

Paul on Trial

Acts 24 - 26

by Don Falkos

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Governor Felix listened to the accusations against Paul and to Paul's defense. But he kept putting off his decision in the case hoping Paul would offer him a bribe. Two years went by. Then Felix was succeeded by Festus.

Once Festus was installed, the Jewish leaders came from Jerusalem to Caesarea on the Sea bringing many serious charges against Paul, none of which they could prove. Still, Festus was on the verge of sending Paul to Jerusalem for trial.

Paul knew that would mean his death. He said to Festus, "I have done nothing wrong against the Jewish Law, against the Temple, or against Caesar. These men have brought false charges. You have no right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar."

A few days later Herod Agrippa II, known as King Agrippa, was visiting along with his sister Bernice. Festus told Agrippa all about Paul's case, and he said, "I would like to hear this man for myself."

Paul was brought in. He said, "King Agrippa, I'm pleased to stand before you today to make my defense, especially since you are well acquainted with Jewish traditions." Paul talked at length about coming to faith in Jesus.

Festus interrupted, "Paul, you are out of your mind!"

Paul replied, "I speak the truth, as the king well knows. King Agrippa, you believe, don't you?"

But Agrippa said, "Do you really think you can talk to me for a few minutes and persuade me to become a Christian?"

Later Agrippa and Festus agreed, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."