

SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

Acts: The Beginning of a New Kingdom

Paul Appears before Felix, Appeals to Caesar, and Addresses Festus and Agrippa

Quarter Four, Lesson Twelve

Focus Text: Acts 24, 25, & 26

Other Readings: 1 Corinthians 16. 1 – 19; 2 Corinthians 8. 1 – 15; 9. 1 – 15

CONTENT

1. What charges does Tertullus bring against Paul, and what defense does Paul offer in response?
2. For what purpose does Paul say (according to 24. 17) he returned to Jerusalem?
3. When Paul is summoned to speak with Felix and Drusilla about the faith, how does Felix react to Paul's words?
4. Why does Paul remain so long in prison in Caesarea?
5. How does Paul respond to Festus's proposal that Paul's trial take place in Jerusalem?
6. When he explains Paul's situation to Agrippa, how does Festus characterize the accusations against Paul?
7. In his defense before Agrippa, what does Paul identify (in 26. 6 – 8) as the key issue in the Jews' accusation against him?

In 26. 19 – 21, what reason does he give for the Jews' seizing and wanting to kill him?
8. As he recounts for Agrippa his vision on the road to Damascus, what does Paul identify as the Lord's purpose in appearing to him?
9. In what respects is Paul's speech to Festus, Agrippa, and Bernice a legal defense? In what respects does it become something more?

Lesson continues. . . .

10. How does Festus react to what Paul says? How does Agrippa react?

CONNECTIONS

1. How do the travel plans Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 16 corroborate what he says in Acts 24 about his reasons for coming to Jerusalem?
2. In 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 Paul talks again about a “ministry” involving funds given by the Christians in Macedonia and Achaia. Who were the funds intended to help? (See also 1 Corinthians 16. 1 – 4.)
3. What motivations for giving generously does Paul mention to the Corinthian brethren?
4. From what we’ve already read in Acts, what factors may have been involved in Paul’s decision to appeal to Caesar?
5. Why do you think Paul puts such emphasis on the resurrection in his defense (in, for example, Acts 23. 6, 24. 15, 26. 6 – 8, and 26. 22 – 23)? (As you answer, consider 1 Corinthians 15. 12 – 20.)
6. Compare Paul’s account of his conversion in chapter 26 with those in chapters 9 and 22. Do the accounts seem consistent? What potential difficulties are there, and how serious are they?