

How to Read the Bible for All its Worth

Lesson 6j: Acts 25:1 – 26:32 – Paul’s Captivity – Part 2

Introduction

Over the past few chapters, we have seen Paul go from being a traveling missionary to a prisoner trapped in Felix’s prison for two years. This was a big transition for Paul and likely was a great trial for him as his heart longed to preach the gospel throughout the world, especially in Rome. In this lesson we will see Paul use another opportunity to witness for the Lord. The Lord will in turn bless the desire of Paul’s heart and allow him to begin his journey to Rome.

Acts 25:1-12 – Paul before Festus

We learned at the end of Acts 24 that Festus succeeded Felix as governor of Judea. Unlike Felix, who was a former slave, Festus came from a line of Roman nobility and was generally thought to be a better ruler than Felix. Along with the throne, Festus also inherited Felix’s problems, one of which was Paul. Felix never resolved his imprisonment and had kept him jailed in the hopes of getting some monetary gain from the Christians. In contrast to Felix, Festus was a man of action and he held Paul’s trial within two weeks of taking office.

Why did the Jews try to persuade Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem?

What was Festus’ solution?

What was the Jews’ weakness in their case against Paul?

What did Festus propose to do and why?

What was Paul’s response? Was this a good move on his part?

Acts 25:13-22 – Paul gains an audience with King Agrippa

King Agrippa was the last in the long line of Herods to rule in Northern Palestine. He was actually King Agrippa II, named after his father, the previous Herod. His father, Agrippa I, was the Herod who killed James, arrested Peter, and made the great speech, after which he died because he did not give God the glory. His great-uncle, Herod Antipas, killed John the Baptist, sought Jesus’ life, and later tried Him. His great-grandfather was Herod the Great, who sought the baby Jesus and ended up killing the male babies in Bethlehem in an effort to murder Jesus.

Bernice was not only King Agrippa’s significant other, but also his sister. Drusilla, Felix’s wife, was their sister. Bernice often left Agrippa to have affairs with other men, but she seemed to keep coming back to him. Agrippa was very familiar with the affairs of Jews and was in charge of the temple treasury and had the ability to appoint the high priest.

How did Festus relate the Jews’ disagreement with Paul?

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What was Festus’ dilemma and why did he ask Agrippa for help?

Acts 25:23-26:32 – Paul before King Agrippa

Why was Paul happy about his opportunity to plead his case before Agrippa?

Why did Paul say he was standing trial?

What were Paul’s specific tactics for persecuting Christians?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

As Paul recounts his conversion on the road to Damascus, he said that the Lord told him, “it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.” What does this mean?

To what purpose had the Lord called Paul?

How did Paul explain his continued preaching of Christ? Why did he do it?

What did Paul mean when he said that he preached, “that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.”? (see also Luke 3:8-14 and 1 Peter 1:14-16)

Did Paul narrow his ministry to a certain type of people?

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What was Festus’ accusation against Paul? (See 1 Corinthians 1:23)

Why was Paul persuaded that Agrippa knew what he was talking about and believed him?

What was Agrippa’s response to Paul and how did Paul respond to Agrippa?

What was Agrippa’s verdict?

Was it good or bad that Paul had appealed to Caesar?

Assignment:

Read Acts 27:1 – 28:31 in preparation for the next lesson