

Walk With the Word

Acts 25

25:1-5 – After two years, Felix is replaced by Porcius Festus.

The Jewish leaders want Paul to be brought to Jerusalem.

25:6-12 – Festus meets with Paul's accusers; they want Paul to be transferred to Jerusalem so that they can kill him.

Paul knows well the intent and plans of the Jewish leaders and, as a Roman citizen, appeals to Caesar.

Festus agrees not to send Paul to Jerusalem but to Rome.

25:13-22 – In Caesarea, Festus is visited by King Agrippa.

The succession of Herods:

Herod **the Great** lived during Jesus' birth (Matt 2). A great builder; built Caesarea Maritima.

Herod **Antipas** lived during Jesus' crucifixion and the early church (Pentecost; Acts 2).

Herod **Agrippa I** lived during early church growth; executed James; had a son (Agrippa II) and daughters (Bernice and Drusilla); Agrippa I died by worms (Acts 12)

Herod **Agrippa II** interviews Paul in Caesarea Maritima (Acts 25/26).

Paul's hearings in Caesarea Maritima:

Player #1: *Felix*. Felix had 3 wives, the 2nd was Drusilla, youngest daughter of Herod Agrippa I. Drusilla is a sister of Herod Agrippa II and Bernice (aka Berenice).

Player #2: *Festus*. Porcius Festus, not much is known except that he was reasonable and fair. Procurator for only 2-3 years. Agrees to send Paul to Rome.

Player #3: *King Agrippa II*. Agrippa II's cohort is Bernice, his sister & older sister of Drusilla; Bernice has affair with emperor Titus, but he dismissed her after he became emperor.

Festus informs Agrippa on the accusations against Paul.

Agrippa & Bernice want to meet Paul and hear his testimony.

25:23-27 – Paul is brought before Agrippa with great pomp.

Festus informs Agrippa that the Jews want Paul executed.

Festus frankly acknowledges that he can't find sufficient cause for sending Paul to Caesar.