

## Acts Chapter 26

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<sup>1</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself:

<sup>2</sup> "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews,

<sup>3</sup> especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently.

Because of his Jewish background, Agrippa possessed an expertise in Judaism, including the questions over which Jews disputed; hence, he was equipped to comprehend Paul's explanation of the gospel's relation to Judaism. Counting it a blessing to be able to present his case to one with those qualifications. Paul also requested that Agrippa listen patiently to his presentation.  
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<sup>4</sup> My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know.

**Acts 26:4 (NIV)** The Jews all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem.

<sup>5</sup> They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

**Acts 22:3 (NKJV)** I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of **Gamaliel**, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.

Gamaliel = "... a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people..." (Acts 5:34)

**Galatians 1:14 (NKJV)** And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

<sup>6</sup> And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers.

<sup>7</sup> To this *promise* our twelve tribes, earnestly serving *God* night and day, hope to attain. For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews.

<sup>8</sup> Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?

**Acts 23:6 (NKJV)** 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!"

**Acts 24:14-15 (NKJV)** 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.**

**Acts 24:20-21 (NKJV)** 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.' "

<sup>9</sup> Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Acts 9:2, Acts 9:13, Acts 22:4-5, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:9 & Philippians 3:6

<sup>10</sup> This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against *them*.

<sup>11</sup> And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted *them* even to foreign cities.

<sup>12</sup> "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,

<sup>13</sup> at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.

Acts 9:1-25 & Acts 22:6-16

<sup>14</sup> And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? *It is hard for you to kick against the goads.*'

<sup>15</sup> So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

<sup>16</sup> But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

<sup>17</sup> I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,

<sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

<sup>19</sup> "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

<sup>20</sup> but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

<sup>21</sup> For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill *me*.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—

<sup>23</sup> that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles."

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NKJV)** Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. **For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,**

<sup>24</sup> Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"

<sup>25</sup> But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason.

<sup>26</sup> For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner.

<sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."

<sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

<sup>29</sup> And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."

<sup>30</sup> When he had said these things, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and those who sat with them;

<sup>31</sup> and when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying, "This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains."

<sup>32</sup> Then Agrippa said to Festus, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

### **Questions Acts 26**

1. How did Paul plead his case before Agrippa?
2. Who said, ***"Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"*** and how did Paul respond?
3. What was Agrippa's response to Paul, and how did Paul reply to his response?
4. What did Agrippa say to Festus concerning Paul?
5. List the lesson or lessons you will choose to remember about this chapter.