

Acts 24:1-27

“Paul and the Jews - Part III”

Summary

- Paul is tried before Felix
- Paul remains in Roman custody

Outline

- I. Before Felix - vs. 1
- II. The accusation by Tertullus - vs. 2-9
 - A. The charges:
 1. pestilent fellow - a wicked man who spread his wickedness
 2. mover of sedition - excites disturbances among the Jews
 3. ringleader of the Nazarenes - leader of the Christians
 4. profane the Temple - was attempting to pollute the Temple (21:28-29)
- III. The defense by Paul - vs. 10-21
 - A. The falsehood of their claims - vs. 10-13
 - B. The true crime of Paul - vs. 14-16
 - C. The events of Paul's arrest - vs. 17-21
- IV. Felix postpones judgment - vs. 22-23
- V. The witness before Felix - vs. 24-26
- VI. The next two years... - vs. 27

Notes

Felix

- Marcus Antonius Felix (Felix means “happy” or “lucky”)
- Roman procurator of Judea from about 52 to 58 A.D.
- His older brother was Pallas, secretary of the treasury under Claudius
- Wife is Drusilla, daughter of Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:1)
 - Drusilla and a son died in the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79
- Reputation for being cruel, oppressive, and open to bribes

Roman Trials

- Held before a judge or ruler
- Both plaintiff and defendant should be present
- Orators or lawyers can be hired to argue the case
- Burden of proof is on the plaintiff
- Very informal by today’s standards
- Plaintiff presents the case
- Defendant refutes the charges
- Witness can be called by either side
- The judge referees then decides the case

Misc. Notes

- The trial was held in Herod’s Judgment Hall in Caesarea
- vs. 1 - the five days probably allow for the end of Pentecost
- vs. 4 - the Jews wished for a quick trial. Their case would fall apart if tested.
- vs. 5 - pestilent - plague. They say he isn’t a pestilent fellow, but he *is* pestilence.
- vs. 7 - blame the person who is not present to defend himself
- vs. 13 - where are the witnesses of Paul’s crimes?
- vs. 14 - Paul is guilty of being a Christian
- vs. 19 - again, where are the witnesses?
- vs. 22 - the trial is recessed and never resumed. Why?
 - Felix wanted a bribe - vs. 26
 - He knew Paul was innocent but wanted to please the Jews
- vs. 23 - in custody but with privileges. Felix must have thought Paul was innocent.
- vs. 25 - the spiritual conversation is recessed and probably never resumed.
- vs. 26 - if Felix offered to release Paul for a bribe, Paul must have refused.
- vs. 27 - Paul is left in political limbo as the Roman leadership changes