



# Words of truth and sanity

Acts 25:13 – 26:18 (Caesarea)



And after some days king Agrippa and Bernice came to Caesarea to greet Festus. And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause to the king, saying, A certain man has been left in bonds by Felix, about whom, when I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring judgment against him. To them I answered, It is not the custom of the Romans to deliver any man to destruction before he being accused may have the accusers face to face, and have had freedom to answer for himself concerning the accusation.

Acts 25:13-16

Therefore, when they had come here, without any delay I sat on the judgment seat the next day and commanded the man to be brought, about whom, standing up, the accusers brought against him no charge of which I suspected, but they had certain questions about their own demon-worship, and about a certain Jesus dying, whom Paul affirmed to be alive. And because I was perplexed about this question, I asked whether he would go to Jerusalem and be judged there about these matters. But Paul having appealed to be reserved to the hearing of Augustus, I commanded him to be held until I might send him to Caesar.

Acts 25:17-21

And Agrippa said to Festus, I also would like to hear the man myself. And he said, Tomorrow you shall hear him. And on the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp and had entered into the auditorium with both the chiliarchs and principal men of the city, also Festus commanding, Paul was brought out. And Festus said, King Agrippa, and all those men present with us, you see this one about whom all the multitude of the Jews pleaded with me, both at Jerusalem and here, crying that he ought not to live any longer. But I had perceived nothing he had committed worthy of death, and that he himself has appealed to Augustus, I determined to send him, about whom I have no certain thing to write of him to my lord. Therefore I brought him before you, and especially before you, O king Agrippa, so that, after examination is made, I might have something to write. For it seems to me unreasonable to send a prisoner, and not to signify the charges against him.

Acts 25:22-27

And Agrippa said to Paul, You are permitted to speak for yourself. Then stretching out his hand, Paul made a defense: Concerning all of which I am accused by Jews, king Agrippa, I think myself happy being about to make defense before you today, you being especially expert in all customs and questions among the Jews. Therefore I beseech you to hear me patiently. Truly, then, all the Jews know my manner of life from my youth, which was at first among my own nation at Jerusalem, who knew me from the first, if they would testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

Acts 26:1-5

And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made to our fathers by God, to which promise our twelve tribes hope to attain, serving God fervently night and day. For the sake of this hope, king Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews. Why is it thought a thing incredible with you that God raises the dead? I truly thought within myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth, which I also did in Jerusalem. And I shut up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests. And they being put to death, I cast a vote. And I punished them often in every synagogue; I compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly furious against them, I persecuted them even to the outside cities.

Acts 26:6-11

In which pursuit also traveling to Damascus with authority and power of decision from the chief priests, at midday, along the highway, O king, I and those with me saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun; shining around me. And all of us falling to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew dialect, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads. And I said, Who are you, lord? And He said, I am Jesus whom you persecute. But rise and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of what you saw, and in what I shall appear to you; delivering you from the people and the nations, to whom I now send you in order to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the authority of Satan to God, so that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.

## Acts 26:12-18