

Bible Study April 27, 2022

Acts 25-26 Paul Before Festus and Agrippa

Acts 25: 1-12 Paul Appeals to Caesar Two years had passed, the Jewish leaders still were looking for a way to kill Paul. They appealed to Festus, the new procurator, to bring Paul to Jerusalem so they could ambush him on the way. Festus invited the Sanhedrin to come to Caesarea to press charges. They did bring many charges, but had no proof. Paul defended himself stating he had done no wrong to the law of the Jews, nor the temple, nor against Caesar. Festus invited Paul to go to Jerusalem to stand trial. Paul said no and appealed that his case be sent to Caesar, knowing he would be sent to Rome. Festus agreed to Paul's request. (Paul was approximately 50 to 55 years of age at this time)

Acts 25: 13-22 Festus Presents the Case to King Agrippa II King Agrippa II, the son of Agrippa I and great-grandson of Herod the Great, along with his half-sister Bernice, visit Festus in Caesarea. Festus told Agrippa that none of the charges brought against Paul were Roman offenses, only religious and Paul saying a man Jesus who was killed was now alive. Agrippa requested to hear Paul.

Acts 25: 23 – 26:32 Paul Witnesses to Agrippa II Festus does not what to charge Paul with before he sends him to Rome. Paul is given permission to speak before Festus, Agrippa, and Bernice. Since Agrippa was familiar with the customs of the Jews (He appointed the chief priest each year), Paul gives a detailed exposition of the Gospel. The room was filled with high ranking officers and leading men of the city of Caesarea.

He gives a detailed account of his youth and training in Judaism, living as a Pharisee, a believer in the resurrection, an opponent of Christianity, the Damascus road experience, seeing a light from heaven, hearing the words of Jesus calling him to faith, sending him to the Gentiles to deliver the Gospel, the message for the great and the small, for the Jew and the Gentile, that the Christ must suffer, rise from the dead, and He would proclaim light both to the Jew and to the Gentile.

Agrippa pushed back against Paul's request for him to believe, even though Agrippa was known as a pious Jew. He claimed this was too much information given in a short time. Paul relied that short or long, his desire was that all who

heard his message would believe in Jesus as he did. Agrippa told Festus that Paul had done nothing wrong, and that if he had not appealed to Caesar, he could have been set free.

No Bible Study next week May 4