

Comments About Acts 26

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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 26.

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

Paul answered Agrippa

Last week in Acts 25, we mentioned how Festus explained the apostle Paul's case to King Agrippa (Acts 25:14-21)—including how the Jews accused Paul (verse 24), but Festus 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).
- Agrippa invited Paul to give his own account (Acts 26:1).
- Paul answered for himself (verses 2-23).

Acts 26:2-3—"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, 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."

Notice some of the comments he mentioned.

- He was zealous in his youth (verse 4).
- He was a part of the strict sect of the Pharisees (verse 5).

- He was being judged because of the hope of the resurrection (verses 6-8).
- He previously did many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth (verse 9).
- He voted to put people to death (verse 10).
- He punished and persecuted people (verse 11).
- He told about his experience on the road to Damascus (verses 12-18).
- He told how the Jews tried to kill him (verses 19-21).
- He told Agrippa of his message (verses 22-23).

Acts 26:22-23—"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—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."

- Festus called Paul "mad" (verse 24).
- Paul responded that Agrippa realized that there was truth in what Paul was saying (verses 25-27).

Acts 26:26-27—"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. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."

Agrippa responded

Acts 26:28—"Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'You almost persuade me to become a Christian.' "

Acts 26:31—"This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains."

Acts 26:32—"Then Agrippa said to Festus, 'This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.' "