

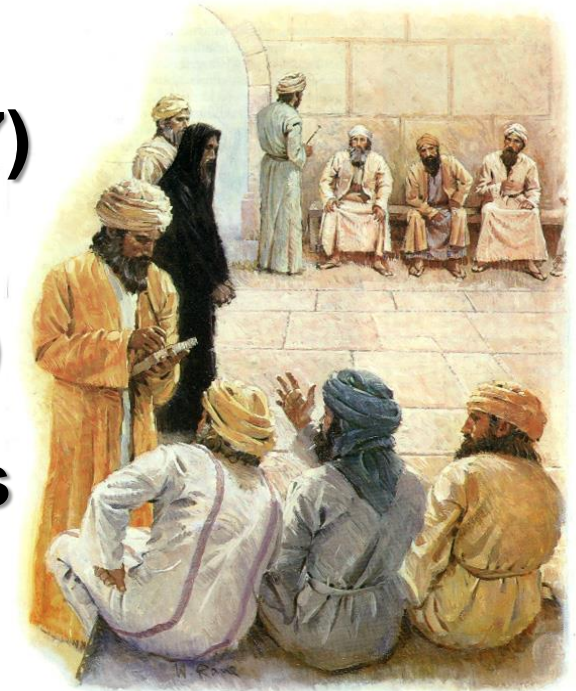
**Apostle Paul's  
Defense Before Felix~  
ACTS 24**

# Review Chap 21-23

Paul completes 3rd missionary journey at Jerusalem (Acts 21:17)

Paul is rescued from a riot by the *Roman commander*. (Acts 21:33)

1. **Commander** can't get the facts from the *rioters*. (Acts 21:34)
2. **Or get the facts** from Paul's speech to the mob in Hebrew (Acts 21:40)
3. **Or get the facts** by *beating* Paul. (Acts 22:24-25)
4. **And not much** from *Sanhedrin*. (Acts 22:24-25)
5. **So Claudius sends Paul to Felix**. (Acts 2:26)

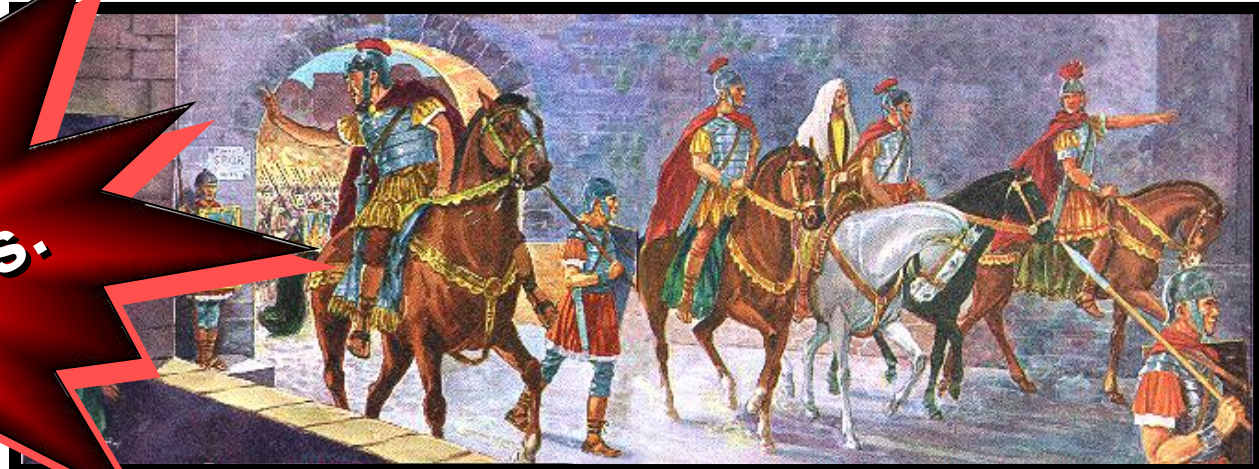


# Paul Escorted to Caesarea ~ Acts 23:23-35

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."

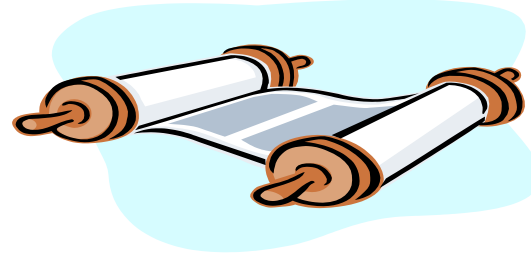
They want to attack with 40– I'll take about 470  
They'll attack in Jerusalem, he'll go to Caesarea  
They'll attack by day– he'll travel in Darkness

400  
foot soldiers  
go 35mi v32  
to Antripitas.



# Paul Escorted to Caesarea Acts 23:23-35

23:24-30 The Letter to Felix the governor



v25 Political Address: Most Excellent governor Felix. (*Politically correct but actually a Lie*).

v27 Another Lie: I rescued.. having learned he was Roman (*He found out by almost scourging him!*)

v28 Simple Fact: I brought him to the council..

v29 No real charges: I tried, but got nothing definite

v30 Likely lie: I instructed accusers to come before you. (*Not yet, if this letter accompanies Paul as he is being sneaked out of town.*)

# Paul Escorted to Caesarea~ Acts 23:23-35

Caesarea

Antipatris

Jerusalem



# I. Paul Accused Before Felix ~ Acts 24:1-9

Acts 24:1-2 After 5 days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders, with an attorney named Tertullus,



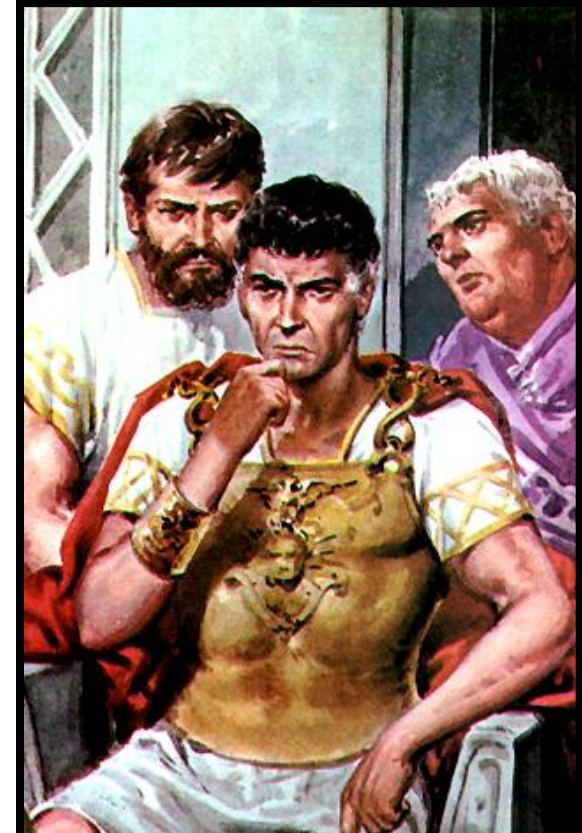
Unlike modern legal systems, Roman law did not provide for governmental prosecution of criminal acts. Prosecution, with permission of the relevant court, could be initiated by any adult male citizen. Only one accuser was permitted for each offense.

# I. Paul Accused Before Felix ~ Acts 24:1-9

24:2 They brought charges *to the governor* against Paul.

## v.2 Butter-up the Judge:

- Since we have through **YOU** attained much *peace*,
- By **Your** providence *reforms* are being carried out for this nation..
- Most Excellent** Felix



**Felix:** originally a slave, rose to Governor of Judea. *He repressed bands of robbers and assassins.*

Tacitus says he ruled with the powers of a king... and the disposition of a slave. Yikes. He was known for cruelty and ruthlessness.

# I. Paul Accused Before Felix ~ Acts 24:1-9

HERE ARE THE CHARGES:

Charges  
are...?

Acts 24:4 First, Political Blather.

Acts 24:5 This man is a real Pest “plague, disease”

**#1** *Stirs up dissension* among all the Jews (v.5)

**#2** *Ringleader* of the sect of the Nazarenes (v.5)

**#3** He even tried to desecrate the temple (v.6 )

v.6 He is the **cause** of extensive disturbances world-wide among the Jews by preaching doctrines contrary to Moses & exciting the Jews to chaos. He makes the Jews to violate the laws & creates riots *and disorder*. Paul's a principle leader. And one of the first obligations of a governor is to → PEACE !

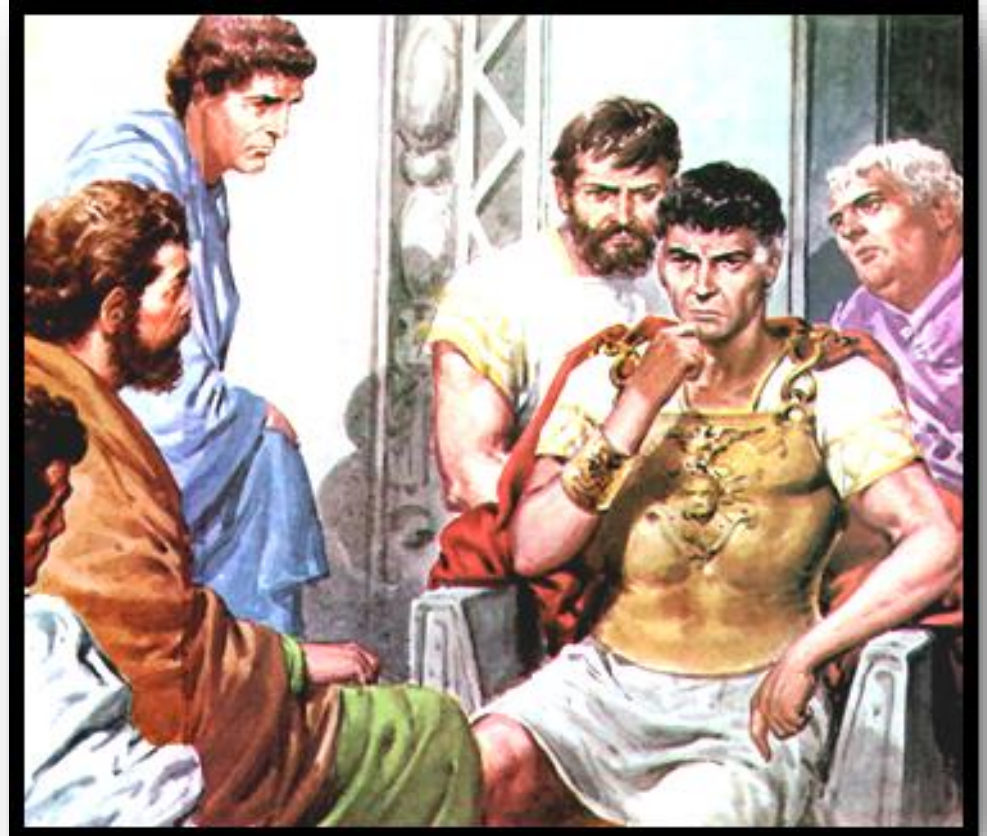


# II. Paul's Defense Before Felix ~ Acts 24:10-21

Paul's defense after attorney blather and the Jews attack:

Acts 24:10 And when the governor had *nodded for him* to speak, Paul responded:

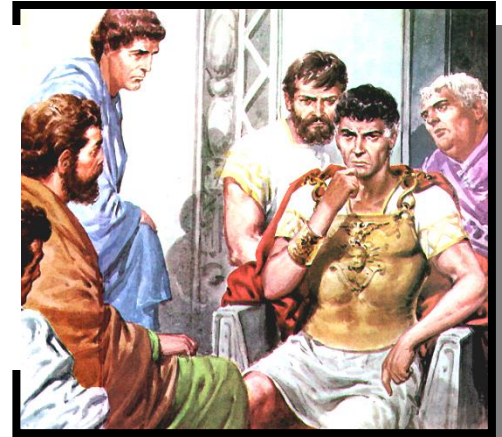
"Knowing that for *many years you have been a judge* to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense."



No blather...  
You have the experience  
to know what's going on.

# II. Paul's Defense Before Felix ~ Acts 24:10-21

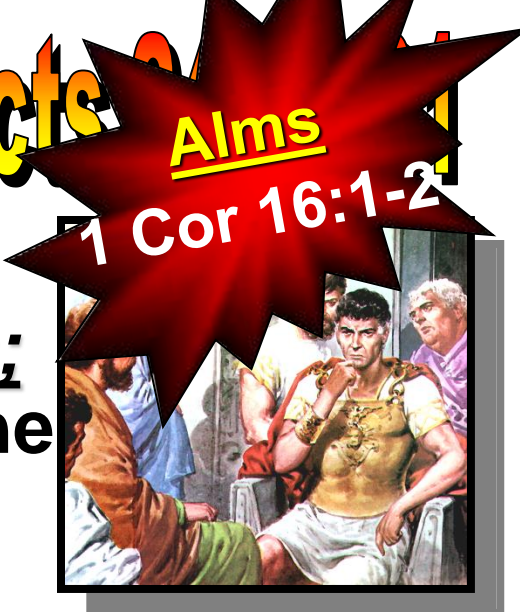
#1 You can take note of the fact that no more than 12 days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. (v.11)  
***Not much time to cause trouble***



#2 “Neither in temple, nor synagogues, nor in the city did they find me carrying on a discussion with anyone or causing a riot. (v.12) ***I was causing no problems nor can they prove their charge.***

#3 “According to the Way which they call a sect I serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law ... written in the Prophets (v.14) ***I’m no heretic. I believe everything in the Law.***

# II. Paul's Defense Before Felix ~ Acts 24



#5 After several years I came to bring alms to my nation & present offerings; in which they found me occupied in the temple, having been purified, without any crowd or uproar. (v.17-18)

*I was peaceful, benevolent & purified.* No problem.

#6 But there were some Jews from Asia- who ought to have been present before you to make accusation, if they have anything against me. (v.18-19)

*If it's about Asia why aren't Asians here to accuse?*

#7 Or what misdeed they found when I stood before the council other than this one statement..

*"For the resurrection of the dead I am on trial before you today."* (v.20-21)

# III. The Case Postponed~ Acts 24:22-23

**Acts 24:22** *But Felix, having a more exact knowledge about the Way, put them off..*

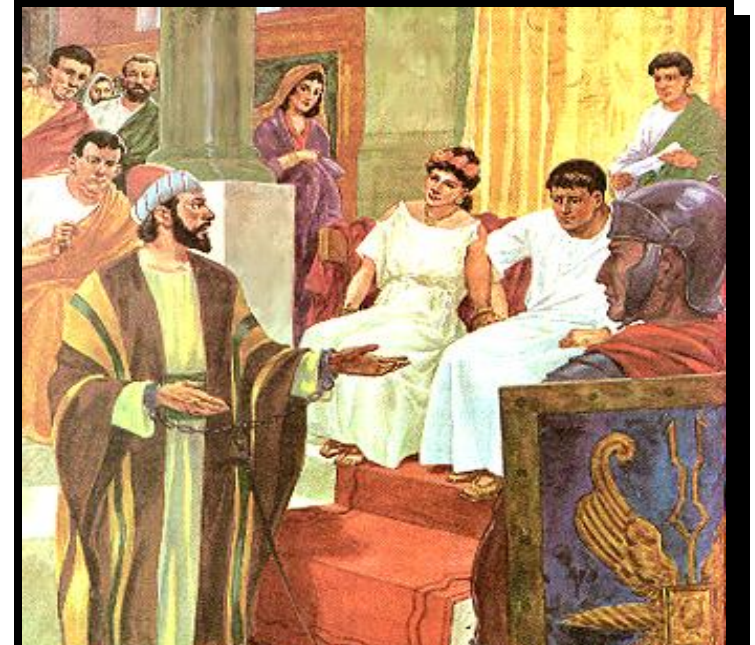


Perhaps by the Sadducees or others Felix became acquainted with the jealousies & the religious parties into which his subjects were divided.

**Acts 24:22** "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case.

# IV. Paul Preaches to Felix ~ Acts 24:24-27

**Acts 24:24** *But some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.*



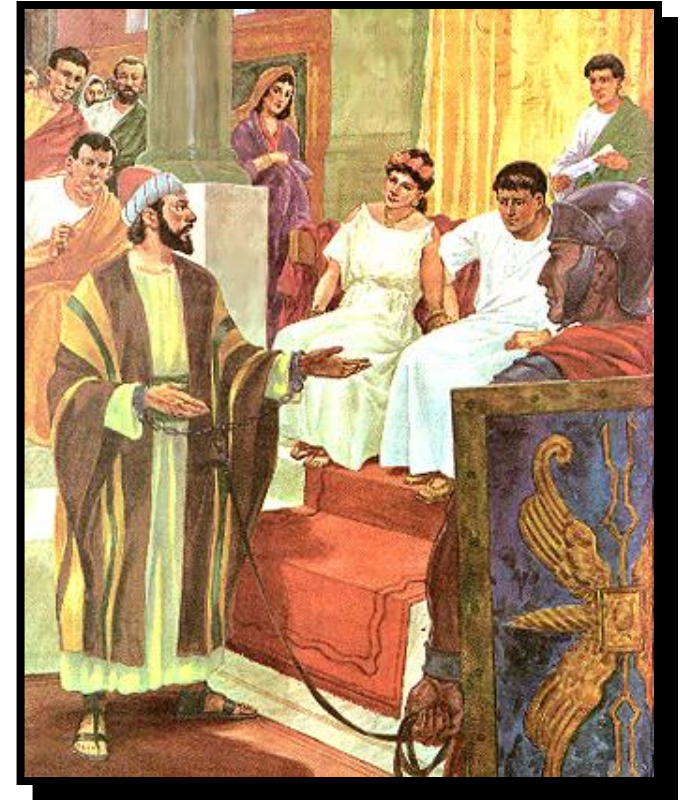
**v25** *But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."*

# IV. Paul Preaches to Felix ~ Acts 24:24-27

**Drucilla** was the daughter of Herod Agrippa I ~ who killed James (Acts 12:1)

**Drucilla** married to Aziz king of Emesa after his becoming a Jew.

**Drucilla** was now age 20 (in AD 58) was seduced by Felix to leave her husband & come live with him.

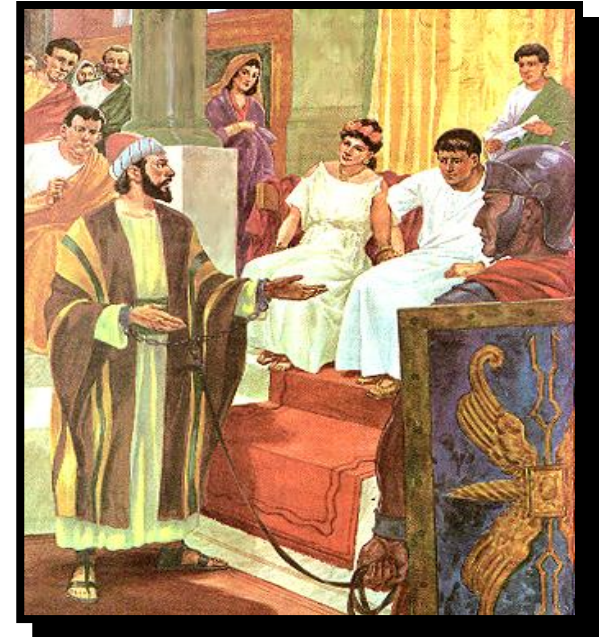


This is why Paul's address on RIGHTEOUSNESS had a huge impact on Felix.

# IV. Paul Preaches to Felix ~ Acts 24:24-27

Acts 24:26 At the same time too, he was hoping that money would be given him by Paul; therefore he also used to send for him quite often & converse with him.

He was looking for...  
a bribe !



27 But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned.

Felix was recalled to Rome for mismanagement, banished to Gaul where he died.

Political expediencies !