



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

**“On Trial for the Hope of
the Resurrection – Part 2”**

Acts 24–26

Chester Wakefield

“Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in **Rome**.”

– Acts 23:11 (NIV)

Who's on Trial?

Paul?

Jesus?

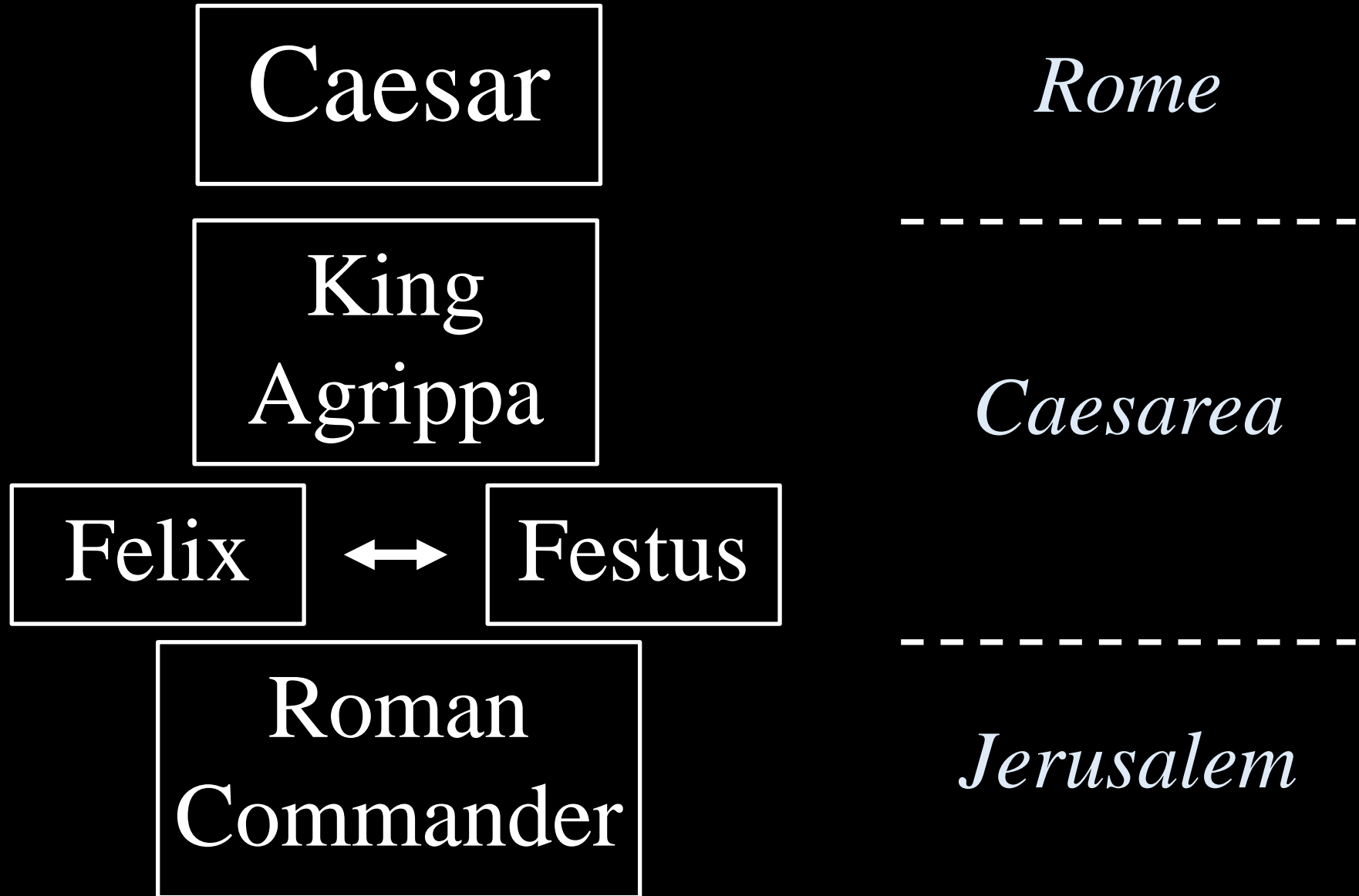
Accusers?

Roman Leaders?

Hearers?

Us?

Ascending the heights of Rome



The Ascent

Rome

Caesarea

Felix

Roman
Commander

Jerusalem

“We have found this man to be a **troublemaker, stirring up riots** among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him.”

– Acts 24:5-6 (NIV)

“However, **I admit** that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect.

I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a **resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.**”

– Acts 24:14-15 (NIV)

“As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control
and the judgment to come,

Felix was **afraid**

and said, ‘That’s enough for now! You may leave.
When I find it convenient, I will send for you.’ ”

– Acts 24:25 (NIV)

The Ascent

Rome

Caesarea

Felix



Festus

Roman
Commander

Jerusalem

“Paul answered: ‘I am now standing before Caesar’s court, where I ought to be tried.

I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well.

If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them.

I appeal to Caesar!’ ”

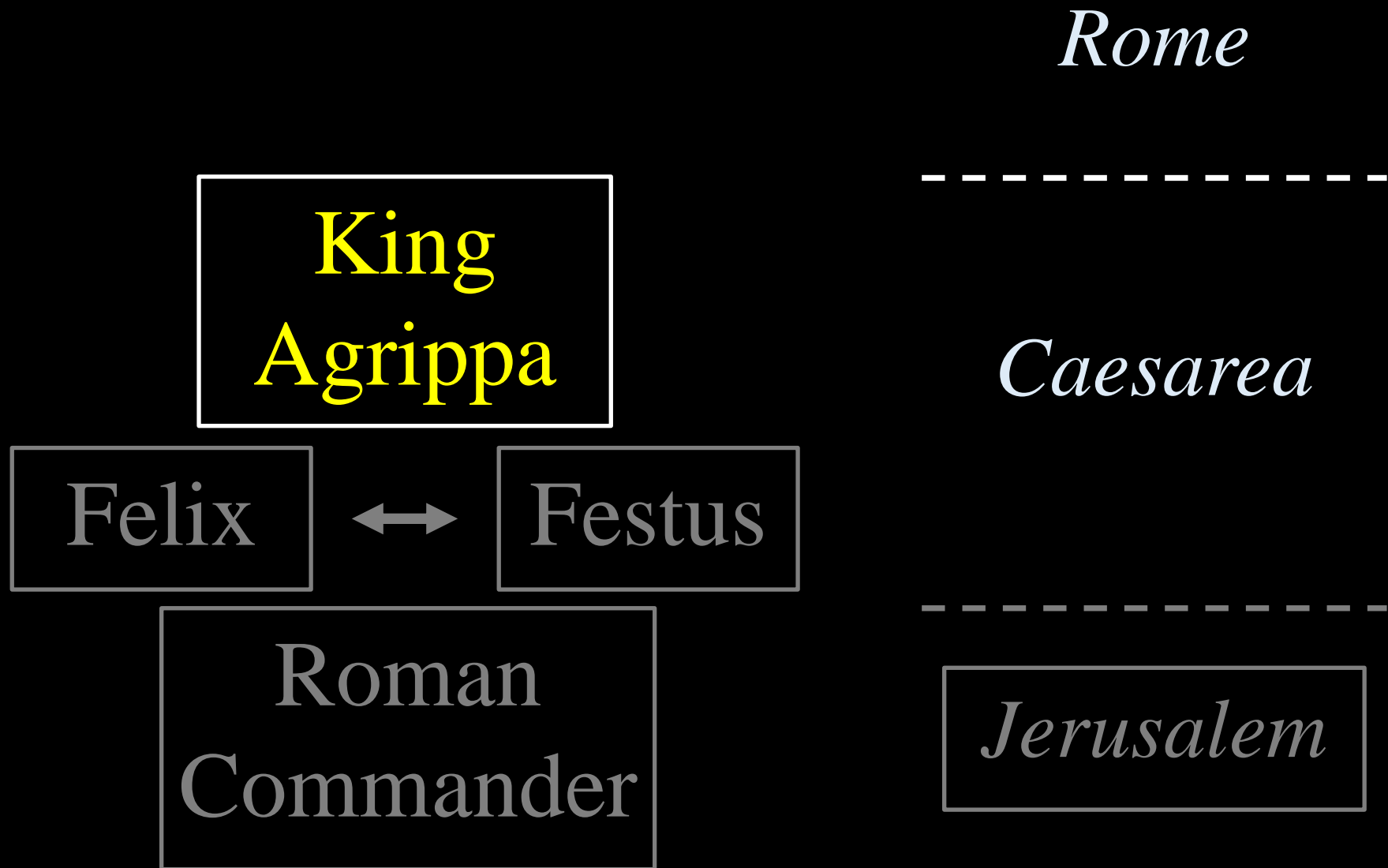
– Acts 25:10-11 (NIV)

“I found **he had done nothing deserving of death**, but because he made his **appeal to the Emperor** I decided to send him to Rome. But I have nothing definite to write to His Majesty about him.

Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that as a result of this investigation I may have something to write. For I think it is **unreasonable to send a prisoner** on to Rome **without specifying the charges** against him.”

– Acts 25:25-27 (NIV)

The Gospel Ascent



“And now it is because of **my hope in what God has promised our ancestors** that I am on trial today.

This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night.

King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that these Jews are accusing me.

Why should any of you consider it **incredible that God raises the dead?**”

– Acts 26:6-8 (NIV)

“... I will rescue you from your own people
and from the Gentiles.

I am sending you to them to **open their eyes** and **turn
them** from darkness to light, and from the power
of Satan to God,
so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and
a place among those who are sanctified
by faith in me.’ ”

– Acts 26:17-18 (NIV)

“I preached that they should repent and **turn to God** and **demonstrate** their repentance by their deeds.”

– Acts 26:20 (NIV)

“I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets
and Moses said would happen—
that the **Messiah** would suffer and, as the first
to **rise from the dead**, would bring the
message of **light**
to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

– Acts 26:22-23 (NIV)

“At this point **Festus interrupted** Paul’s defense.
‘You are out of your mind, Paul!’ he shouted.
‘Your great learning is driving you **insane.**’ ”

– Acts 26:24 (NIV)

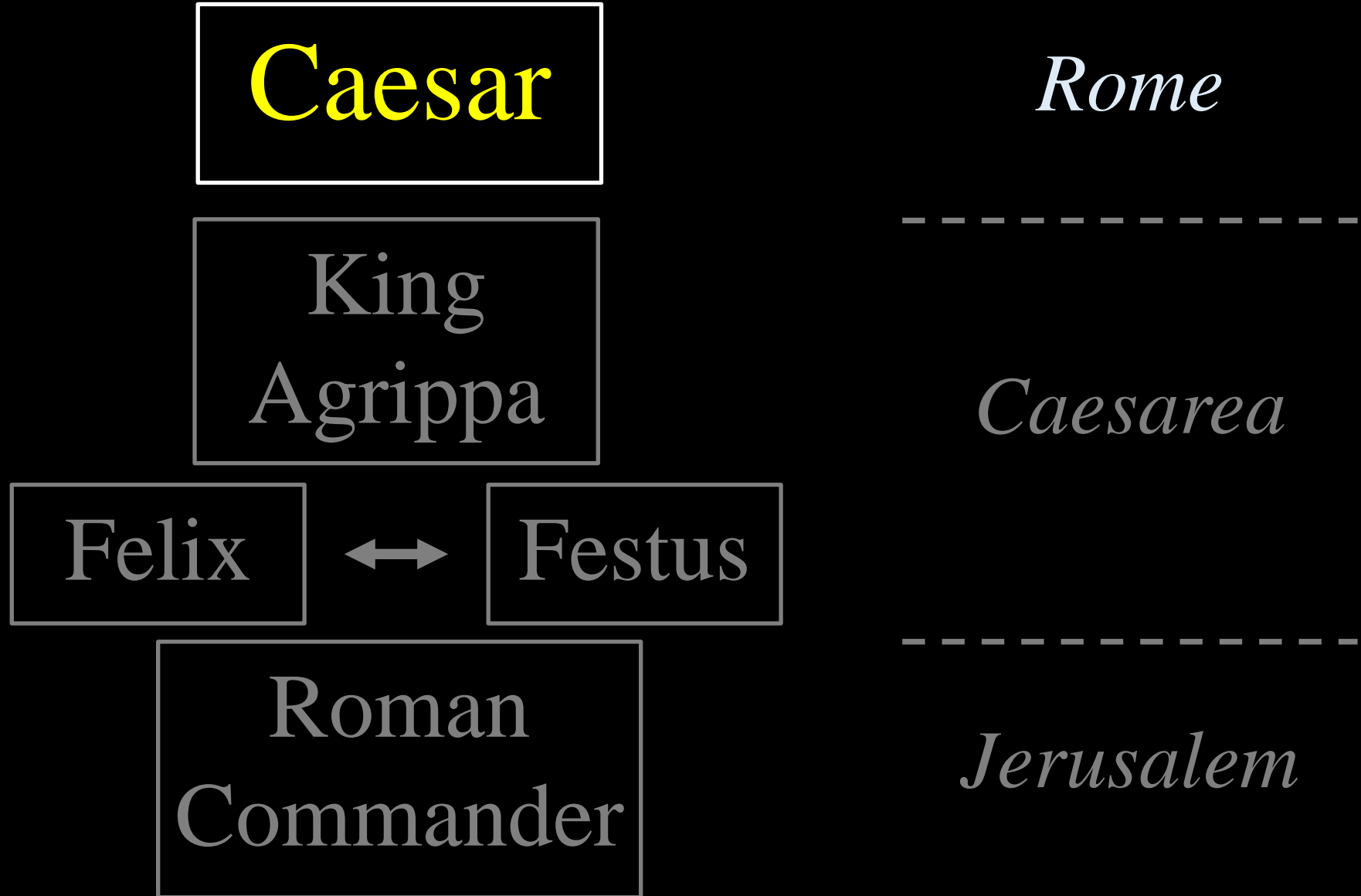
“After they left the room, they began saying
to one another,

‘This man is not doing anything that deserves
death or imprisonment.’

Agrippa said to Festus, ‘This man could have been
set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.’ ”

– Acts 26:31-32 (NIV)

Ascending the heights of Rome



King Agrippa, will you embrace this **light**?

Those listening, will you embrace this **light**?

Theophilus, will you embrace this **light**?

Have **you** embraced this **light**?

If so,

how do you **demonstrate** the light?

“But you will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the **ends of the earth.**”

– Acts 1:8 (NIV)

*On Trial for the Hope of
the Resurrection – Part 2*

Acts 24-26