

THE HEARING BEGINS- PAUL BEGINS HIS DEFENSE.

VS 1 THIS IS NOT A LEGAL DEFENSE SINCE PAUL'S INNOCENCE HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED. PAUL TAKES THIS HEARING AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE MOTIVATION FOR HIS LIFE AND MINISTRY. PAUL EXTENDED HIS HAND AS A GREETING TO THE KING. A COMMON GESTURE AT THE BEGINNING OF A SPEECH. NOTE: THIS IS PAUL'S FIFTH OF SIX DEFENSES. (22:1-21, 22:30-23:10, 24:10-21, 25:1-12, 28:17-19) LOOK AT ACTS 9:15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; HAVE WE SEEN THIS FULFILLED SO FAR IN ACTS. WHAT DOES THAT TELL US ABOUT OUR LORD? ONCE PAUL WAS FINISHED WITH HIS WITNESS, ALL HIS HEARERS WOULD KNOW HOW TO BE SAVED AND WOULD BE WITHOUT EXCUSE.

VS 2 PAUL BEGINS WITH A COMPLIMENT TO AGRIPPA FOR HIS FAMILIARITY WITH JEWISH PRACTICE. AGRIPPA WAS KNOWN FOR BEING PIOUS, SO THE COMPLIMENT FITS. PAUL FEELS FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH A KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSON HEAR HIS CASE.

VS 3 WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT AGRIPPA? PAUL ASKS TO BE HEARD WITH PATIENCE, SINCE AGRIPPA IS WELL EQUIPPED TO APPRECIATE THE SITUATION AND PAUL'S ADDRESS WILL GO INTO SOME DETAIL. LUKE TELLS US PAUL'S SPEECH IS IN A FORMAL STYLE OF LONG SENTENCES UNLIKE OTHER SPEECHES, A STYLE THAT FITS THE OCCASION. I THINK THAT WE WILL SEE PAUL'S MAIN PURPOSE WAS NOT TO DEFEND HIMSELF BUT TO CONVERT AGRIPPA AND THE OTHERS.

FIVE KEY STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE PAUL'S DEFENSE:

1. I LIVED A PHARISEE-

VS 4- PAUL'S EARLY LIFE WAS KNOWN TO THE JEWS, SO THERE WAS NO NEED TO GO INTO GREAT DETAIL. PAUL MAKES TWO POINTS: 1. ALL HIS LIFE HE HAS BEEN A JEW GROWING UP IN JERUSALEM. 2. HE WAS A PIOUS PHARISEE, A GROUP KNOWN FOR ITS STRICTNESS.

VS 5- WHAT COULD THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM TESTIFY ABOUT PAUL? LET'S SEE HOW "LIVED AS A PHARISEE" WOULD HAVE REGISTERED WITH PAUL'S LISTENERS. WHAT DID THAT MEAN TO THEM? THE PHARISEES WERE A SMALL (ABOUT 6,000) LEGALISTIC GROUP (SECT) KNOWN FOR THEIR RIGID ADHERENCE TO THE CEREMONIAL FINE POINTS OF THE LAW. THEIR NAME MEANS "SEPARATED ONES". JESUS REBUKED THEM FOR USING HUMAN TRADITION TO NULLIFY SCRIPTURE. THEY WERE SEPARATISTS AND LEGALISTS.

VS 6 PAUL SAYS HE IS STANDING TRIAL FOR "THE HOPE OF THE PROMISE MADE BY GOD TO OUR FATHERS." WHAT DO YOU THINK PAUL MEANS BY THIS STATEMENT? LOOK AT GENESIS 3:15 And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, And of your offspring and her Descendant; And you shall bruise Him on the heel. He shall bruise you on the head,

ISAIAH 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the [a]virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him [b]Immanuel.;

ISAIAH 9:6-7 For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of armies will accomplish this. ;

DANIEL 7:14 And to Him was given dominion, Honor, and a kingdom,
So that all the peoples, nations, and *populations of all* [b]languages
Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.;

MICAH 5:2 But as for you, Bethlehem, Too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will come forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.
His times of coming forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”;

TITUS 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our
great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ;

1 PETER 1:10-13 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within
them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories [a]to
follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you,
in these things which now have been announced to you through those who
preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into
which angels long to look..

THESE PROMISES INCLUDED PERSONAL SPIRITUAL SALVATION, AS WELL AS NATIONAL
DELIVERANCE AND BLESSING- THAT THE HEBREW PROPHETS HAD PREDICTED. THE
AGENT OF SALVATION WOULD BE A SAVIOR, WHOM GOD WOULD BOTH ANOINT AND
RESURRECT FROM THE DEAD. PAUL SAID THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIS JEWISH
HERITAGE, NOT IN SPITE OF IT, THAT HE BELIEVED AND PREACHED WHAT HE DID. THE
JEWISH "HOPE" FINDS FULFILLMENT IN THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL.

VS 7 HOW WAS ISRAEL TRYING TO ATTAIN THESE PROMISES DURING THE TIME OF
PAUL?

VS 8 PAUL HAS A GREAT QUESTION, WHAT IS IT? WHAT DID THE PROPHETS TELL
THEM? LET'S SEE:

JOB 19:25-27 Yet as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
And at the last, He will take His stand on the [a]earth.

26

Even after my skin is destroyed,
Yet from my flesh I will see God,

27

Whom I, on my part, shall behold for myself,
And *whom* my eyes will see, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

AND DANIEL 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

WHAT ARE THESE VERSES TEACHING? SHOULD ISRAEL HAVE KNOWN THIS? PAUL IS EXPLAINING THAT THE ROOTS OF THIS NEW FAITH ARE IN FACT OLD, REACHING INTO JEWISH PROMISE.

THIS SECTION OF PAUL'S SPEECH IS LAID OUT IN THREE PARTS:

1. PAUL IS FAITHFUL TO THE TRADITION (6-8, 22-23). 2. PAUL PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS AND WAS PERSECUTED. (9-11,21) 3. PAUL WAS COMMISSIONED AS A WITNESS AND SERVES AS A WITNESS. (12-18, 19-20)

VS 9 PAUL DESCRIBES HIS PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS. WHAT WAS PAUL'S REACTION TO JESUS?

VS 10-11 WHAT DID PAUL'S "STRONG OPPOSITION" LOOK LIKE? 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

2. I SAW A LIGHT VS 12-13

VS 12 WHY WAS PAUL GOING TO DAMASCUS? WHO HAD COMMISSIONED PAUL?

VS 13 WHAT TIME OF DAY WAS IT? HOW BRIGHT WAS THE LIGHT?

3. I HEARD A VOICE 14-18

VS 14 WHAT IS THEIR REACTION? HOW MANY HEAR THE VOICE? WHAT DOES JESUS ASK PAUL? (A GOAD IS A SHARP STICK THAT SERVES THE SAME PURPOSE AS A WHIP AND IS USED TO PROD AND DIRECT AN ANIMAL) JESUS IS ASKING SAUL WHY HE IS KICKING AGAINST GOD'S DISCIPLINE AND DIRECTION. SAUL WAS BEING TOLD NOT TO RESIST THE DIVINE CALL AND TO STOP PERSECUTING GOD'S PEOPLE.

WE SEE IN THESE VERSES LUKE'S SKILL IN TELLING THE EVENT THREE TIMES. EACH TIME ADDITIONAL ANGLES ARE GIVEN AS TO WHAT TOOK PLACE. SINCE LUKE WROTE IN ACTS THREE TIMES ABOUT THIS CALL OF PAUL LET'S PUT THEM TOGETHER AND SEE WHAT WE LEARN;

ACTS 9:1-9 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them in shackles to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; 4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, 6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told to you what you must do." 7 The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

ACTS 22:6-11 6 "But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus at about noon, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, 7 and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' 8 And I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.' 9 And those who were with me saw the light, but did not [a] understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me. 10 And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Get up and go on into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything that has been appointed for you to do.' 11 But since I could not see because of the [b] brightness of that light, I came into Damascus being led by the hand by those who were with me.

ACTS 26:12-18 12 "While so engaged, as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, 13 at midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who were journeying with me. 14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 And I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But get up and stand on your feet; for this *purpose* I have appeared to you, to appoint you as a servant and a witness not only to the things in which you have seen Me, but also to the things in which I will appear to you, 17 rescuing you from the *Jewish* people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

4. I WAS NOT DISOBEDIENT 19-21

VS 19 WHAT DOES PAUL TELL KING AGRIPPA?

VS 20 WHERE DOES PAUL PROCLAIM FIRST? 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

WHAT WAS PAUL'S MESSAGE? WHICH WILL SHOW? THIS IS A KEY VERSE TELLING WHAT PAUL ASKED FOR WHEN HE PREACHED. 1. HE ASKED THE SAME FROM BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES. _____

2. THAT THEY _____ 3. _____

VS 21 PAUL'S OBEDIENCE TO GOD BEGAN IMMEDIATELY IN DAMASCUS. PAUL'S MESSAGE ESPECIALLY IN INCLUDING GENTILES IS WHY HE WAS SEIZED IN THE TEMPLE AND WHY THE JEWS WANTED HIM DEAD. THE JEWISH LEADERS MAY ALSO BE UPSET THAT PAUL CLAIMS TO REPRESENT TRUE JUDAISM.

IT IS LIKELY THAT THE INCLUSION OF GENTILES IN THIS MESSAGE WAS A MAJOR IRRITANT AND NOT JUST THE PREACHING ABOUT JESUS, BECAUSE THE TEMPLE COMPLAINT WAS THAT PAUL HAD BROUGHT GENTILES INTO THE TEMPLE AREA AND DEFILED IT.

VS 22 HOW DOES PAUL SAY HE SURVIVED? WHO DOES PAUL GIVE TESTIMONY TO? PAUL IS A PREACHER OF JEWISH PROMISE AND HOPE. SO PAUL IS NOT A RELIGIOUS INNOVATOR OF THE TRUTH, HE IS MERELY PREACHING WHAT GOD PROMISED FROM LONG AGO.

5. I CONTINUE UNTO THIS DAY 22-32

VS 23 CONTINUES.... THREE IDEAS ARE KEY IN THIS VERSE-THEY ARE: 1. _____
_____ THIS DESCRIBES THE CHRIST AS ONE WHO WOULD UNDERGO
REJECTION. 2. _____ 3. _____

_____ THE GOSPEL HERE IS PORTRAYED AS A LIGHT THAT GUIDES. JESUS IS THE LIGHT SHINING OUT OF DARKNESS. THIS LIGHT IS PROCLAIMED TO BOTH JEW AND GENTILE. THROUGH JESUS THE OPPORTUNITY COMES TO BOTH GROUPS, WHICH IS PART OF WHAT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN UPSETTING SOME OF THE JEWISH AUDIENCE.

VS 24 WHO INTERRUPTS PAUL? ALTHOUGH PAUL IS SPEAKING TO AGRIPPA, IT IS FESTUS, THE GENTILE, WHO INTERRUPTS. WHAT DOES FESTUS SAY? FESTUS HAS HEARD ENOUGH AND DECLARES PAUL HAS LOST HIS MIND IN THE SENSE THAT HIS LEARNING HAS DRIVEN HIM TO EMBRACE INSANE THINGS. INSANITY IS WHAT THE RESURRECTION WOULD HAVE SEEMED LIKE TO A ROMAN. FESTUS WAS ASTONISHED THAT A LEARNED SCHOLAR LIKE PAUL COULD ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT THE DEAD WOULD LIVE AGAIN- SOMETHING NO INTELLIGENT ROMAN WOULD ACCEPT.

VS 25 HOW DOES PAUL REBUKE THE CHARGES?

VS 26 THE DEATH OF JESUS AND THE CHRISTIANS' CLAIM THAT HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD WERE COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN PALESTINE. THE PHRASE "NOT BEEN DONE IN A CORNER" IS A METAPHOR OF THINGS NOT BEING DONE OUT OF PUBLIC SIGHT.

VS 27 PAUL'S SHREWD QUESTION PUT AGRIPPA IN A DILEMMA. IF HE AFFIRMED HIS BELIEF IN THE PROPHETS, HE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO ADMIT THAT WHAT THEY TAUGHT ABOUT JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION WAS TRUE--AN ADMISSION THAT WOULD MAKE HIM APPEAR FOOLISH BEFORE HIS ROMAN FRIENDS. YET TO DENY THE PROPHETS WOULD OUTRAGE HIS JEWISH SUBJECTS. SO HOW DOES HE AVOID ANSWERING?

VS 28 RECOGNIZING HIS DILEMMA, HE PARRIED PAUL'S QUESTION WITH ONE OF HIS OWN. WHAT DOES HE ASK PAUL?

VS 29 WHAT IS PAUL'S WISH FOR THEM? WHAT AGRIPPA AND FESTUS DID NOT UNDERSTAND WAS THAT PAUL HAD BEEN THE JUDGE AND THEY HAD BEEN THE PRISONERS ON TRIAL. THEY HAD BEEN SHOWN THE LIGHT AND THE WAY TO FREEDOM, BUT THEY DELIBERATELY CLOSED THEIR EYES AND RETURNED TO THEIR SINS. WHAT A TERRIBLE THING IS WASTING THAT OPPORTUNITY AND PERHAPS NEVER HAVING ANOTHER.

VS 30-32 WHAT TWO POINTS DO THEY DECIDE UPON? THIS IS THE THIRD SUCH DECLARATION. (THE PHARISEES (23:9), CLAUDIUS LYSIAS (23:29), AND FESTUS 25:25). THE SCOPE OF PAUL'S INNOCENCE HAS GROWN SINCE 25:25; NOW HE IS INNOCENT EVEN OF GROUNDS FOR IMPRISONMENT. SO, IT IS OFF TO ROME FOR PAUL. WAS PAUL FOOLISH IN MAKING HIS APPEAL?

PAUL WAS A FAITHFUL WITNESS AT HIS TRIAL NOT BECAUSE EVERYONE HE WITNESSED TO BECAME CHRISTIANS. THAT WAS NOT SUCCESS IN HIS VIEW. HE WAS FAITHFUL BECAUSE THEY ALL HEARD HOW CENTRAL JESUS WAS TO LIFE AS PAUL DEFENDED HIS OWN ACTIONS. PAUL TEACHES US THAT EVANGELISM IS NOT ABOUT RESULTS BUT ABOUT FAITHFULLY DELIVERING THE MESSAGE. IT IS LIKE A PAPERBOY. THE PAPER ARRIVES AT THE FRONT DOOR BECAUSE THE WITNESS BRINGS IT. BUT TO ENJOY THE BENEFIT OF THE PAPER, THE PERSON AT HOME MUST OPEN THE DOOR; READ THE NEWS, AND UNDERSTAND IT. PAUL MAKES CLEAR THAT THE RESULTS ARE GOD'S BUSINESS; WE ARE MERELY THE MEANS OF DELIVERY. HOW ARE YOU DOING ON YOUR PAPER ROUTE?

COMPARING SCRIPTURE- ACTS 9:1-9; ACTS 22:6-11; ACTS 26:12-18
WHAT DO WE LEARN?

DISCIPLES OF THE LORD-

DAMASCUS-

LETTERS TO SYNAGOGUES-

APPROACHING DAMASCUS-

HEARD A VOICE-

WHO ARE YOU LORD?

WILL BE TOLD-

