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Acts 24

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Acts 24.

Topics.

- Ananias the Chief Priest and Tertullus state their case against Paul.
- Paul makes his defence to Felix.
- Felix and his wife Drusilla listen to Paul speak about the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Paul is left in prison for two years.

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter more than forty-two Jews bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. The Lord told Paul he has testified in Jerusalem now he must testify in Rome. The tribune saves Paul from a Jewish plot to kill him and has two hundred soldiers take him safely to Felix at Caesarea then ordered Paul's accusers to go to Felix (governor of Judea) and explain why they want Paul an innocent man who had committed no crime killed. The chapter ended with Felix placing Paul under guard in Herod's Praetorian (Herod's judgement hall in KJV) until his Jewish accusers arrived.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

ACTS 24: 1-9

Ananias the Chief Priest and Tertullus state their Case against Paul.

- **Acts 24:1-9:** And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a spokesman, one Tertullus. They laid before the governor their case against Paul. ²And when he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying: "Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this nation, ³in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude. ⁴But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly. ⁵For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. ⁶He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him. ⁷But the chief captain Lysias came upon us, and with great violence took him away out of our hands, ⁸By examining him yourself you will be able to find out from him about everything of which we accuse him." ⁹The Jews also joined in the charge, affirming that all these things were so.

Ananias the high priest: came down to Caesarea in person to accuse Paul before the Roman governor Felix. Remember Ananias is the high priest who commanded the men standing by Paul to slap him on the mouth (Act 23:2)

Tertullus: was the spokesperson for the Jewish religious authorities.

Felix (Antonius) was a Roman governor of Judea. His place of residence was Caesarea, about 60 miles from Jerusalem. He was high in the favour of Claudius, and was made by him governor of Judea. (Josephus calls him Claudius Felix).

Nazareth: was a small insignificant town in lower Galilee in Palestine. Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth it was here Gabriel appeared to Mary. Both Mary and Joseph travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem where Jesus was born and then later returned to Nazareth where Jesus grew up. He eventually left the city for a wider ministry thus he was called a prophet

from Nazareth in Galilee. Jesus enemies used the name Nazarene as an insulting title of scorn, but used by his friends it had a friendly meaning. Today Nazareth is a large Arab city on south edge of Lower Galilee.

The chief captain Claudius Lysias: was the tribune of who rescued Paul from the Jews in (Acts chapter 21 and 23). In the ancient Roman republic, a tribune was a representative annually elected to defend the rights of the common people (Acts 23:26) (Acts 24:7, 22).

The previous chapter ended: with Lysias informing Felix by letter that those who are coming to accuse Paul were in on a plot to have Paul murdered. After Paul had been held for a few days under guard in Herod's Praetorian Paul's accusers arrive and Tertullus states their case before Felix.

The blatant lies Tertullus uses to accuse Paul: Tertullus defence is a good example of how clever these Jews were at twisting the truth, the following shows that everything they accuse Paul of is a perversion of the real events.

Tertullus told Felix that:

- Paul stirred up riots among the Jews in every place he went.

This is a lie it was the Jews who stirred up the people against Paul and incited them to not only to riot against him but in some cities even stone him.

- Paul was a ringleader of the Nazarenes.

Certainly, Paul was a leader amongst the disciples, but he was not committing any crimes, but simply proclaiming the word of the Lord.

- Paul profaned the temple.

This also is a lie; Jews saw Paul walking with Trophimus (an Ephesian) in the city of Jerusalem and assumed that Paul had taken him into the temple and from this assumption told the Jews Paul had taken Greeks into the temple and defiled the Holy Place (Acts 21:22-30).

- The chief captain Lysias came upon the Jews with great violence.

This is also a blatant lie, Lysias saw the frenzied Jewish crowds beating Paul almost to death, and when the crowds saw Lysias coming they stopped beating Paul and Lysias soldiers carried Paul from the crowd because he had been so badly beaten, he could not walk (Acts 21:30-36).

ACTS 24: 10-21

Paul makes his Defense to Felix.

Acts 24:10-21: And when the governor (Felix) had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defence. ¹¹You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem, ¹²and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city. ¹³Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me. ¹⁴But this I confess to you that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, ¹⁵having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. ¹⁶So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. ¹⁷Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings. ¹⁸While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia— ¹⁹they ought to be

here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me. ²⁰Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the council, ²¹other than this one thing that I cried out while standing among them: 'It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day.'

Paul tells Felix he always keeps a clear conscience between God and man and was not defiling the temple but purified while in it. He not only worships the God of Israel, but believes everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets and has the same hope of the resurrection as those accusing him do therefore it is not him who should be standing on trial, but the Jews from Asia since neither Ananias nor the elders can prove anything that Tertullus has spoken against him because they know themselves that they never found him disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple, the synagogues or the city. It is almost certain that when Paul challenged Ananias and the elders to tell Felix themselves what he has done wrong instead of letting Tertullus speak for them that he turned and looked intently at them since he knew they had used Tertullus to lie for them.

A clear conscience before God and man: Paul said, "He always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man" (v16) meaning he always aims to do the right thing not only in regards to God, but also according the laws of secular kings, rulers and authorities when they are not in conflict with the laws of God.

The resurrection: Paul told Felix, "There will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust" (v15). The Bible teaches that all those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ will be raised in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6) and states that whoever attains to this resurrection the Second Death (Rev. 20:14) will have no power over them. Then at the end of Christ's reign on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords we see God Himself descending on a Great White Throne and the grave and the sea giving up the dead after which multitudes are seen standing before the Throne of God (Rev. 20:11) If these people's names are found written in the Book of Life other books are then opened and according to what is written in those books, some are counted worthy to enter the Kingdom and some are not. For further information see the title:

- The Second or Great White Throne Judgement).

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

ACTS 24: 22-27

Felix and his wife Drusilla listen to Paul speak about the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Acts 24:22-27:** But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, "When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case." ²³Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody but have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to his needs. ²⁴After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you." ²⁶At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. ²⁷When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favour, Felix left Paul in prison.

The words, "Felix having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way," (v22) shows that he took an interest in what was going on in his region and had made enquiries into what Paul had been teaching. He tells the council that he will not make a judgment until Lysias the tribune comes down from Jerusalem.

Felix obviously discerned that Paul was a decent and harmless man because even though he had him held in custody until Lysias arrived he gave Paul a lot of freedom.

Paul is left in prison for two years: Felix and his Jewish wife Drusilla ask Paul to share with them his teaching regarding faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is most likely that Drusilla being Jewish was the one who desired to hear Paul since we are told Felix regular visits to Paul were motivated by the hope that Paul would give him money. It is certain that while being held in custody the more money you were able to give those who held you captive the better you would be treated (maybe why Felix allowed Paul's friends to visit him no-doubt they would give him money). After two years Porcius Festus replaced Felix as governor of Judea and because it was more advantageous to Felix to win the favour of the Jews than it was of Paul he left Paul in prison.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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