

SEE FOR YOURSELF!

Acts 24

TESTIMONY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH 13-28

First Missionary Journey 13-14

Council at Jerusalem 15:1-35

Second Missionary Journey 15:36-18:22

Third Missionary Journey 18:23-21:16

ROAD TO ROME 21:17-28:31

Even before Paul arrives at Jerusalem

it's evident that this is really a trip to Rome.

A trip paid for, courtesy of the Roman Government

–THEIR “tax dollars at work!–for the benefit of God’s kingdom.

The end of the road is in Rome.

Though Paul knows arrest lies ahead,

he goes on anyway, confident of God's will.

He witnesses along the way, as well as on his arrival in Rome.

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

Paul's witness in Jerusalem 21:17-23:35

His detention 21:17-36

Meeting with elders 21:17-26

Accusation 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.

Arrest 21:30-36

Because of the mob violence and attempt to kill Paul, the military commander arrests Paul and investigates the charges against him.

His defense 21:37-23:10

Paul is given an opportunity to defend himself before the crowd.

Testimony to Jews 21:37-22:21

As Paul tells the Jews of his past and how God convinced him of the truth concerning Jesus, they listen quietly until he mentions his call to preach to the Gentiles.

Response by Jews 22:22-23

They want to kill him.

Their issue isn't Christ, or salvation by faith, but the commission to go to Gentiles!

Examination by Romans 22:24-29

The commander can't understand the issue but decides to examine Paul to find out.

Hearing with the council 22:30-23:10

He calls a private hearing with the Jewish leaders.

The hearing demonstrates Paul's innocence of anything the Romans might accuse him of.

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 isn't teaching anything that isn't taught in the Old Testament.

His deliverance 23:11-35

Revelation of protection 23:11

God reveals Himself to Paul and assures him of His protection to enable him to witness in Rome also.

Plot by Jews 23:12-15

Provision for protection 23:16-22

Transfer to Caesarea 23:23-35

Paul's witness in Caesarea 24-26

As the trial scenes progress, it becomes evident to all, including neutral Roman officials, that Paul is not guilty of any crime worthy of punishment.

Yet the opposition continues.

Jewish leaders just want to shut him up!

Luke summarizes the proceedings in Caesarea (24:1-26:32).

Defense before Felix 24

Roman Governor of the province.

Defense before Festus 25:1-12

Replacement for Felix as Governor of the province.

Defense before Agrippa 25:13-26:32

“King of the Jews”

Subject to Rome.

One of the Herods

Defense before Felix 24

Felix first hears the case (24:1-27).

He is a pagan governor, responsible for the province.

The leaders try to win his favor and provoke his anger against Paul.

Jewish accusation 24:1-9

No evidence is presented to support their charge.

Much flattery! 2-4

How low will they stoop to accomplish their purpose?

But no evidence!

Baseless accusations 5-9

Even the charges they make would not be a basis for Roman action.

Paul's defense 24:10-21

Paul responds that their charges are unfounded. 10-13

Paul compliments him also 10

"You know these guys well." 10-11

His only crime is trusting the God of their fathers and believing His promises. 14-21

He came to help the poor (17a) and to worship (17b).

Felix' response 24:22-23

His response is an acknowledgment that there's no crime in what Paul has done.

"Is this all they have?"

"I'd better check with Lysias!"

Paul's personal testimony 24:24-26

Paul witnesses privately before Felix and his Jewish wife.

24 =faith in Christ.

He wasn't afraid to proclaim the gospel to the powerful.

He speaks about righteousness, self-control, and coming judgment 25

None of these characterized pagan Roman politicians!

His reference to these themes rightly provokes fear. 26

What Roman politician wouldn't have cause to fear before God's righteous demands?

He cuts him off! –“I'll get back to you later—at a more convenient time!”

Felix' delay 24:27

Felix recognizes that he has no basis to punish Paul, yet he prolongs the proceedings to please the Jews and perhaps gain extra income from one of the two parties involved. 26

He holds Paul for two years without a conviction.

No legitimate cause is ever presented for judgment.

LESSONS FOR US?

Paul speaks confidently of the truth, using the opportunity he is given to express his confidence in God.

He isn't intimidated to silence by the power of the opposition.

He speaks appropriately for the audience he is addressing.

But his message (the Gospel) doesn't change!

His message is the same: “Trust Christ!” 24

People who would live righteously and proclaim the gospel *will* suffer persecution! **2 Tim. 3:12**

God is still in charge.

He watches over and protects those who are faithful.

They will ultimately triumph—whether we live or die!