

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Acts 25.

(2013).

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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 special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Acts 25.

Topics.

- Festus goes to Jerusalem to hear the chief priest's case against Paul.
- Festus takes his tribunal seat to hear the chief priests and elders.
- Paul makes his defence before the Jews and Festus at Caesarea.
- Paul appeals to Caesar.
- King Agrippa and Bernice arrive at Caesarea and greet Festus.

The Previous Chapter.

In the previous chapter Ananias the chief priest and some elders using their spokesman Tertullus laid their lying accusations against Paul before Felix (the governor of Judea) and Paul gave his defense. Felix could not make a judgment so he told the Jews he would keep Paul in custody until the tribune Lysias came down from Jerusalem to tell his story regarding the matter, but after two years Lysias had still not visited Felix. The chapter ended with Porcius Festus replacing Felix as governor of Judea and with Felix leaving Paul in prison to win the favour of the Jews.

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.

Festus goes to Jerusalem to hear the Chief Priests case against Paul.

Acts 25:1-7 ----- ¹Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. ²And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him ³asking as a favour against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way. ⁴Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself intended to go there shortly. ⁵"So," said he "let the men of authority among you go down with me and if there is anything wrong about the man let them bring charges against him." ⁶After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. ⁷When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove.

Caesarea: was built by Herod the Great (37-4 BC) and was a main seaport in Palestine it became the Roman capital of Palestine and the home of Herod and Felix.

Festus: was the Roman governor who succeeded Felix in the province of Judea (Acts 24:27). The date of his accession is uncertain. Of the life of Festus before his appointment of Nero as procurator of Judea almost nothing is known, and he appears in the Bible (Acts 24:27 – 26:32) principally in his relationship with his prisoner, the apostle Paul.

Tribunal: can refer to a bench or seat on a platform where a judge or magistrate sits or to a body or person that is appointed to make a judgment or enquiry.

Festus takes his Tribunal Seat to hear the Chief Priests and Elders.

Festus leaves Caesarea and goes to Jerusalem to hear the chief priests and elders (v15) accusations against Paul. Notice the evil of these religious leaders, for the last three chapters they have been seeking ways to murder Paul and now they are deliberately deceiving Festus the Roman governor of Judea by appealing for him to have Paul brought to Jerusalem so they can murder him, but God is in

control. Festus no-doubt, much to the horror of the priests and elders, tells them to go to Caesarea with him and plead their case there. They go with Festus and he took his seat on the tribunal to hear the chief priests, elders and Paul. The Jews made many serious charges against him that they could not prove this is because they were all perversions of the truth (see previous chapter).

Paul makes his defence before the Jews and Festus at Caesarea

Acts 25:8-12 ----- ⁸Paul argued in his defence, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offence." ⁹But Festus wishing to do the Jews a favour, said to Paul, "Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?" ¹⁰But Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourselves know very well. ¹¹If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar." ¹²Then Festus when he had conferred with his council, answered, "To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go."

Paul tells Festus he has not committed any offence neither is he against Jewish law, the Temple or Caesar. Festus desiring to do the Jews a favour, but at the same time understanding that Paul would not get a fair trial in Jerusalem asks Paul if he goes with him does he want to go to Jerusalem and be tried on these charges against him.

Paul appeals to Caesar.

Paul had previously resolved in the Spirit to go to Rome and the Lord had also told him that he must testify also in Rome (Acts 19:21) (Acts 23:11) and knowing he could be murdered in Jerusalem appeals to Caesar (meaning to be judged in the court of Rome).

NOTICE.

If Paul had committed any crime he was willing to pay the penalty even if it meant death. Paul would not use his faith in God as an excuse to avoid punishment deserving of a crime he was guilty of.

King Agrippa and Bernice arrive at Caesarea and greet Festus.

Acts 25:13-27 ----- ¹³Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus. ¹⁴And as they stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man left prisoner by Felix ¹⁵and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews laid out their case against him asking for a sentence of condemnation against him. ¹⁶I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to give up anyone before the accused met the accusers face to face and had opportunity to make his defence concerning the charge laid against him. ¹⁷So when they came together here, I made no delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought. ¹⁸When the accusers stood up, they brought no charge in his case of such evils as I supposed. ¹⁹Rather they had certain points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive. ²⁰Being at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wanted to go to Jerusalem and be tried there regarding them. ²¹But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to Caesar." ²²Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear the man myself." "Tomorrow," said he, "you will hear him." ²³So on the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and they entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent men of the city. Then, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. ²⁴And Festus said, "King Agrippa and all who are present with us, you see this man about whom the whole Jewish people petitioned me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. ²⁵But I found that he had done nothing deserving death. And as he himself appealed to the emperor, I decided to go ahead and send him. ²⁶But I have nothing definite to write to my lord about him. Therefore I have brought him before you all, and

especially before you, King Agrippa, so that, after we have examined him I may have something to write. ²⁷For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him."

Felix: was the previous Roman governor of Judea, Festus succeeded him.

Bernice: was King Agrippa's sister and consort.

Agrippa: known in history as King Herod Agrippa 11 and in the NT, where he is mentioned only in (Acts 25 and 26), as Agrippa. He was placed over the kingdom of Chalcis and had the right to appoint the high priest of the Temple in Jerusalem. In A.D. 53 he was transferred to the tetrarchies formerly held by Philip (Iturea and Trachonitis) and Lysanias (Abilene) and given the title, king.

When Festus became procurator of Judea, Agrippa, accompanied by his sister and (consort) Bernice, went to Caesarea to pay his respects. It was at this time that Paul appeared before him as recorded in (Acts 25:23-26:32).

Festus tells King Agrippa and Bernice about Paul.

Festus tells King Agrippa and Bernice about the events and the accusations of the chief priests and elders against Paul. King Agrippa is so intrigued with the story he wants to hear Paul himself. So on the next day Agrippa and Bernice arrive with great ceremony, pageantry and grandeur, with military representatives and well-known leading men and enter a hall to hear Paul.

Festus tells all those gathered in the hall that the entire Jewish nation both in Jerusalem and in Caesarea have been shouting to him that Paul should be put to death, but he cannot find anything in Paul deserving of death. Festus then tells those gathered in the hall that he is sending Paul to Caesar the emperor as Paul requested, but he cannot find any criminal action in Paul and considers it unreasonable to send a prisoner to Caesar without stating some unlawful activity against them.

Then tells his audience he is hoping as they listen to Paul they will find some wrong doing in Paul deserving of imprisonment or death so he will have something to write in a letter to Caesar that explains why he is sending Paul to him.

End