

## **The Plot to Kill Paul**

Acts 22:30 - 23:35

by Don Falkos

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Paul was being questioned by the Sanhedrin. He said, "My conscience is clear before God."

The high priest ordered that Paul be slapped. Paul objected, "God will slap you, you whitewashed wall!"

Someone said, "How dare you speak to the high priest like that."

Paul immediately apologized. "I didn't know he was the high priest. The scriptures say, 'Do not speak disparagingly about the ruler of your people.' " Then he announced, "I am a Pharisee! I am on trial because I believe in the resurrection of the dead!" This statement divided the assembly; some of the religious leaders, the Pharisees, believed in the resurrection of the dead, whereas the Sadducees did not. An argument broke out and became so violent Roman soldiers were sent in to rescue Paul and keep him from being torn apart.

That night the Lord said to Paul, "You have been my witness here in Jerusalem; you will share the good news in Rome as well."

The next morning a group of men swore an oath to kill Paul. They went to the religious leaders and said, "Ask the commander to bring Paul back for more questioning. While he is on his way here, we will kill him."

Paul's nephew heard about the plot and reported it to the commander. "Don't send Paul back to the Sanhedrin. More than forty men are waiting in ambush to kill him."

The commander sent the young man away, warning him, "Don't let anyone know you told me about this."

That very night the commander sent Paul to Governor Felix at Caesarea on the Sea. Felix informed Paul, "I will hear your case myself when your accusers arrive."

In the meantime Paul was imprisoned in Herod's palace.