

## **IMPRISONMENT IN CAESAREA (1)**

### **Acts 24**

#### **Introduction:**

- 1. Paul had been attacked by a mob in the temple in Jerusalem.**
  - a. He was rescued by the Roman commander, Claudius Lysias.**
  - b. He was tried before the Jewish Council, but his trial ended in a fight between the Pharisees and the Sadducees.**
  - c. Forty men swore an oath to assassinate Paul.**
- 2. Paul was taken under guard to Caesarea to Felix, the Roman governor.**
- 3. In this chapter, we learn of Paul's two hearings before Felix.**
  - a. The Jews came from Jerusalem to bring formal charges.**
  - b. Felix and his wife asked Paul to tell of the faith in Christ.**

#### **Discussion:**

- I. PAUL WAS FORMALLY CHARGED (1- 21).**
  - A. The high priest and the Jewish elders came before Felix.**
    - 1. They were represented by an "orator" named Tertullus.**
    - 2. He was a Roman lawyer hired to present their case to the Roman governor.**
  - B. Tertullus' speech is an eloquent attempt to build a case without any evidence to back it up.**
    - 1. He began by profuse flattery of the governor.**
    - 2. He branded Paul a "plague" (NKJV) or "pestilent fellow."**
    - 3. He accused him of stirring up the Jews around the world.**
    - 4. He called him a "ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes."**
      - a. This was an appeal to prejudice for Nazareth was a despised place (John 1:46).**
      - b. The "sect of the Nazarenes" was a disparaging term used to describe the church much like the term "Campbellites" is used by some today.**
  - 5. He falsely charged Paul with profaning the temple.**
    - a. Some Jews from Asia had seen Paul in Jerusalem with Trophimus, an Ephesian.**
    - b. They "supposed" he had brought him into the temple.**
  - 6. Tertullus said: "We seized Paul and wanted to judge him according to our law."**

- a. They had no intention of giving Paul a hearing.
    - b. They were trying to beat him to death when he was taken from them by the Romans.
    - c. They even disparaged Lysias saying, “He took him from our hands with great violence.”
  - 7. Tertullus suggested the governor could confirm what he said by “examining” (scourging) Paul.
  - 8. The Jews heartily endorsed all Tertullus said.
- C. Paul was given an opportunity to defend himself.**
- 1. With a single acknowledgement of Felix’s long experience as a judge, Paul then refuted the charges in order.
  - 2. He had come up to Jerusalem only 12 days before this.
    - a. He had been in custody in Caesarea for 5 days.
    - b. Prior to this, he had been in custody in Jerusalem for two days.
    - c. There was little time for him to stir up a rebellion.
  - 3. Paul had not been disputing in the temple or synagogues.
  - 4. The Jews had offered no proof of any of their charges.
  - 5. Paul did confess to serving God according to the Way the Jews called a “sect.”
    - a. He worshipped the God of Israel.
    - b. He believed the Law and the prophets.
    - c. “The Way” is the culmination of the Law and the Prophets (Gal. 3:29; 6:16).
  - 6. Paul’s hope was that of Israel - the dead will be raised.
    - a. There will be a general resurrection (John 5:28, 29).
    - b. Paul strove always to have a clear conscience.
  - 7. He had come to bring an offering for his people when he was attacked.
    - a. Felix’s ears pricked up at the mention of money.
    - b. The Jews who accused Paul in the temple ought to have been there to testify.
  - 8. Paul challenged them to state what wrongdoing had been sustained against him at his earlier hearing.

**II. FELIX DEFERRED JUDGMENT (22 - 27).**

- A. He had an “accurate knowledge of the Way.”
- B. It was apparent Paul was innocent of any charge against Rome.
- C. Felix was hoping for a bribe from Paul.

- III. FELIX AND HIS WIFE, DRUSILLA, HEARD PAUL CONCERNING THE FAITH (24, 25).**
- A. Drusilla was the daughter of Herod Agrippa I. who had killed James.**
- 1. She was known for her great beauty.**
  - 2. Felix had stolen her from her husband, the king of Emesa.**
- B. Paul preached what Felix and Drusilla needed to hear.**
- 1. He “reasoned of righteousness.”**
    - a. His hearers were ambitious, ruthless, and depraved.**
    - b. He did not “water down” God’s message to keep from offending them.**
  - 2. Paul “reasoned of self-control.”**
    - a. The courts of kings and governors were known for their extravagance, waste, drunkenness, gluttony, and immorality.**
    - b. Every lust was indulged without restraint.**
  - 3. Paul “reasoned of the judgement to come.”**
    - a. “God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness...” (Acts 17:31).**
    - b. Daniel Webster said: “The most solemn thought I have ever had is that one day I will appear before my Maker to give an account of my life.”**
  - 4. Felix was “afraid” (terrified - ASV).**
  - 5. He did not act on his faith and his fear: “Go your way for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”**

**Conclusion:**

- 1. There will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust at the Last Day.**
- 2. The Judgment will follow the resurrection.**
- 3. Every one who has ever lived will be there to give an account.**
- 4. Are you ready for the Judgment Day?**
- 5. There will never be a more convenient season than now.**