

# Acts

## Lesson 11

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## Acts 21-Acts 26: Paul's Visit to Jerusalem and His

Time Line: AD 58-60? (2 years)

## Captivity

## 1.) (Acts 21:17-26) Paul's return trip to Jerusalem

**What difficulty does Paul face on his return to Jerusalem?**  
Rumors had spread that Paul taught all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses.

- *Act 21:20-21 And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law, and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.*

## What advice does he receive?

*As 21 23 24 Do therefore what we tell you. he*  
**Take the Nasserite vow, showing he**

**still held to Jewish traditions.**  
*We have four men who are under a vow: take these men and purify yourself along with them*

*and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law.*

## **2.) (Acts 21:27-35) Paul arrested in the Temple**

**Who stirs up the people against Paul?**  
The Jews from Asia

*Acts 21:27 When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, out, "Men of Israel, help!"*

A native of Asia (i.e. a Gentile)

## **Who is Trophimus the Ephesian?**

*Acts 21:28-29 This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place." For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.*

*See also Acts 20:4 and 2Tim 4:20*

## Who rescues Paul?

The Tribune of the cohort (Roman army commander; Claudius Lysias)

*Acts 21:30-33 And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion. He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains.*

# Who is Paul mistaken for? The Egyptian

*Acts 21: 38-39 Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?" Paul replied, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city. I beg you, permit me to speak to the people."*



### **3.) (Acts 21:40 - Acts 22:21) Paul's defense to the people What does Paul use in his defense?**

**His testimony.**

*Acts 22:7-10 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.'*

# His statement about being sent to the Gentile. (The first race riot). **What stirs up the people against Paul?**

*Acts 22:21 And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"*

*Acts 22:22 Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live."*

## 4.) (Acts 22:22-29) Paul and the Romans

### Tribune

His knowledge of Roman law (He is a Roman citizen).  
How does Paul avoid a flogging?

*Act 22:24-25 the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this. But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?"*

## 5.) (Acts 22:30-Acts 23:11) Paul before the Jewish Council The high priest Who is Ananias?

*Act 23:1-5 And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day." And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?" Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?" And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"*

**How does Paul use his knowledge of Jewish groups to divide the assembly?  
His knowledge that Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection**

*Act 23:6 Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial."*

He would make it to Rome.

**What encouragement does Paul receive**

Acts 23:11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

Acts 19:21 Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

See also Rom 1:9-10

## 6.) (Acts 23:12-35) A plot to kill Paul

A plot to ambush and kill Paul as he is taken to the Jewish council in Jerusalem.  
What plot is uncovered by Paul's nephew?

*Act 23:15-16 Now therefore you, along with the council, give notice to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him before he comes near." Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul.*

# What does the Roman army commander Claudius Lysias do to protect Paul? He takes Paul to Caesarea under the protection of 270 soldiers?

*Act 23:23-24 Then he called two of the centurions and said, "Get ready two hundred soldiers, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night. Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and bring him safely to Felix the governor."*



## 7.) (Acts 24) Paul before Felix at

Marcus Antonius Felix

Who is the Roman Governor, Felix?  
Felix's term had begun in AD, 52

Recognized Paul's innocence

- *Act 24:26-27 At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.*

# What are the three charges Tertullus

He stirs up riots among all the Jews  
throughout the world  
**makes a gainst Paul?**

He is a ringleader of the sect of the  
Nazarenes.

He even tried to profane the temple

*Act 24:5-6 For we have found this man a  
plague, one who stirs up riots among all the  
Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader  
of the sect of the Nazarenes. He even tried to  
profane the temple, but we seized him*

# What is Paul's defense?

He had only been in Jerusalem 12 days not enough to stir up riots among all the Jews

*Act 24:10-13 And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defense. You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem, and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city.*

# What is Paul's defense?

He admitted to being a part of the Way

*Act 24:14-15 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.*

# What is Paul's defense?

## He did not profane the temple

*Act 24:18 While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia-- they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me.*

# Who is Felix's wife, Drusilla?

Youngest daughter of Herod Agrippa I

Sister of Agrippa II

Her marriage to Felix was a scandal

She and her son perished together in the AD 79 eruption of Mount Vesuvius

- *Act 24:24-25 After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you."*

## 8.) (Acts 25:1-12) Paul appeals to Caesar

### Who is Festus?

Porcius Festus was procurator of Judea  
from about AD 59 to 62,  
Succeeded Antonius Felix.

*Act 25:1 Now three days after Festus had  
arrived in the province, he went up to  
Jerusalem from Caesarea.*

# Why does Paul appeal to Caesar?

To avoid being sent to Jerusalem and face an ambush, as Festus was asked by the Chief priests to send Paul to Jerusalem to try his case there so they could ambush and kill him.

- *Acts 25:2-3 And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him, asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem--because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way.*
- *See also Acts 25:9-11*



## 9.) (Acts 25:13-27) Paul's defense before

Agrippa the king was Agrippa II,

Who is Agrippa?  
Son of Herod Agrippa I

Great-grandson of Herod the Great

He ruled over several minor, primarily Gentile territories.

*Act 25:13 Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus.*

# Who is Bernice?

The daughter of Herod Agrippa I

And the sister of Agrippa II

Constant companion of Agrippa.

*Act 25:13 Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus.*

# How is this a fulfillment of scripture?

Mat 10:18 Mark 13:9 Luke 21:12, Acts 9:15

- *Luke 21:12 But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake.*
- *Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.*

## 9.) (Acts 26) Paul's defense before

His testimony.  
Agrippa

**What does Paul use in his defense to Agrippa?**

*Acts 26:13-15. 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. 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.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.'*

# What is Festus' response?

You are out of your mind.

*Act 26:24 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."*

# What is Agrippa's response?

In such a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"

*Act 26:28-29 And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"*

# What is Paul's response?

I would to God that you become as I am.

*Act 26:29 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."*

## *Some final thoughts:*

- God is true to His word
- Our testimonies are a powerful tool for the gospel
- The witness to the gospel calls for a response.
- Witnesses must always maintain integrity before the world.
- Christian witnesses continue the ministry that Christ “began”
- Persecution should not hinder the message