

THE LIFE OF PAUL

LESSON XII

PAUL REACHES JERUSALEM PART II (Paul's Trial in Caesarea)

1. What circumstances caused Paul to be before the Jews in judgment? What was the Roman chief captain's name? Acts 22:24-30; 24:7 (**Acts 22:24-30 - the commander ordered him (Paul) to be brought into the barracks, and said that he should be examined under scourging, so that he might know why they shouted so against him. And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?" When the centurion heard that, he went and told the commander, saying, "Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman." Then the commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" He said, "Yes." The commander answered, "With a large sum I obtained this citizenship." And Paul said, "But I was born a citizen." Then immediately those who were about to examine him withdrew from him; and the commander was also afraid after he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him. The next day, because he (the commander) wanted to know for certain why he (Paul) was accused by the Jews, he released him from his bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down and set him before them.**) (Acts 24:7 - **"But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took him out of our hands,**
2. What did Paul say that angered the high priest? Who was the high priest? Acts 23:1-2 (**Acts 23:1-2 - Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.**)
3. What did the high priest do that angered Paul? What did Paul do when he became angry with the high Priest? Did Paul apologize for his conduct? Why? Acts 23:2-5; Lev. 19:15-18 (**Acts 23:2-5 - And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?" And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?" Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'**") (Lev 19:15-18 - **'You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor. 'You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.**) (Exod 22:28 - **"You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.**) The high priest had ordered Paul to be stuck without cause. This was against the law. Paul rebuked the high priest because of this injustice, and declared that he didn't know that he was the high priest. In a sense, this could be considered to be an apology. Some believe Paul was really questioning the authority by which Ananias was appointed high priest. Others believe Paul's eyesight to be so poor that he couldn't see him clearly.

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4. Paul then perceived something and took action that could possibly cause the council to divide. What is it that Paul perceived and did? Acts 23:6-10 (**Acts 23:6-10 - But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!" And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided. For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection-- and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both. Then there arose a loud outcry. And the scribes of the Pharisees' party arose and protested, saying, "We find no evil in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God." Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks.)**)
5. What were the Pharisees of the council willing to concede, in order to win the debate over the question of the resurrection? Acts 23:9 (**And the scribes of the Pharisees' party arose and protested, saying, "We find no evil in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God."**)
6. What revelation does Paul receive from the Lord? Acts 23:11 (**Acts 23:11 - But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."**)
7. There was a plot against Paul. Acts 23:11-19 (**Acts 23:12-19- And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. Now there were more than forty who had formed this conspiracy. They came to the chief priests and elders, and said, "We have bound ourselves under a great oath that we will eat nothing until we have killed Paul. "Now you, therefore, together with the council, suggest to the commander that he be brought down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to make further inquiries concerning him; but we are ready to kill him before he comes near." So when Paul's sister's son heard of their ambush, he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. Then Paul called one of the centurions to him and said, "Take this young man to the commander, for he has something to tell him." So he took him and brought him to the commander and said, "Paul the prisoner called me to him and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to say to you." Then the commander took him by the hand, went aside and asked privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?"**)
 - a) Who makes this plot and what authorities approve the plan? More than forty bound themselves by an oath and acquired the approval of the high priests.
 - b) How serious were the men involved? They were very serious, agreeing not to eat until they killed Paul.
 - c) What was the plan? The chief priests were to request of the commander to bring Paul to the council for further inquiries the next day. As Paul was being transported to the council, these men would lie in ambush to kill him before he could meet with the council.
 - d) Who revealed the plot to Paul? Paul's nephew.

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- e) How does Paul cope with the situation? Paul called one of the centurions and asked that his nephew be taken to the commander and given the opportunity to tell him about the plot to kill Paul.
8. What did the chief captain do about the situation? Acts 23:23-33 **(Acts 23:22-33 - So the commander let the young man depart, and commanded him, "Tell no one that you have revealed these things to me." And he called for two centurions, saying, "Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at the third hour of the night; and provide mounts to set Paul on, and bring him safely to Felix the governor." He wrote a letter in the following manner: Claudius Lysias, to the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings. This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them. Coming with the troops I rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman. And when I wanted to know the reason they accused him, I brought him before their council. I found out that he was accused concerning questions of their law, but had nothing charged against him deserving of death or chains. And when it was told me that the Jews lay in wait for the man, I sent him immediately to you, and also commanded his accusers to state before you the charges against him. Farewell. Then the soldiers, as they were commanded, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. The next day they left the horsemen to go on with him, and returned to the barracks. When they came to Caesarea and had delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.)**
9. What route did they take to get Paul to Caesarea? Acts 23:31-32 **(Acts 23:31-33 - Then the soldiers, as they were commanded, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. The next day they left the horsemen to go on with him, and returned to the barracks. When they came to Caesarea and had delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.) Two hundred soldiers and two hundred spearmen along with seventy horsemen took Paul to Antipatris by night. The horsemen would then take Paul on to Caesarea the next day to Felix, the governor.**
10. Where was Paul kept? Acts 23:35 **(Acts 23:35 - he said, "I will hear you when your accusers also have come." And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's Praetorium.) Herod's judgment hall.**
11. When and who came to Felix to claim charges against Paul? Acts 24:1 **(Acts 24:1 - Now after five days Ananias the high priest came down with the elders and a certain orator named Tertullus. These gave evidence to the governor against Paul.)**
12. Who was Felix? **Felix was a Roman governor or procurator of Judea. He was appointed to office in AD 53 by Claudius. He was a cruel ruler. Festus replaced him in AD 60.**
13. Describe Tertullus' oration. Acts 24:2-9 **(Acts 24:2-9 - And when he was called upon, Tertullus began his accusation, saying: "Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace, and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight, we accept it always and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness. Nevertheless, not to be tedious to you any further, I beg you to hear, by your courtesy, a few words from us. "For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. "He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law. "But the commander Lysias came**

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by and with great violence took him out of our hands, "commanding his accusers to come to you. **By examining him yourself you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him.**" And the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so.)

14. Describe Paul's rebuttal. Acts 24:10-21 (**Acts 24:10-21 - Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered: "Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself, "because you may ascertain that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship. "And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city. "Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me. "But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. "This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men. "Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation, "in the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor with tumult. "They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me. "Or else let those who are here themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council, "unless it is for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.'"**)
15. Paul stated in his defense that he wasn't found in any of three places causing problems. Where were the three places? The temple, synagogues or the city.
16. What was Felix's response? Acts 24:22-27 (**Acts 24:22-27 - But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of the Way, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case." So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him. And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him. But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.**)
17. What was on Felix's conscience? Acts 24:23 (**he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him.**) He knew Paul was innocent of the charges brought against him.
18. What influence did his wife, Drusilla, have upon Felix? Acts 24:24 **And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.**
19. What well-known statement was made by Felix concerning his salvation? Acts 24:25 **Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come,**

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Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

20. What seemed to command and dictate Felix's life? Acts 24:26 **Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.**
21. What else seemed to be more important to Felix than justice? Acts 24:27 **But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.**