

Comments About Acts 25

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 2, 2017.

By Dave Havir

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 25.

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

Appealed unto Caesar

Last week in Acts 24, we mentioned how Felix procrastinated in his dealing with the apostle Paul and Porcius Festus succeeded Felix after two years (Acts 24:26).

- When Festus traveled from Caesarea to Jerusalem (Acts 25:1), the high priest and other chief men of the Jews petitioned Festus to take Paul to Jerusalem, as they planned to ambush Paul and kill him (verses 2-3).
- Festus responded that Paul would remain in Caesarea (verse 4) and invited people to go there to make accusations against Paul there (verse 5).
- Back in Caesarea, Festus commanded that Paul be brought to the judgment seat (verse 6).
- The Jews from Jerusalem brought serious complaints against Paul (verse 7).
- Paul answered for himself (verse 8).

Acts 25:8—"While he answered for himself, 'Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I offended in anything at all.' "

- Festus was willing to do the Jews a favor and asked Paul if he was willing to travel to Jerusalem to be judged there (verse 9).

- Paul appealed unto Caesar's judgment seat (verses 10-11).

Acts 25:10-11—"So Paul said, 'I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar.' "

- After conferring with the council, Festus decreed that Paul would go to Caesar (verse 12).

Before Agrippa

- When King Agrippa and Bernice came to see Festus (verse 13), Festus explained Paul's case to the king (verses 14-21).
- King Agrippa decided to meet Paul (verse 22).
- Paul was brought before Agrippa and Bernice (verse 23).
- Festus reminded Agrippa how the Jews accused Paul (verse 24), but he had concluded that Paul had not done anything worthy of death (verse 25).
- Festus claimed that after Agrippa examined Paul, Festus would have some official charges to write about Paul (verses 26-27).

Acts 26 provides details about what Paul said before King Agrippa.

Interesting fact

It is interesting to note that Paul used his Roman citizenship on three occasions—twice to escape a bad situation (Acts 16:37 and Acts 22:25-30) and once to preach the gospel (Acts 25:10-11).