

## Paul—Acts 25

### Paul's Defense Before the New Governor

#### I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 01. 25:1... Now when Festus was come into the province**—“The whole province of which Judea was a part was called Syria, and was ruled by a *proconsul*. The divisions of one of the great proconsulships were ruled by *procurators*, translated 'governors.' Pontius Pilate, Felix and Festus are examples of the latter” [B.W. Johnson, *The People's New Testament*].
- 02. 25:8... nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all**—“For all their cunning, the priests overreached themselves by alleging Paul's sinning against Caesar; for Festus could hardly have let that charge be tried by them. That it was not true is evident in Festus' apparent willingness to declare Paul innocent of the charges against Caesar, if Paul would consent to be tried by the Jews on the other allegations (Acts 25:9). The Caesar mentioned here was Nero, the time being, according to Ramsay, in 59 A.D.” [Coffman]. The noun, AUGUSTUS (vv., 21, 25), is here considered to be a title rather than a proper name.
- 03. 25:22... Then Agrippa said unto Festus, I would also hear the man myself--** “In view of who Agrippa and Bernice were, their willingness to give Christianity a polite hearing was a great victory for the faith, despite the obvious fact that the hearing was arranged somewhat as a form of entertainment. In this scene, there began to be fulfilled the promise of the Lord that Paul would bear testimony and 'his name' before the 'Gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel' (Acts 9:15 and Isa. 62:2)” [Coffman].

#### II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.

#### III. Summary.

“Festus was a different type from Felix; we know very little about him but what we do know proves that he was a just and upright man. He died after only two years in office but he died with an untainted name. The Jews tried to take advantage of him; they tried to persuade him to send for Paul to come to Jerusalem; for once again they had formed a plot to assassinate Paul on the way. But Festus was a Roman, with the Roman instinct for justice; and he told them to come to Caesarea and plead their case there. From Paul's answer we can deduce the malicious charges which they leveled against him. They accused him of heresy, of sacrilege and of sedition. No doubt from their point of view the first charge was true, irrelevant as it was to Roman law; but the second two were deliberate lies. Festus had no desire to get up against the Jews in the first days of his governorship and he offered a compromise. Was Paul, he asked, prepared to go to Jerusalem and stand his trial there while he stood by to see fair play? But Paul knew that for him there could be no such thing as fair play at Jerusalem and he took his great decision. If a Roman citizen felt he was not getting justice in a provincial court, he could appeal direct to the Emperor. Only if the man was a murderer, a pirate, or a bandit caught in the act, was the appeal invalid. In all other cases the local procedure had to be insisted and the claimant had to be despatched to Rome for the personal decision of the Emperor. When Paul uttered the fateful words, "I appeal to Caesar," Festus had no choice; and so Paul, in very different circumstances from those of which he

had dreamed, had set his foot upon the first step of the road that led to Rome” [William Barclay, *Daily Study Bible*].

#### IV. Outline.

1. Plans are made and carried out for Paul to be given a hearing before the new governor, Festus (Acts 25:1-7).
2. Paul’s plea is NOT GUILTY (8-9).
3. Paul appeals to Caesar (10-12).
4. Festus consults with King Agrippa about Paul (13-21).
5. King Agrippa desires to hear the case (22).
6. Festus presents Paul to King Agrippa (23-27).

#### V. Questions.

##### True or False

01. \_\_\_\_\_ The “Caesar” to whom Paul appealed was JULIUS.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ By the time of this chapter, the Jews had given up any hope of killing Paul.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul was willing to go to Jerusalem to be judged.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Festus allowed Paul to go to Caesar.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ As soon as Agrippa came to Caesarea, Festus told him of Paul’s case.

##### Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. \_\_\_\_\_ Festus hoped that after Agrippa examined Paul he (Festus) might: (a) let Paul go; (b) have something to write to Caesar; (c) obtain a confession from Paul.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ WHY did the Jews request that Festus have Paul brought to Jerusalem: (a) to answer charges before the Sanhedrin; (b) to speed up the judicial process; (c) that they might kill Paul on the way to Jerusalem.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ According to Festus, what affirmation concerning Jesus did Paul make (a) that He was alive; (b) that He was Messiah; (c) that he was God.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ What was a common characteristic of the charges of the Jews against Paul: (a) they were foolish; (b) they were grievous; (c) they could not be proved; (d) b & c.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ What length of time had Paul already been bound when Festus heard his case: (a) 3 months; (b) one year; (c) over 2 years.

##### Fill in the Blanks

11. **Of whom I have \_\_\_\_\_ to write** was the problem Festus had in sending Paul to Rome.
12. Between CAESAREA and JERUSALEM, the one of higher elevation geographically is \_\_\_\_\_.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ said to Festus—**I would also hear the man myself.**
14. Paul’s answer to the complaints of the Jews was that he had not offended anything at all against: (a) the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_; (b) the \_\_\_\_\_; (c) nor \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The purpose for Agrippa and Bernice coming to Caesarea was to \_\_\_\_\_.

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week’s handout*

**ANSWERS to Acts 24 Questions...** [(1) True, Acts 24:24; (2) False, Acts 24:2; (3) False, Acts 24:21; (4) False, Acts 24:10; (5) True, Acts 24:17; (6) b, Acts 24:27; (7) b, Acts 24:22; (8) a, Acts 24:21; (9) b, Acts 24:9; (10) a, Acts 24:14; (11) Most, noble, Acts 24:3; (12) loose, him,

Acts 24:26; (13) great, violence, Acts 24:13; (14) trembled, righteousness, judgment, Acts 24:25; (15) alms, Acts 24:17.]

**VI. Further into the Text: Additional Questions.** Taken from: *Facts from Acts*, by Gussie Lambert.

01. Whose place did Festus take as governor? (Acts 24:27).
02. After three days where did Festus go? (Acts 25:1).
03. What did the high priest and the chief of the Jews talk to Festus about? (Acts 25:2).
04. What favor did they ask of Festus? (Acts 25:3).
05. What was their purpose for this favor? (Acts 25:3).
06. Did Festus grant their favor? (Acts 25:4).
07. What did Festus ask some of the men to do? (Acts 25:5).
08. How long did Festus remain in Jerusalem? (Acts 25:6).
09. How long after arriving in Caesarea before Paul was brought to trial? (Acts 25:6).
10. What did the Jews from Jerusalem do when Paul came before Festus? (Acts 25:7).
11. Were the charges light or serious charges? (Acts 25:7).
12. What was wrong with the charges they made? (Acts 25:7).
13. What was Paul's reply to the charges? (Acts 25:8).
14. What did Festus ask Paul about doing? (Acts 25:9).
15. Why did Festus not set Paul free? (Acts 25:9).
16. What was Paul's reply to Festus? (Acts 25:10-11).
17. What was Paul's final plea or possibility or possibility for life? (Acts 25:11).
18. Before granting the appeal, Festus did what? (Acts 25:12).
19. Did Festus grant the appeal? (Acts 25:12).
20. After certain days who came to visit Festus? (Acts 25:13).
21. Why did the royal couple come to visit Festus? (Acts 25:13).
22. Why did Festus tell Agrippa about Paul's case? (Acts 25:26-27).
23. What judgment did the Jews desire against Paul? (Acts 25:15).
24. What did Paul's trial before Festus show about the governor? (Acts 25:18-19).
25. What was there in the trial that raised doubts in the mind of Festus? (Acts 25:20).
26. When Agrippa heard Festus review the case what was his response? (Acts 25:22).
27. When did Agrippa have the opportunity to hear Paul (Acts 25:22-23).
28. Describe the audience to which Paul spoke (Acts 25:23).
29. When was Paul brought into the place of hearing? (Acts 25:23).
30. What promise of Jesus was fulfilled that day? (Acts 9:15).
31. What had the Jews cried out about Paul? (Acts 25:24).
32. Did Festus declare Paul innocent before this audience? (Acts 25:25).
33. If Paul was innocent, why then was he still a prisoner? (Acts 25:9).
34. What was the predicament of Festus at this time? (Acts 24:26-27).

## VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

A A R O V A F D E R I S E D W F H R I E  
 J L C M B V B F E S T U S H X J U I S V  
 W H C O U L D N O T P R O V E S H S W E  
 I I I M G K I N G A G R I P P A U V I H  
 T G R A S E A C O T N U L A E P P A L M  
 H H D W H U Z M X V M A D D E U N A L P  
 G P A U Q U S O F E T R P R O Y Q S I Z  
 P R G R H C U M L O W C S G N O W Y N R  
 E I I A S Z U A K S A T U T F E D X G U  
 A E P W R H S I T E I O C Q J H W E T H  
 T S O Y E U L N S T H E S E G E O M O M  
 P T H E R L I A I T P U H T T C B I D B  
 O C U E H A R O T U T T J P L T M H O I  
 M V J I L E N L V S F D C B B F R R F O  
 P O M P A S I G U O J V Y I I R R O X I  
 T M M H T W T G F O S K O N P W R F C M  
 K O C B O R U E C X V R Y H A S T D M R  
 C E F Y J A I G R I E V O U S M D N Z H  
 B C W O S H E R U S A E L P A S W E J C  
 R A I X C N I L X J J M B W T E X S M D

[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]

### Acts 25

Festus, 1	complaints, 7
Caesarea, 1	could not prove, 7
high priest, 2	willing to do, 9
chief of the Jews, 2	Jews a pleasure, 9
desired favor, 3	Wilt thou go up, 9
send for him, 3	appeal unto Caesar, 11
to Jerusalem, 3	king Agrippa, 13
to kill him, 3	superstitions, 19
many, 7	Augustus, 21
grievous, 7	with great pomp, 23