



GREATER GRACE
CHURCH

MIDWEEK FILLUP | THE STUDY OF ACTS

ACTS 26

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

1. To consider Paul's defense before King Agrippa
2. To review Paul's question on belief of the prophets to Agrippa
3. To observe King Agrippa, Festus, and others in deliberation on Paul

SUMMARY

Paul went before King Agrippa and made his defense. In the beginning, Paul reviewed his life as a Jew - before his conversion. King Agrippa gave Paul permission to speak for himself. Paul began by acknowledging that Agrippa was an "expert" in the Jewish customs and questions concerning the Jews. Paul told of his former life as a Jew/Pharisee. Paul had spent his early life in Jerusalem - all the Jews knew this. He was a member of the strictest sect, the Pharisees. Paul noted that he was being judged for the "hope of the promise made by God to our fathers." Paul reiterated that this was the core of the accusation - this "hope." Paul asked Agrippa, "Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?" Paul then stated that he originally thought he should act contrary to Jesus. He cast Christians into prison, voted for their deaths, punished them, compelled them to blaspheme; he even persecuted them to foreign cities. Paul then told of the Lord's appearance on the road to Damascus. While Paul was engaged in persecuting Christians, he journeyed toward Damascus. At midday, a bright light shone on him and his companions. They all fell to the ground. The Lord spoke to Paul in the Hebrew language. The Lord identified Himself as Jesus. The Lord told Paul of the purpose of His appearing: to make him a minister and witness of the things he had seen and of the things that would be revealed to him. Paul was sent by the Lord to the Gentiles, to open their eyes - that they may receive forgiveness of sins. Paul told Agrippa that he had to be obedient to the heavenly vision. He declared the Gospel in Damascus, Jerusalem, Judea, and then to the Gentiles. Paul told the Gentiles to "repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance." He said for these things the Jews seized him at the temple and tried to kill him. He recognized that God had helped him to that very time. Paul only preached those things which the prophets and Moses had said would come to pass: that Christ would suffer; that Christ would be the first to rise from the dead; and, that He would proclaim light to the Jews and Gentiles. Festus then interrupted Paul. He interjected at Paul's defense with a loud voice. He said, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!" Paul replied, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak words of truth and reason." He pointed out that Agrippa knew of these things. Paul further noted that none of these things had been "done in a corner." **(1-26)**

Paul asked King Agrippa if he believed the prophets. He had a brief dialogue with Agrippa about his belief. He addressed King Agrippa, "do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe." Agrippa replied, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian." Paul responded that he would, for not only Agrippa, but for all who heard him to become Christians. Of course, Paul did not desire for any to be in bonds, as he was. **(27-29)**

King Agrippa, Festus, and the others then deliberated about Paul. No charges were found against him. They said, "This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains." Agrippa pointed out that Paul might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar. **(30-32)**

OUTLINE

1. PAUL MADE HIS DEFENSE BEFORE KING AGRIPPA (1-26)

a. PAUL AS A JEW - BEFORE HIS CONVERSION (1-11)

- i. King Agrippa gave Paul permission to speak for himself
- ii. Paul began by acknowledging that Agrippa was "expert" in the Jewish customs and questions about the Jews
- iii. Paul told of his former life as a Jew/Pharisee
 1. Paul had spent his early life in Jerusalem - all Jews knew this
 2. He was a member of the strictest sect, the Pharisees
 3. Paul noted that he was being judged for the "hope of the promise made by God to our fathers"
 4. Paul reiterated that this was the accusation - this "hope"
 5. Paul asked Agrippa, "Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?"
 6. Paul originally thought he should act contrary to Jesus
 7. Paul cast Christians in prison, voted for their deaths, punished them, compelled them to blaspheme; he even persecuted them to foreign cities

b. PAUL TOLD OF THE LORD'S APPEARANCE ON THE DAMASCUS ROAD (12-18)

- i. While Paul was engaged in persecuting Christians, he journeyed on the road to Damascus
 1. At midday a bright light shone on him and his companions
 2. They all fell to the ground
 3. The Lord then spoke to Paul in the Hebrew language
 4. The Lord identified Himself as Jesus
 5. The Lord told Paul of the purpose of appearing: to make him a minister and witness of the things he had seen and of the things that would be revealed to him
 6. Paul was sent by the Lord to the Gentiles, to open their eyes - that they may receive forgiveness of sins

c. PAUL PROCLAIMED THE LIGHT TO THOSE IN DARKNESS (19-23)

- i. Paul told Agrippa that he had to be obedient to the heavenly vision
 - 1. He declared the Gospel in Damascus, Jerusalem, Judea, and then to the Gentiles
 - 2. Paul told the Gentiles to "repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance"
- ii. Paul said for these things the Jews seized him at the temple and tried to kill him
 - 1. Paul recognized that God had helped him to that time
- iii. Paul only preached those things which the prophets and Moses had said would come to pass
 - 1. That Christ would suffer
 - 2. That Christ would be the first to rise from the dead
 - 3. That Christ would proclaim light to the Jews and Gentiles

d. FESTUS INTERRUPTED PAUL (24-26)

- i. Festus interjected at Paul's defense with a loud voice
 - 1. He said, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"
- ii. Paul replied to Festus
 - 1. He said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak words of truth and reason."
 - 2. Paul pointed out that Agrippa knew of these things
 - 3. Paul further noted that none of these things had been "done in a corner"

2. PAUL ASKED AGRIPPA IF HE BELIEVED THE PROPHETS (27-29)

a. PAUL HAD A DIALOGUE WITH KING AGRIPPA ABOUT HIS BELIEF (27-29)

- i. Paul addressed Agrippa, "do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."
- ii. Agrippa replied, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."
- iii. Paul responded that he would for not only Agrippa, but for all who heard him to become Christians
 - 1. Of course, Paul did not desire for any to be in bonds, as he was

3. KING AGRIPPA, FESTUS, AND OTHERS DELIBERATE ABOUT PAUL (30-32)

a. NO CHARGES WERE FOUND AGAINST PAUL (30-32)

- i. Agrippa, Festus and the others went aside to deliberate
 - 1. They said, "This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains."
- ii. Agrippa pointed out that Paul might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar