



Acts

Lesson 24, Chapter 26

In chapter 26 Luke records Paul's last formal defense. This time Paul would appear before King Agrippa II and his sister Bernice who had just arrived in Caesarea. The position of Governor had recently been given to Festus, and it was common for other political figures to pay their respects to the new appointee. Agrippa was known to have a good understanding of the Jewish religion, and Festus, who was having trouble making a judgment on the case, took this opportunity to get Agrippa's opinion. Festus is ready to send Paul to Rome, but he isn't sure how to make a report for Caesar as to the specific charges. He's hoping that Agrippa can help him with this dilemma.

As Paul stands before Agrippa, he once again testifies to his former relationship with the

Jewish leaders. He then proceeds to tell of his life-changing experience on the road to Damascus, and his obedient response to it. He states that the real reason he is on trial now is his belief that Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah the prophets had spoken about, had been resurrected from the dead and is now alive. This thought he directs to Agrippa himself who was informed about the Messianic prophecies. Agrippa sees this as an attempt by Paul to persuade him to become a Christian and promptly dismisses the proceedings. Even with this, Agrippa realizes that Paul is not guilty of any legal offense against Rome and admits that if Paul had not appealed to Caesar, he could have been set

READ CHAPTER 26

1. *Why was Paul glad to testify before Agrippa even though he was already going to Rome and Agrippa couldn't change that?*



Agrippa II was the son of Herod Agrippa. Herod Agrippa was known for his persecution of the early church. He killed James the brother of John and imprisoned Peter (Acts 12). Agrippa II had control of the Temple treasury and was in charge of choosing the High Priests. Because of this familiarity with the Jews, the Romans would consult him about some of the Jewish religious matters. At his death in A.D. 93, the Herodian dynasty came to an end.

2. *What might have been some of the “customs and controversies” that Paul referred to in vs. 3?*

3. *Why does Paul include the fact that he was once a Pharisee in his defense?*

4. *Who were the twelve tribes of Israel? List their names from Genesis 35:22b-26.*

5. *What promise to these tribes is Paul referring to? Genesis 15:3-7; Genesis 26:1-5; Deuteronomy 7:6-12; Romans 11:26.*

6. *What was it about Jesus that the Jews, including Paul at one time, didn't want to accept? Vs. 8-9. What are some of the things that people have trouble accepting about Him today?*



A “goad” was a stick sharpened at one point that farmers used to direct and ox while plowing. If the ox started to stray from the path the farmer wanted it to go, the goad would be used to get the ox back on the correct track.

7. *In light of the above definition, what do you think Christ was saying to Paul in His phrase “it is hard for you to kick against the goad”?*

8. *From verses 15-18 what three statements does Jesus give Paul regarding what He has done and will do in the future?*

9. *What does Paul say was the reason he was arrested? Vs. 20-21 In what ways does that message still offend people today?*

10. *Why would Festus think Paul was insane?*

11. *Do you think, as Agrippa did, Paul was trying to convince him to become a Christian?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
