

Paul's Journey to Rome
Acts 25:13- 28:15

- I. Apologia before Agrippa – Acts 25:13- 26:32
 - A. Who was King Agrippa?
 1. The line of succession – Herod the Great (birth of Jesus) → Herod Antipas (death and resurrection of Jesus; had John beheaded) → Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12 – had James beheaded and Peter arrested) → Herod Agrippa II
 2. Bernice – his live-in sister, mistress of Titus, the adopted son of Vespasian. The Roman populace believed that Bernice and her brother were in fact lovers. She was quite beautiful and would have regularly appeared on the cover of “People” were it to have been published in that day!
 3. So, here we have a somewhat baffled Roman official sitting in judgment with a Herod, concerning a prisoner of the Jews, accused by them of seeking the overthrow of the Temple, among other things. Does any of this look familiar?
 - Exactly. This is Luke’s way of highlighting Paul’s solidarity with the sufferings of Jesus.
 - Paul would be under little doubt as to where this might well end up, given the history and personalities involved.
 - B. The Pomp of the Court – 25:23 – the chiliarchs (commanders of thousands).
 - C. Like Pilate’s ruling about Jesus, Festus finds nothing in Paul’s actions worthy of death.
 - D. This is not a formal trial, but a hearing: Acts 26:1
 - E. Paul’s Powerful Testimony – 26:2-23
 1. v. 2-3: Salutation
 2. v. 4-11: Pre-Conversion Activities
 3. v. 12-18: Conversion and Commission
 4. v. 19-23: Post-Conversion Activities
 5. “I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision” – one of the single most crucial statements Paul makes and Luke records
 - F. Gospel Truths
 1. Opened Eyes (new birth)
 2. Turn from darkness to light (repentance)
 3. Turn from Satan to God
 4. Receive Forgiveness (reconciliation)
 5. And an inheritance (eternal life)
 6. Among those (church)
 7. Sanctified by Faith in Christ (holiness, faith, and Christ)

- G. Dialogue with Herod – 26:24-32
1. Agrippa – literally, shouting in full voice at Paul.
 2. Boldness and Appeal
 3. Herod Agrippa – the “almost Christian”
 - Herod – send him then to Caesar!
 - Like an earlier Herod who said, “Back to Pilate then.”
- II. Voyage to Rome – 27:1- 28:15
- A. The Jews and the Seas (Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 93:3-4; Daniel 7:3; Jonah; and note the work of Jesus’ first disciples; Revelation 13:1 ff)
 - B. Paul’s own testimony – 2 Corinthians 11:25
 - C. The day of the fast – Day of Atonement, October 5, 59 A.D. October onwards was known to be very dangerous sailing in the Eastern Mediterranean
 - D. Eurakylon – 27:14 (Northeaster)
 - Throw over the cargo – Jonah 1:4-5
 - But Paul is NOT Jonah; he is the obedient prophet to the Gentiles!
 - E. From prisoner to captain – the storm reverses the command via the vision God gives Paul as he is in worship. Note: v. 30-32, where Paul gives “orders” and they are followed.
 - God will save Paul FOR the work to which he is called, and save all those with him as well.
 - F. Breaking Bread with his congregation (navum) of 276.
 - Preaching – Encouragement – Breaking Bread – Action
 - G. Safely to land – 27:44-28:1
 - H. Ministry in Malta – 28:2-10
 1. Handling snakes – v.2-6
 - from “murderer to god.”
 2. The healing of Publius’ father
 3. Material Response to Spiritual Ministry
 - I. “And thus we came to Rome” – 28:15