

Comments About Acts 24

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Acts. This week, we will talk about chapter 24.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

Overview of Paul's travels

As we entered into Acts 13, we began reading about Paul's missionary journeys. According to some Bible commentaries, the trips can be categorized in the following manner.

- First missionary journey—Acts 13:1 until Acts 14:28
- Second missionary journey—Acts 15:36 until Acts 18:22
- Third missionary journey—Acts 18:23 until Acts 21:16
- Trip to Rome—Acts 21:17 until Acts 28:31

Tertullus the orator

Last week in Acts 23, we read about a plot by 40 Jews against Paul (Acts 23:12-15), the commander sending Paul to Felix the governor in Caesarea (verses 22-33) and Felix announcing that he would listen to Paul when his accusers also arrived at Caesarea (verses 34-35).

- After five days, the high priest, Ananias, arrived with an orator named Tertullus to present evidence against Paul (Acts 24:1).
- Tertullus presented his case (verses 2-8).

Notice an excerpt of his case.

Acts 24:5-6—"For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law."

- Paul gave his defense (verses 10-21).

Notice some excerpts of his defense.

Acts 24:14-15—"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—"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.' "

Felix procrastinated

- Felix had a greater understanding of the "Way" than many people (verse 22). Other places in the book of Acts that mention the Way include Acts 9:2, Acts 19:9, Acts 19:23 and Acts 22:4.
- Felix adjourned the proceedings and said he would wait for the commander to arrive (also verse 22).
- Felix instructed the centurion to give Paul some liberty as he was watching Paul (verse 23).
- Felix and his wife Drusilla met with Paul and heard about Paul's faith in Christ (verse 24). After hearing Paul's comments, Felix delayed any ruling (verse 25).

Notice how Luke (author of Acts) described Paul's message.

Acts 24:25—"Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, 'Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.' "

- Felix continued to send for Paul to have conversations with him—hoping that Paul would pay him for his release (verse 26).
- After two years, Porcius Festus succeeded Felix (verse 27).