

What IS the Point?
Paul Before Agrippa: Part 1
Acts 26:1-15
July 9, 2023

What is the explanation for the Jewish leaders' dogged determination to see Paul dead? It had been almost 30 years since the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, and yet they were as persistent as ever. Because, if the resurrection of Jesus was true, then He was indeed the Son of God, and He was indeed their King; and if He was their King, they were on the wrong side of the King.

Paul gave a complimentary introduction. vv 1-3
He reviewed his life and made the case that he had been a model Jew. vv 4-5
Paul said that he was being accused because he was simply pointed out that what his nation had been expecting, a deliver who would suffer, die, and rise again, had actually just happened. Vv 6-8
He stated that he at first rejected that notion, and tried to wipe out all those who believed that Jesus was the Messiah. Vv 9-11
But, God had appeared to him, in Jesus Christ, and he was simply obeying God now. Vv 12-19

Acts 26:6 "And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers;

Where, in the OT, does God promise the Messiah would be resurrected?

Isaiah 53 speaks of a suffering, substitutionary Deliverer, and specifically predicts exactly what happened to Jesus at the crucifixion:

"despised and forsaken" v 3
"pierced through for our transgressions" 5
"scourged" v 5
"the iniquity of us all to fall on Him" v 6
"did not open his mouth" v 7
"cut off out of the land of the living" v 8
"with a rich man in His death" v 9
"numbered with the transgressors" v 12

Isaiah 53 also speaks of a future of prosperity and life, after the suffering:

"He will see His offspring" v 10
"He will prolong His days" v 10
"the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand" v 10
"He will . . . be satisfied" v 11
"I will allot Him a portion with the great" v 11
"He will divide the booty with the strong" v 11

Psalms 16 This Psalm of deliverance describes not only David's experiences at that time, but also the resurrection of the Messiah that would take place some 900 years later:

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will dwell securely.
10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol;
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

Acts 2:25-32 Peter affirms that this Psalm predicts the resurrection of the Messiah.

Acts 13:29-39 Paul confirms that not only did the psalmist prophesy about the resurrection of Messiah, he also explained that Messiah was God's Son.

Why wouldn't the scribes and Pharisees want Jesus as their King?

Matthew 23

“woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites” v 13

sons “of hell” v 15

“blind guides” v 16

“fools” v 17

“blind men” v 19

“full of robbery and self-indulgence” v 25

“whitewashed tombs” v 27

“full of lawlessness” v 28

“sons of those who murdered the prophets” v 31

“serpents” v 33

“brood of vipers” v 33

“upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth” v 35

“Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.” v 36

Acts 2:37,38 Among the generation of Jews that crucified Messiah, when those who did believe came to Christ, they were saved “out of fellowship”, and they immediately had to get baptized and forgiven for this grave disservice to their God, in order to be forgiven and restored to fellowship with God.