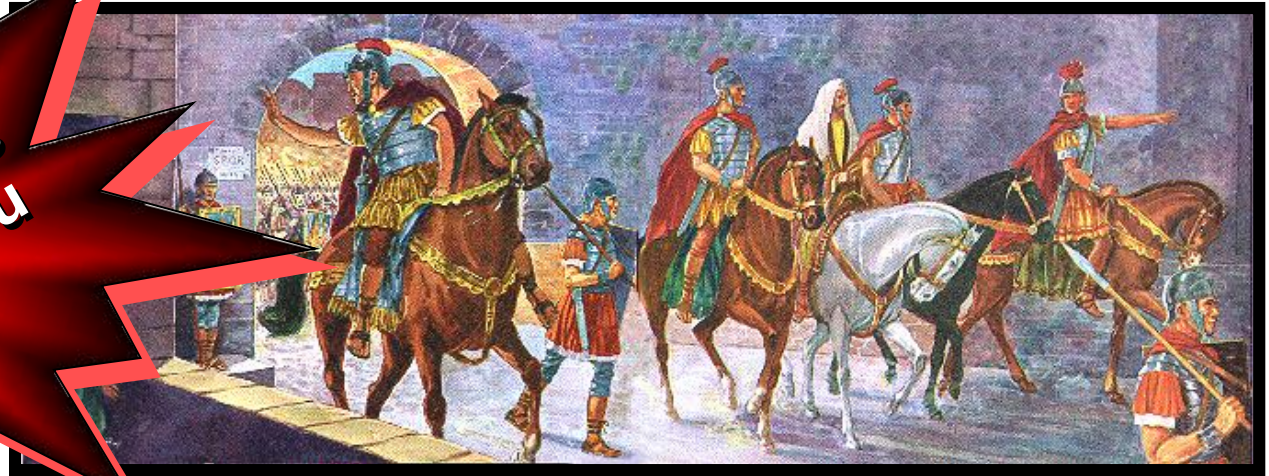
v.22 **Nephew is told:** to tell no one of this report

GOD'S PROVIDENCE AT WORK !

Paul Escorted to Caesarea ~ Acts 23:23-35

23:23 He called to him *two of the centurions* and said, "Get 200 soldiers ready by the third hour of the night (9:00 PM) to proceed to *Caesarea*, with 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen."

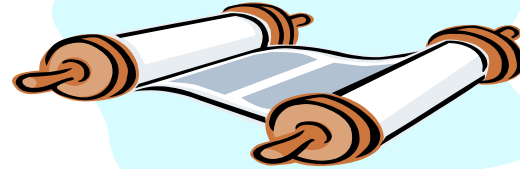
- Jews will attack with 40– Romans have 10:1 soldiers
- Jews will attack in Jerusalem— We'll go to Caesarea
- Jews will attack by day– We'll travel in Darkness



400
Foot soldiers go
only to Antipatris
35mi NW of Jeru
v.32

Paul Escorted to Caesarea ~ Acts 23:23-35

23:24-30 **The Letter** to
Felix the governor



v. 25 **Formal Address:** Claudius Lysias to Most Excellent
governor Felix, greetings.

v.27 **Political Lie:** I rescued.. having learned he was Roman
(*You found out— by almost scourging him!*)

v.28 **Simple Facts:** I brought him to the council..

v.29 **No real charges:** I tried, but got nothing definite

v.30 **In fact or in Prospect:** I instructed accusers to come
before you. **While the letter contained inaccuracies,
it exonerated Paul.**

Paul Escorted to Caesarea~ Acts 23:23-35

Caesarea

Antipatris

Jerusalem



Caesarea: Provincial Capitol



Paul Escorted to Caesarea ~ Acts 23:23-35

23:33 Letter & Paul presented to the governor...

v.33 When these had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.

v. 34 When he had read it, he asked from what province he was, and when he learned that he was from Cilicia...

Determining Jurisdiction

A man could be tried where his crime was committed or in his home country— Cilicia was a Roman Province.

v.35 He said, “I will give you a hearing after your accusers arrive also” Giving orders for him to be kept in Herod’s Palace: Praetorium— Governor’s official residence