

## **ROAD TO ROME**

### **Acts 21:17-23:35**

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*Review Q.1. What is the purpose and message of Acts?*

*Review Q.2. What are the main events which have affected the development of the early church up to this moment in their history?*

Even before Paul's arrival at Jerusalem it becomes apparent that this is really a trip to Rome.

The end of the road is in Rome (21:17-28:31).

Though Paul knew arrest was ahead, he went on anyway, confident of God's will.

He witnesses along the way and on his arrival in Rome.

This was the purpose for which God had called him (cf. Acts 9:15-16).

#### **1. Paul's witness in Jerusalem 21:17-23:35**

##### **a. His detention 21:17-36**

## **(1) Meeting with elders 21:17-26**

When Paul arrives in Jerusalem, he first reports to the elders (21:17-26).

*Q.1. What accusations were the Jewish believers presenting against Paul (21:17-26)? Was this true?*

They are concerned because some of the Jews have heard that he has been encouraging Jews to become Gentiles.

*What does Paul teach about the law as it is related to Jews?*

To prove that the charge is false, Paul identifies with those following Jewish practices.

The custom involved was a voluntary one.

These men were not legalists.

They were Christians concerned with a proper walk who used the law to demonstrate God's work in their lives.

## **(2) Accusation 21:27-29**

**Q.2. *What accusations did the Jews present against Paul (21:27-29)?***

When the Jews find Paul in the temple area, they accuse him of speaking against Israel, the law and the temple (21:27-29).

They also accuse him of bringing Greeks into the temple.

***In what ways were these accusations true? In what ways were they false?***

The first part of the charge is somewhat true.

He did speak of the setting aside of Israel, the end of the law, and the destruction of the temple.

The charge concerning the Greeks was false.

### **(3) Arrest 21:30-36**

Because of the mob violence and attempt to kill Paul, the military commander went in to arrest Paul and investigate the charges against him (21:30-36).

#### **b. His defense 21:37-23:10**

Paul is given an opportunity to defend himself before the crowd (21:37-23:10).

#### **(1) Testimony to Jews 21:37-22:21**

**Q.3.** *How did Paul defend himself before the Jewish accusations (22:3-23)? What issue provoked the strong Jewish reaction?*

As Paul told the Jews of his past and the way God had convinced him of the truth concerning Jesus, they listened quietly until he mentioned his call to preach to the Gentiles.

**(2) Response by Jews 22:22-23**

This was too much for them.

Again they want to kill him.

The issue was not salvation by faith but the commission to go to the Gentiles (21:37-22:23).

**(3) Examination by Romans 22:24-29**

The commander didn't understand what the issue was but decided to examine Paul to find out (22:24-29).

**(4) Hearing with the council 22:30-23:10**

He finally calls a private hearing with the Jewish leaders (22:30-23:10).

**Q.4.** *What are the implications between the lines in the dialogue concerning the High Priest (23:1-5)?*

**Q.5. *What were the implications of Paul's tactic with the Sanhedrin (23:6-10)?***

In the hearing, Paul focuses on the issue of the resurrection.

He demonstrates that they can't even agree together concerning the truth.

How, then, can they persecute him for his convictions?

He is not teaching anything that isn't also taught in the Old Testament.

**c. His deliverance 23:11-35**

**(1) Revelation of protection 23:11**

God reveals Himself to Paul and assures him of His protection to enable him to witness in Rome also (23:11).

**(2) Plot by Jews 23:12-15**

God's protection is demonstrated when the Jewish leaders plot to kill Paul.

The plan is exposed and Paul taken away by night to Caesarea (23:12-35).

**(3) Provision for protection 23:16-22**

**(4) Transfer to Caesarea 23:23-35**

**Q.6.** *What do the accounts of this phase of the trial indicate concerning the accusations against Paul?*

**Q.7.** *What lessons should we learn from this section that we ought to apply to our own lives?*