

Episode 9: November 1 / 2

The Witness in Caesarea

Acts 24:1–26:32

**Paul on Trial**

**The Trial, Part I (Antipatris)**

1. **Felix Reviews the Charges against Paul (24:1–23)**
   1. **The Principals** of the Trial
      1. Ananias (PLAINTIFF)
      2. Tertullus (PROSECUTOR).
      3. The Governor Felix, Part 2, Festus (JUDGE)
      4. Paul (DEFENDANT)
   2. **The prosecution** (24:1–9): The Jewish high priest comes to Caesarea from Jerusalem accompanied by a Jewish lawyer named Tertullus, who levels three charges against Paul:
      1. *Paul is a political rebel* (24:1–5a).
      2. *He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect* (24:5b).
      3. *He is a Temple defiler* (24:6–9).
   3. **The defense** (24:10–21): Paul responds:
      1. *He denies charges one and three* (24:10–13, 15–20).
      2. *He affirms charge number two* (24:14, 21).
   4. **Private audience:** Both the governor and his wife, Drusilla, hear Paul in a private meeting. (24:24–25): Felix denies Christ.
      1. **Paul**’**s theme** (24:24–25a): He speaks on righteousness and future judgment.
      2. **Felix**’**s terror** (24:25b): The fearful governor responds, “Go away for now. When it is more convenient I’ll call for you again.”
      3. Felix expects a bribe from Paul (24:26–27): For the next two years, Felix continually visits the imprisoned Paul, hoping (in vain) to receive bribe money.

**THE TRIAL, PART II (Two Years Later, Caesarea)**

1. **Paul testifies before Porcius Festus, who is Governor Felix’s replacement, and Herod Agrippa.**
   1. Festus and Paul (25:1–12).
      1. **The plot to kill Paul** (25:1–5).
         1. *The plotter’s request* (25:1–3): Jewish leaders ask Festus to bring Paul on his visit to Jerusalem, for they plan to kill him en route.
         2. *Festus’ refusal* (25:4–5): Festus declines, saying Paul will remain in Caesarea for his trial.
      2. **The governor and the prisoner** (25:6–12)
         1. *False Accusations* (25:6–7): The Jewish leaders bring many charges against Paul but can’t prove any of them.
         2. *Paul’s defense* (25:8): Paul pleads innocent to all these charges.
         3. *Motion to Change Venue and Paul’s Appeal.*
            1. (25:9): Anxious to please the Jews, Festus asks Paul to continue his trial in Jerusalem.
            2. Paul refuses and appeals to Caesar, and his request is granted. (25:10–12).
   2. Festus and Agrippa (25:13–27).
      1. Festus tells the visiting monarch about this famous political prisoner. (25:13–22):
         1. He talks about Paul’s accusers. (25:13–19).
         2. He talks about Paul’s appeal. (25:20–21).
         3. The king desires to meet Paul. (25:22–27).

1. **Paul and King Agrippa.**
   1. Paul’s Testimony (26:2–23).
      1. **Religious man** (26:2–11).
         1. *His Background* (26:2–8): From birth he was very zealous in this strict Jewish sect.
         2. *His Rebellion against Christ and Cruelty to Christians* (26:9–11): He hated and hounded Christians.
      2. A man **Redeemed and restored** (26:12–23).
         1. *Conversion* (26:12–14): It occurred on the road to Damascus when Jesus himself appeared.
         2. *Commission* (26:15–23): God appointed him to preach repentance and forgiveness of sin to the Gentiles. In spite of terrible persecution, Paul faithfully obeyed the message of his heavenly vision.
      3. **Festus**’**s accusation** (26:24): The governor interrupts Paul, accusing him of insanity.
      4. **Paul**’**s Argues with the Court** (26:25): The apostle assures Festus he is speaking only the “sober truth.”
         1. **Paul to Agrippa** (26:26–27): “Do you believe the prophets? I know you do.”
         2. **Agrippa to Paul** (26:28): “Do you think you can make me a Christian so quickly?”
         3. **Paul to Agrippa** (26:29): “I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become as I am, except for these chains.”
      5. **Ticket to Rome:** After the meeting Agrippa and Festus agree that Paul could be set free had he not appealed to Caesar. (26:30–32)