

Welcome
Family & Friends



Paul's Journey to Rome

(Acts 25 – 28) – Part 4

Review of our previous study:

- Paul is kept in custody. (Acts 24:22 – 27)
- Paul appeals to Caesar. (Acts 25:1 – 12)

In this study:

- King Agrippa and Bernice come to Caesarea. (Acts 25:13 – 27)
- Paul defends the Gospel before King Agrippa. (Acts 26:1 – 32)
- Paul's journey to Rome sets sail. (Acts 27:1 – 12)
- Storms on the Sea. (Acts 27:13 – 38)
- Paul becomes shipwrecked at sea. (Acts 27:39 – 44)

King Agrippa and Bernice come to
Caesarea.

Acts 25:13 – 27

Acts 25:13 – 22 (ESV)

13 Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus. 14 And as they stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man left prisoner by Felix, 15 and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews laid out their case against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him. 16 I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to give up anyone before the accused met the accusers face to face and had opportunity to make his defense concerning the charge laid against him. 17 So when they came together here, I made no delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought. 18 When the accusers stood up, they brought no charge in his case of such evils as I supposed. 19 Rather they had certain points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive. 20 Being at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wanted to go to Jerusalem and be tried there regarding them. 21 But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to Caesar." 22 Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear the man myself." "Tomorrow," said he, "you will hear him."

The Herods:

- Herod, the Great
 - Father to Herod Agrippa I and Herod Antipas.
 - He attempted to have Jesus murdered as an infant.
 - Matthew 2:1 – 18
- Herod Antipas
 - He was the brother of Herod Agrippa I and uncle to Herod Agrippa II, Bernice, and Drusilla.
 - He beheaded John, the Immerser (Baptist).
 - Matthew 14:1 – 12; Mark 6:14 – 29; Luke 9:7 – 9
- Herod Agrippa I
 - He was the father of Herod Agrippa II, Bernice, and Drusilla.
 - He had James the Apostle murdered (martyred)
 - Acts 12:1 – 2
- Herod Agrippa II
 - He was the brother of Bernice and Drusilla.
 - He heard the defense of Paul's faith in Acts 26:1 – 32.

Bernice had a long history of incestuous affairs.

- By the age of 16 she had already been married twice: 1st to Alexander of Alexandria and then to her uncle Herod, King of Chalcis.
- She was currently living with her brother Herod Agrippa II.
- Later on she became the mistress to both Vespasian and his son Titus.

Acts 25:23 – 27 (ESV)

23 So on the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and they entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent men of the city. Then, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. 24 And Festus said, “King Agrippa and all who are present with us, you see this man about whom the whole Jewish people petitioned me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. 25 But I found that he had done nothing deserving death. And as he himself appealed to the emperor, I decided to go ahead and send him. 26 But I have nothing definite to write to my lord about him. Therefore I have brought him before you all, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that, after we have examined him, I may have something to write. 27 For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him.”

Paul defends the Gospel before
King Agrippa.

Acts 26:1 – 32

Acts 26:1 (ESV)

1 So Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:

Acts 26:2 – 3
(ESV)

2 “I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, 3 especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

Acts 26:4 – 8 (ESV)

4 “My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. 5 They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee. 6 And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, 7 to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! 8 Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?”

Acts 26:9 – 11
(ESV)

9 “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Acts 26:12 – 18 (ESV)

12 “In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. 13 At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ 15 And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, 17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you 18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Acts 26:19 – 23 (ESV)

19 “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. 21 For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: 23 that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

In our next study, we will
continue to study Acts 26!!