

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE APOSTLE PAUL – LESSON 51

THE JOURNEY TO ROME – PART 5

PAUL'S TRIAL BEFORE AGRIPPA

King Herod Agrippa II would now hear Paul's case. Bernice and Governor Festus sat with Agrippa.

The king gave Paul permission to speak for himself. Paul began by complimenting Agrippa for his expertise in Jewish Law and Customs. (Acts 26.)

Paul spoke of his loyalty from youth to manhood to the Orthodox Jewish faith. He then spoke of how he had reckoned the Followers of the Way to be heretics to claim that Jesus of Nazareth had risen from the dead and was the Messianic hope of God's promise. He also spoke of how he had persecuted them.

Then he told of his Damascus Road encounter with Jesus, who appeared as a bright shining light speaking in the Hebrew tongue directly to him. He told of Jesus giving him a commission to bring the light of Christ to the gentile world.

He told them that this is why the Jews sought to kill him. All he had taught came right from Moses and the Prophets including the future resurrection of the dead.

As Paul finished his sermon, Festus declared him to be insane (mad). Paul told Festus that he was not mad but was speaking the truth in all sincerity. He told Festus that King Agrippa had full understanding of this message.

Paul then addressed Agrippa about believing. Agrippa replied to Paul in verse 28, ***“Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian!”***

Then Agrippa, Bernice, Festus, and other dignitaries sitting with them withdrew to discuss it among themselves. They concluded that Paul was innocent of any wrongdoing. He could have been set free if it were not for his appeal to Caesar which they were legally bound to honor. This was the final event of Paul's two-plus years in Caesarea. He was now set to move onward towards Rome.

It would prove to be an arduous journey.