

YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND!

Acts 25-26

TESTIMONY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH 13-28

ROAD TO ROME 21:17-28:31

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

His detention 21:17-36

His defense 21:37-23:10

His deliverance 23:11-35

Revelation of protection 23:11

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

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 *"He's a troublemaker!"* 5-6

No evidence is presented to support their charge.

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
12-13

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

Felix' response 24:22-23

His response acknowledges that there's no crime in what
 Paul has done.

"Is this all they have?" 22

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

His reference to these themes rightly provokes fear. 26
 What politician wouldn't have cause to fear 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
 perhaps to gain extra income from one of the two parties

Defense before Festus 25:1-12

After 2 years of holding Paul without charges, Festus replaces Felix as Governor and the case is heard again.

They try to get the trial moved to Jerusalem so they can ambush them. 3

The people who took the vow are getting pretty hungry after 2 years.

Their accusation: serious, but baseless charges 7,
=> 18-19

Paul's defense: "*I've done nothing wrong.*" 8

When Festus asks him to go to Jerusalem,

He isn't willing to give the Jews another opportunity to plot his death. 9

Paul appeals to Caesar. 10-11

Festus' response - sends him to Caesar 12 => 20
=> 25-27

Defense before Agrippa 25:13-26:32

"King of the Jews"

Subject to Rome.

In order to write a report to Caesar, Festus asks Agrippa, the last of the Herods, to hear the case and give him an opinion.

Festus' report to Caesar 25:13-27

Paul's defense 26:1-29

His former life 26:4-5

"My hope in God's promises led me to Jesus 6-8

Former opposition to Jesus 9-11

Encounter with Jesus 12-15

Appointment to proclaim Jesus 16-18

Proclamation 19-20 => 22b-23

Repent (Change your mind about Jesus)

Turn to God

Demonstrate fruit of genuine change—of turning to Christ

The same message of Moses and the prophets—

Resurrection

Light to His people and to the Gentiles

God's help in the face of opposition 21-22a

Festus' response 24 *"You're out of your mind!"*

Paul's response to Festus 25-26

Paul's appeal to Agrippa 27

"Do YOU believe what the prophets said,

i.e., the message about the Christ?"

Agrippa's response 28

Paul's prayer for Agrippa and the entire audience 29

Agrippa's opinion 26:30-32

After hearing Paul's defense, Agrippa recognizes that Paul shouldn't be in jail, much less in danger of death.

He should have been set free a long time ago!

Because of his appeal to Caesar, he had to be sent to him.

What do these accounts teach us concerning the charges made against Paul?

What do these accounts teach us about Paul's guilt?

LESSONS FOR US?