

1/13/07

Acts 24

Paul has been falsely accused by the Jews, a plot on his life has been discovered, so he was escorted to Caesarea for his own protection and would be heard by Felix, after his accusers arrived.

The high priest, the elders and an orator came down from Jerusalem to testify against Paul.

24:1-9 **The accusation of Paul before Felix.**

24:1 The delegation from Jerusalem.

- 1) The time was five days after.
 - a) The question is five days after what, his arrival at Caesarea.
 - b) Or after his arrest?
- 2) Ananias and the high priest came down with the elders, representing the Sanhedrin.
 - * One always goes down from Jerusalem and up to Jerusalem.
- 3) They brought along an orator named Tertullus.
 - * The word for orator “rhetor” means a public pleader, an advocate like Demosthenes of Greece or Cicero of Rome.

- 4) The purpose of their trip was to accuse Paul before Felix.

24:2-4 The introduction of Tertullus address to Felix.

- 1) Tertullus was given the floor opens up with the most embellished flatteries to gain the favor of Felix. vs. 2-3
 - a) Being called upon his accusation of Paul. vs. 2a-b
 - a) He told Felix it was due to Felix they were enjoying great peace, when in fact under him they experience turmoil. vs. 2c-d
 - b) He told Felix that due to his foresight they were experiencing prosperity as a nation, another lie. vs. 2e
 - c) He told Felix this was the consensus in all places and the people were thankful to him, another lie. vs. 3
- 2) Tertullus stated he did not want to waste the time of Felix and begged his audience for a few words from them. vs. 4
 - * The word tedious “egkopto” means to not be a hindrance or bother, to impede Felix.

24:5-8 The formal accusation against Paul.

- 1) Tertullus identifies Paul as a plague “loimos”, a pest or pestilence, a disease that was spreading to others. vs. 5a

- 2) Tertullus then declares the first accusation, Paul was a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world. vs. 5b
* The world was the then known Roman world.
- 3) Tertullus next accused Paul of being a ringleader of the Nazarenes. vs. 5c
* Acts 2:22; Matt. 2:23
- 4) Tertullus thirdly accused Paul of profaning the Temple. vs. 6a
- 5) Tertullus said they seized Paul and wanted to try him according to their law. vs. 6b-c
 - a) They made it appear as if the charges were true and they were in the process of judging Paul, fabricating and manipulating the facts.
 - b) They were attempting to kill him in the temple area.
 - c) They were fighting among themselves in the gathering of the Sanhedrin between the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Acts 5:17; 15:5; 26:5
- 6) Tertullus said the commander Lysias came to them in great violence took him from their hands. vs. 7
 - a) The entire delegation was pushing it.
 - b) For they were accusing the Roman commander of braking the law.

- c) The truth was, he was keeping the peace and attempting to investigate the accurate facts for the incident.
- 7) Tertullus said the commander told them to appear before Felix for examination. vs. 8
 - a) This was about the only true fact they stated!
 - b) Felix had the letter from Lysias, it painted an entirely different scenario. Acts 23:25-30

24:9 The verification of the information by the Jews.

- 1) Jews gave their assent “suntithemai”, means to set or place with, in other words, to agree with what Tertullus said,
- 2) The Jews were the second witness but to false information.

24:10-21 The defense of Paul before Felix.

24:10 The apostle Paul addressed Felix.

- 1) Paul was given the motion to speak by Felix nodding his head. vs. 10a-b
- 2) Paul gives to Felix the natural and customary honor without any intent to gain favor by any flattery. vs. 10c-d
* He acknowledged the length of time he had judged. 52 A.D. to 56-58 A.D.

- 3) He declared he would be his own advocate for defense. vs. 10e

24:11-13 The apostle Paul gave his defense against the charges.

- 1) Paul said he had only been in Jerusalem twelve days ago from that day, to worship. vs. 11
 - a) Five of those were spent at Caesarea.
 - b) He refuted the charges of creating dissension among the Jews in the Roman world and a ringleader of the Nazarenes.
- 2) The Jews neither found Paul disputing or inciting the crowd in the Temple nor the synagogues or the city. vs. 12
 - * Paul refuted the charge of defiling the temple.
- 3) Paul told Felix they couldn't prove their charges. vs. 13

24:14-18 The apostle Paul reveals his faith in God and love for the Jews.

24:14 *Paul professed his faith.*

- 1) He confessed to worship God according to the Way, though the Jews called it a sect. vs. 14a-b
 - a) The Way was a reference to Christianity.

- b) The word sect "haireisis" means a choice or opinion and later it was used for heresy.

- c) The word is used for the sect of the Sadducees and Pharisees.

- 2) He confessed to worship God as his fathers according to the Law and the Prophets. vs. 14c-d

24:15-16 *Paul expressed his hope in God.*

- 1) He had the same hope as his accusers. vs. 15a-b
 - * At least the Pharisees, not the Sadducees.
- 2) He believed in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust. vs. 15c-d
 - * Dan. 12:1-2, Matt. 25:3, Jn. 5:28-29, 2Cor. 5:10, Rev. 20:2
- 3) He declared this was the very motive for telling the truth and live with a clear conscience before God and man. vs. 16
 - * This giving credence to his words before Felix.

24:17-18 *Paul declared his purpose in coming to Jerusalem.*

- 1) He came to bring a gift of money to the poor saints at Jerusalem. vs. 17

- a) This is the only time the offering is mentioned in Acts. Rom. 15:25-33; 1Cor. 16:1-4; 2Cor. 8-9
- b) He said “my nation”, he identified himself as a Jew who had love and compassion for his nation, contrary to the charges.
- 2) He was encountered in the Temple by some Jews from Asia during a purification vow, not with a mob nor an uproar. vs. 18
 - * Not defiling the temple as they thought and falsely accused Paul!

24:19-21 *The apostle Paul demands to confront his accusers.*

- 1) Paul stated the Jews from Asia who attacked him in the temple should be the one accusing him. vs. 19
 - a) Those abandoning charges were severely dealt with under Roman Law.
 - b) He plainly said that his accusers were not the right ones, the charges being invalid.
- 2) Paul turned to those present and asked if they had charges found before the Sanhedrin? vs. 20
- 3) Paul declares that the only charge they can make, is regarding his belief in the resurrection. vs. 21

24:22-27 **The decision of Felix about Paul.**

- 24:22** The indifference of towards Paul.
- 1) The word “but” marks the sharp contrast between what he heard and what he chose to do. vs. 22a
 - 2) Felix having more accurate knowledge of the Way, implying he did not believe the Jewish delegation. vs. 22b
 - 3) Felix adjourned the proceedings and declare that when Lysias the commander comes down, he would make a decision regarding their case. vs. 22c-e
 - * We have no information that was the arrangement nor that he ever came down!

24:23 The custody of Paul ordered by Felix.

- 1) He turned Paul over to the centurion for protective custody with complete freedom. vs. 23a
- 2) He told the commander not to forbid any friends from providing for Paul or visit him. vs. 23b

24:24-25 The procrastination of Felix regarding the gospel.

- 1) The private audience of Felix and his wife with Paul. vs. 24
 - a) The occasion was some days after. vs. 24a

- b) Felix and his wife Drusilla came together. vs. 24b
- c) Drusilla was Jewish.
- d) Felix sent for Paul to hear the faith in Christ. vs. 24c
 - 1)) Felix's name means happy.
 - 2)) Felix had been married two times before, one was the granddaughter of Anthony and Cleopatra, the other is unknown and Drusilla.
 - 3)) Felix had convinced Drusilla to leave her husband Azizus, King of Emesa, a small Syrian state through the help of a magician.
* She was 16 when she married King Emesa and Felix was inflamed with his lust for her!
 - 4)) Felix had been a freed slave, who had risen up to a high position by the help of his brother Pallos, who was favored by Nero.
 - 5)) He was corrupt and cruel and said to exercise the authority of a King with the spirit of a slave by Tacitus.
 - 6)) Drusilla was the youngest daughter of Agrippa I, and sister to Bernice. Acts 25:13
 - a)) Her Father murdered James.
 - b)) Her uncle Herod Antipas, slew John the Baptist.

- c)) Her Great-Grandfather, Herod the Great killed the infants at the visitation of the wise men.
- 2) The petrified response of Felix to the preaching of Paul. vs. 25
 - a) Righteousness, right living before God and man, which both were not. vs. 25a
 - b) Self-control from defilement of personal desires and passions, inward or outward, which both were guilty of. vs. 25b
 - c) Judgment to come by God, which both would have to give an account to God. vs. 25c
 - d) Felix became afraid, terrified but made no decision about his sin. vs. 25d
 - e) Felix sent Paul away to call him at a more convenient time bypassing the present opportunity for repentance. vs. 25e-f

24:26-27 The greed and evil of Felix.

- 1) Felix hoped to be paid off by Paul in order to be released. vs. 26a-b
 - a) Without doubt thinking Paul had resourced or family.
 - b) Or friends in Jerusalem.
 - c) But where were the 12 disciples at this time?

- 2) For that reason Felix sent for Paul and conversed with him. vs. 26c
- 3) Felix was removed after two years because he sent troops and consented to the looting of Jewish homes during a Jewish and Gentile uprising, over whether Caesarea was Jewish or Gentile. vs. 27a
- 4) Felix wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound. vs. 27b-c
 - * He was already in hot water with Rome.