

Book of Acts Chapter 24-28

- Paul's Trial Before Felix, Festus, and King Agrippa
- Paul's Appeal to Caesar
- Paul's Shipwreck on the Way to Rome
- Paul's Imprisonment in Rome

Chapter 23 Review

- Paul is saved by the Romans from the Jewish threat to murder him.
- The captain of the guard writes a letter to Felix that exonerates Paul.
- There are no Roman Laws broken by Paul and no formal charges against him.
- Felix was a corrupt governor and wanted a bribe to release Paul.
- Felix was stuck. He wanted to please the Jew, but his duty was to protect Roman Citizens.

Chapter 24 – Paul Before Felix

VS 1-8 Three Charges against Paul by the Jewish lawyer Tertullus.

- A Personal Charge – a pest
- A Political Charge – stirs up dissension (insurrection) among the Jews throughout the world.
- A Doctrinal Charge – profanes and desecrates the temple.

These charges were a combination of straight out lies and exaggerations.

Paul's conflicts in the world were against the Jews, not against Roman Law – Phillip and Ephesus are good examples. The charge of “insurrection” would get the governor's attention. If true, Felix would have a valid charge against Paul prosecution.

The profaning of the Temple was a fabrication with no merit. It could not be proven as fact.

Also, the letter from captain of the guard was more credible than the Jew's accusations against Paul.

VS 9-21 Paul's Defense.

- Felix did not examine Paul.
- Paul was able to represent himself and give his own defense.
- They have presented no proof.
- I have a clear conscience before God.
- I was faithful and obedient to the Law of Moses.
- I was giving my alms and offerings.
- I was purified so I could enter the temple.
- I believe in the resurrection of the dead and proclaimed Jesus to them.

VS 23-27 Felix and his Wife Hear Paul.

- Felix's wife was Jewish.
- Paul shared his faith the Jesus.
- Paul included three components – Righteousness, self-control, and Judgment.
- Felix got convicted and dismissed Paul.
- Felix wanted a bribe.
- Felix left Paul for the next guy – Festus. (two years later).

Chapter 25 – Paul Before Festus and Before King Agrippa.

- The Jews bring up Paul to the new governor and renew the plot to kill him – send him to Jerusalem.
- Festus investigates the matter and meets with the Jews and Paul at Caesarea.
- The charges were without merit.
- Festus asked Paul if he would go to Jerusalem.
- Paul said no, I appeal to Caesar.

Before King Agrippa.

- Festus asks Agrippa's advice and council regarding Paul's case.
- King Agrippa agrees to hear Paul.
- Agrippa finds nothing worthy of criminal prosecution.
- VS 27 – no right to send a prisoner to Rome with no crimes against him.
- Paul's Five "I" statement before Agrippa
 - I lived as a Pharisee.
 - I saw a light.
 - I heard a voice.
 - I was not disobedient.
 - I continue to this day.
- VS 24 – Agrippa does not let Paul finish the sermon – cuts him off.
- VS 28 – I am almost persuaded to become a Christian.
- VS 32 – This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.

Chapter 27 – Paul's Shipwreck

- VS 9 – The 'fast' was already over – reference to Day of Atonement. Severe weather September – October; impossible weather November – February.
- Paul's advice was to not press forward due to the time of year.
- Paul is ignored because the harbor at Fair Havens was poorly suited for winter anchorage.
- VS 14 – the "euroquilo" – a northeaster.
- They are disoriented – no stars or sun for guidance.
- Paul's vision and encouragement.

- 14 days later they land in Malta.
- The ship is destroyed but all the souls survive (276).

Chapter 28 – Safe on Malta, Paul Arrives in Rome.

- Paul bitten by snake – does not die.
- Paul ministers healing on the island.
- Three months they winter in Malta.
- Paul imprisoned – guard attached to him.
- Paul meets with the Jews in Rome – they never heard about him.
- Paul shares Christ – some believe, some do not.
- Paul spends two years in a rented home and allowed visitors.

While in Rome Paul writes, Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon.

History records that Paul was released and had a year of freedom. Some believe Paul went to Spain and Britain during that time, but no biblical record.

Paul was imprisoned a second time in Rome when he wrote his final letter – 2 Timothy.

Paul's taken outside the walls of Rome and beheaded.