

Acts 26 Defense

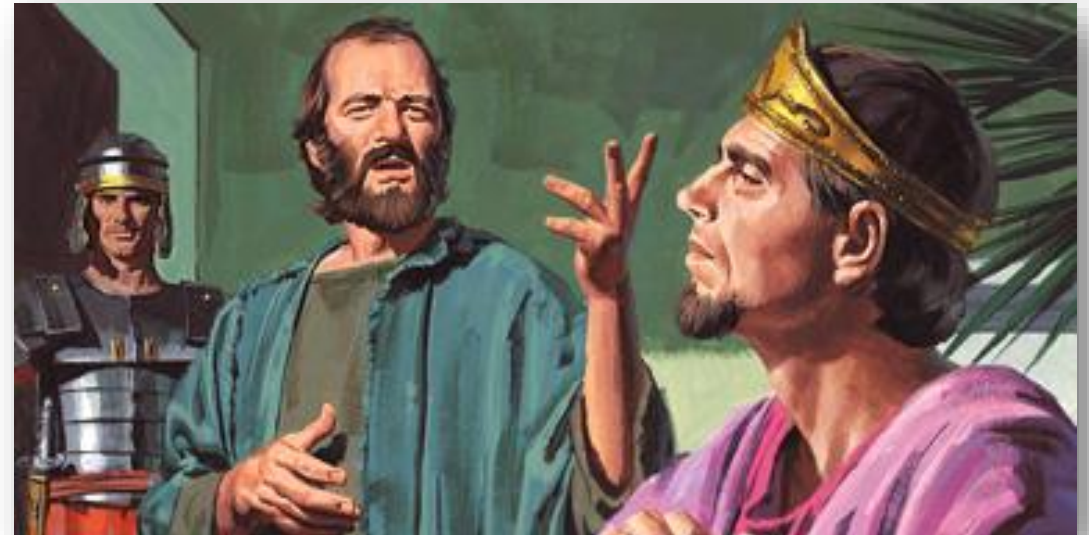
Before Agrippa

Paul's Introduction (Acts 26: 1-3)

Review: How long has Paul been in prison before Rome? 24:27

- Claudius Lysius moved Paul to Caesarea 23:23
- Felix wanted a bribe & to please Jews 24:26,27
- Festus wanted to do Jeru Jews a favor 25:9
- Agrippa saw Paul as a curiosity 25:22

Acts 26:1 Agrippa said to Paul, “You are permitted to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and proceeded to make his defense..

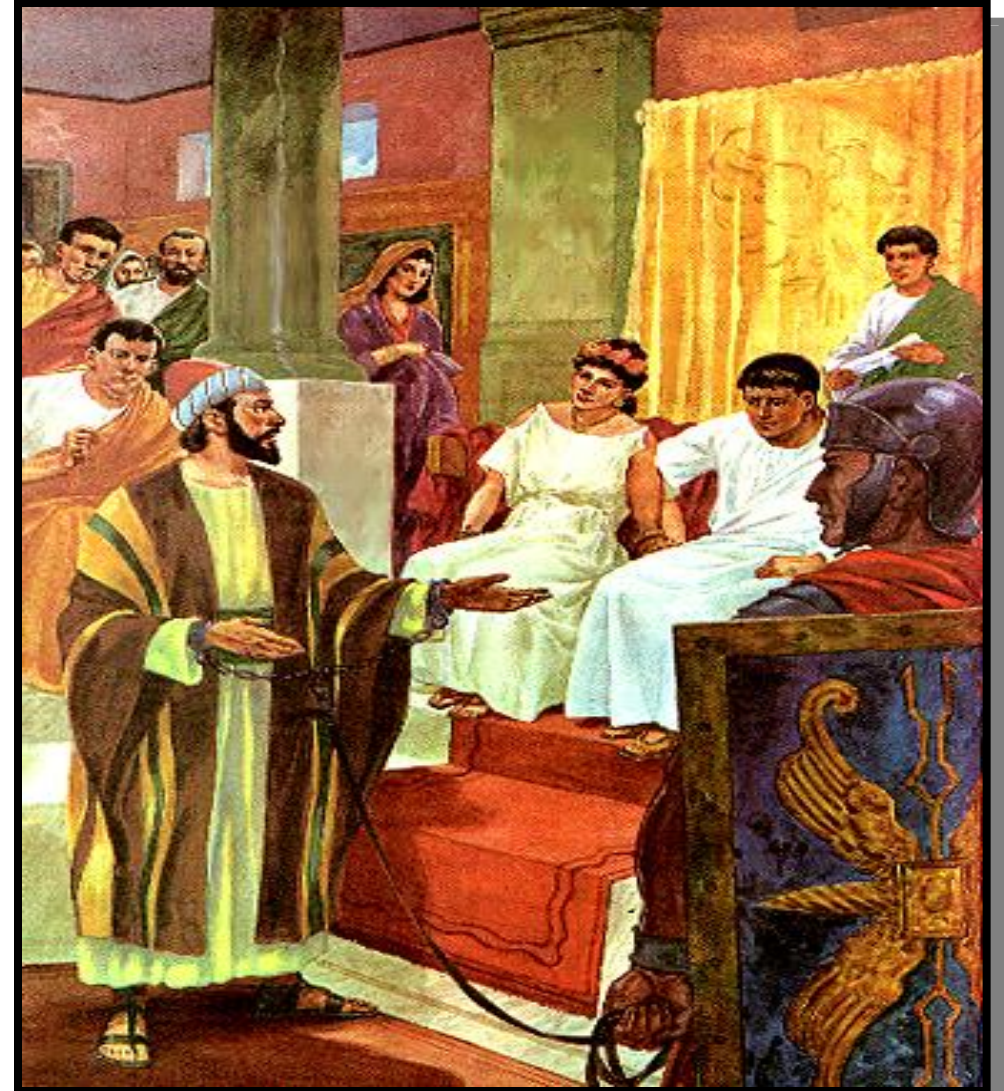


Paul's Introduction (Acts 26: 1-3)

Acts 26:2

I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that I am about to make my defense before you today...

- He's already made the appeal to Caesar (Acts 25:11-12)
- But he'd try to win Agrippa II to Christ (Acts 26:27-29)

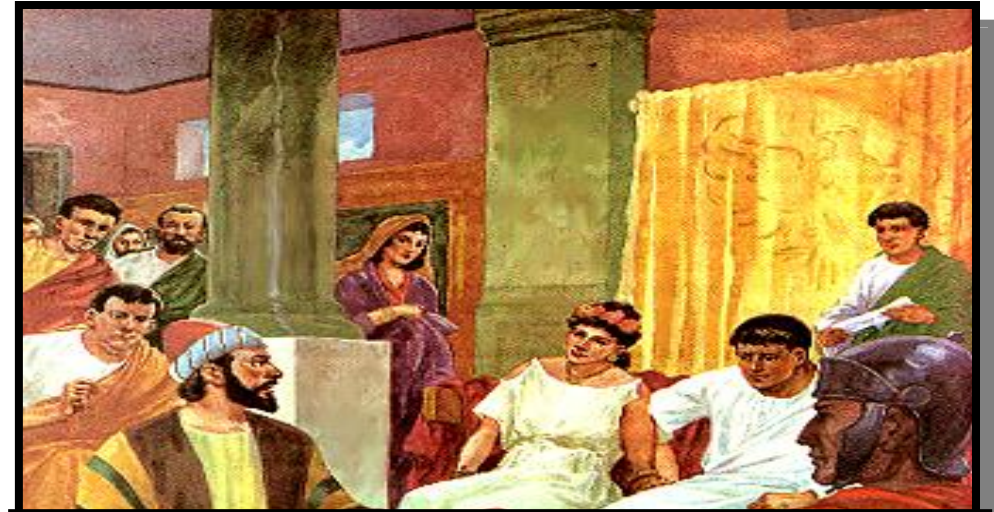


Paul's Introduction

(Acts 26: 1-3)

Acts 26: 3 Especially because
*you are an expert in all customs
and questions among the Jews;*
therefore I beg you to listen
to me patiently.

This is Agrippa II ~ he's only 31.
His father murdered James in
Acts 12. And Bernice is his
widowed sister & '**companion.**'



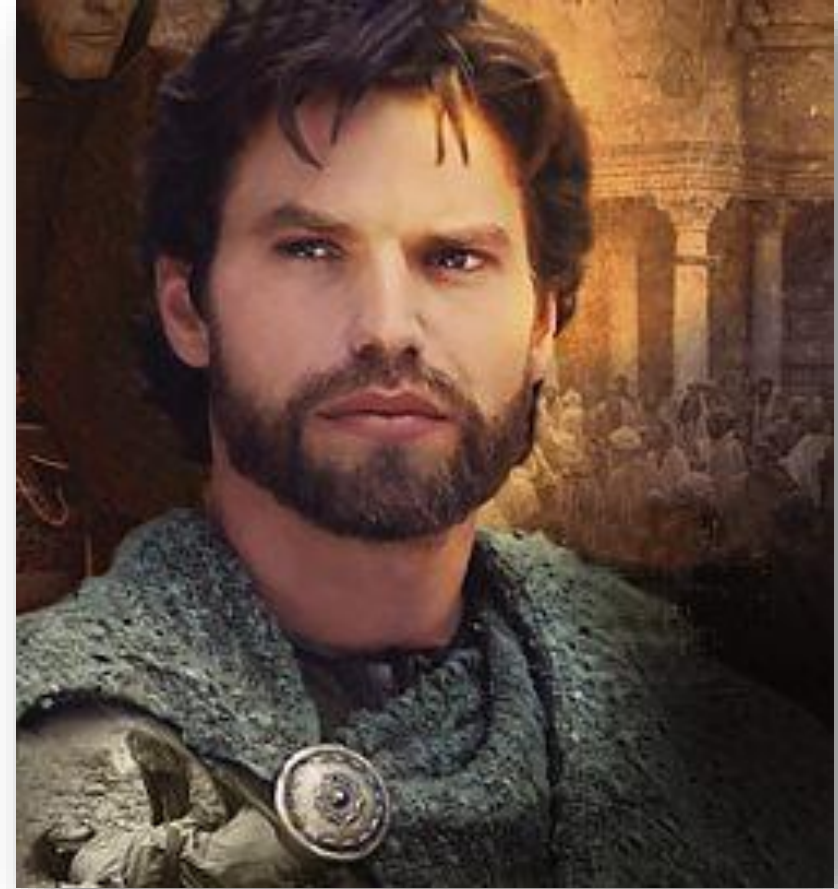
*His relationship to Bernice
his sister was a scandal
among Jews & Gentiles
alike (Ant. XX. Vii. 3) ISBE*

Josephus says Agrippa: **Was brought up in the Jewish faith**
& because of this was entrusted by the emperor with over-
sight of Jerusalem while Judea was under procurators. Ant 20.1.3

II. Paul's Life & Conversion (Acts 26: 4-18)

v.4 **My Life is known**: “from youth up
Beginning spent among my
own nation at in Jerusalem.”
(So I’m not a _____)

v.5 **I’m Conservative**: Lived as a
Pharisee according to the **strictest
sect of our religion.**”
(So I’m not a _____)



II. Paul's Life & Conversion (Acts 26: 4-18)

v.6-8 *Why I'm on trial*: for the hope made by God to our fathers—the *MESSIANIC HOPE* !

v.7 The 12 tribes hope to attain!
So I'm being accused of what we all believe! Isa 53.

v.8 Why is it incredible among you *[plural]* people if God raises one from the dead?

It was Foretold: Isa 26:19; Job 19:25-26; Dan 12:2



II. Paul's Life & Conversion (Acts 26: 4-18)

v.9-11 *I was OPPOSED to Christianity:*

- a. I thought *I HAD to* do many things hostile to the name of Jesus
- b. I locked them up in prison.
- c. I cast my death-penalty vote against them.
- d. Punished them in all synagogues
- e. Tried to force them to blaspheme.
- f. Furiously enraged at them.
- g. Pursued them to foreign cities.



So I *wasn't a sympathizer* but their staunchest _____

II. Paul's Life & Conversion (Acts 26: 4-18)

v.12-18 *Then Jesus Appeared to Me:*

12. Journeying to Damascus by authority of chief priests.

13. At mid-day light brighter than the sun!

14. Voice called me by name.

15. He said he was JESUS.

16. And I would be a witness.

17-18 Mission: a] *open the eyes* of Jews & Gentiles;

b] Turn them from *Darkness & power of Satan* to light;

c] So they can have *forgiveness of sins & inheritance* !



II. Paul's Life & Conversion (Acts 26: 4-18)

v.19 *I was obedient:*
to the heavenly
vision

v.20 *Kept declaring* at
Damascus, Jerusalem
Judea & to gentiles.
(I did what I was told to do)

v.20 That *they should repent and turn to God*, performing
deeds appropriate to repentance. *(Live right & Do right)*



III. Why Paul's Imprisoned (Acts 26: 19-23)

v.21 For this reason some Jews seized me in the Temple & **tried to kill me.**



Acts 26:22 "*And so, having obtained help from God,*
I stand before you this day..."

III. Why Paul's Imprisoned (Acts 26: 19-23)



v.22 *I'm NOT a heretic*: I stand to this day testifying to small & great.

Stating nothing but what the *Prophets & Moses said was going to take place.*

v.23 That the *Christ was to suffer* (Isa 55:3),
That by reason of *His resurrection from the dead* (Ps 16:9)
He should be the first to proclaim light both to the
Jewish people & to the Gentiles.“ (Isa 61:1)

I've done nothing against Jewish Law or against **Rome.**

IV. Interruption & Conclusion (Acts 26: 24-29)



Acts 26:24 Festus said in a loud voice: “Paul, you are out of your mind ! Your great learning is driving you mad.”

A pagan Roman shouts this !

Believing in a resurrection – was crazy to a Gentile (1 Cor 1:23)

Having a “vision” that said go preach the resurrection is proof of craziness.

Finally: Trying to convert your judges to it makes you “certifiably crazy.”

IV. Interruption & Conclusion (Acts 26: 24-29)

Acts 26:27 "King Agrippa, *do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do.*"

28 Agrippa replied to Paul, "in a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."

Agrippa sees Paul's intent and politely sidesteps it

29 And Paul said, "I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains.



V. Result of Paul's Defense (Acts 26: 30-32)

Acts 26:31 and when they had gone aside, they began talking to one another, saying, "*This man is not doing anything worthy of death or imprisonment.*"

True! So, why imprisoned for over 2 yrs?

32 And Agrippa said to **Festus**, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."



*Festus still has
NO charge
to send to Rome*

Because of it—he will preach in Rome, convert Caesar's servants & be released.