



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 50 – Acts 26

People — Who is involved?

*Paul – the defendant
Porcius Festus – the Roman governor
Agrippa II – The Jewish ruler*

Places — Where does it happen?

Caesarea – before the Roman governor

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

- Vs 1 – The word “defense” is from the Greek word “apologia” referring to a presentation of reasons. Actually, Paul’s innocence has already been acknowledged by the governor.*
- Vs 2 – There is a logical rhetorical organization to Paul’s apologia: a prologue, narration of circumstances, confirmation of innocence, refutation of charges, and concluding appeal. Paul shows proper respect for Agrippa who is part-Jewish and who is known to be fair minded.*
- Vs 4 – Paul presents here his resume to Agrippa defending his Jewish background.*
- Vs 6 – The “promise” no doubt refers to God’s promises to Abraham concerning the hope of Messiah.*
- Vs 8 – That “promise” includes the anticipation of resurrection from the dead.*
- Vs 14 – Only here are we told that they “fell to the ground.” This was a real (not merely internal) event. “Goats” were sticks used by herdsmen to prod and direct animals.*
- Vs 16 – There is no mention here of Paul’s blindness or of Ananias coming to him (see Acts 9 & 22).*
- Vs 18 – Paul’s mission as an evangelist was to preach salvation to the Gentiles. Two primary blessings would accompany their receptance: forgiveness of sins and an inheritance. In the Greek text there are three infinitive forms related to these blessings: “to open,” “to turn,” and “to receive.”*
- Vs 20 – Note three responses necessary: repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.*
- Vs 22 – Notice Paul’s belief in God’s Providence to bring him to this point.*
- Vs 23 – Before Christ proclaimed the complete gospel, he had to suffer and rise from the dead.*
- Vs 25 – “Truth” and “reason” might well be translated “true” and “prudent” in contrast to “mad.”*
- Vs 28 – The word “Christian” is used only three times: here and in Acts 11:26 and 1 Peter 4:16. It is uncertain whether Agrippa is speaking seriously, with irony, or with sarcasm here.*
- Vs 31 – This is the third time Paul has been adjudged to be innocent of anything worthy of death or jail.*

Perspectives – What may I learn from this chapter?

- 1. The Gospel of Christ is in fulfillment of the promised and prophesied hope of Israel.*
- 2. Paul’s mission was to open the eyes of the Gentiles to the gospel so that they could receive the blessings of salvation in Jesus Christ.*
- 3. The gospel would have made Agrippa become a Christian if he received and obeyed it.*