

Acts 22 – Paul’s defense on the steps of Antonia

I. Paul makes his case to the Jews, v.1-21

- A. “I was once just like all of you...”, v.1-5
- B. “I received a heavenly vision...”, v.6-11
- C. “I obeyed the calling of the Gospel...”, v.12-16
- D. “I was sent to preach to the Gentiles...”, v.17-21

II. The people react to Paul’s words, v.22-30

- A. The people refuse to listen to any more, demand punishment, v.22-23
- B. The commander of the Roman garrison, Claudius Lysias, seeks to understand why the people are so angry, v.24-30
 - 1. Planned to scourge Paul
 - 2. Paul reveals he was “born” a citizen of Rome
 - 3. Lysias releases Paul from bonds, but still seeks answers and holds Paul in protection

Acts 23 – Paul is sent to Caesarea and Felix

I. Paul before the Sanhedrin, v.1-10

- A. An uncomfortable exchange between Paul and the High Priest
 - 1. Paul does not recognize Ananias as High Priest
- B. “Concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead...”
 - 1. Paul effectively divides the council at its core over a matter of faith
 - 2. Lysias rescues Paul from being torn apart by the dissension

II. Paul in protective custody, v.10-30

- A. Jesus appears to Paul, encouraging him, v.11
 - 1. “...you must also bear witness at Rome...”
- B. An assassination is planned, v.12-22
 - 1. Some Jews (more than forty, v.21) swear an oath not to eat until they have killed Paul. They arrange (with the Sadducee’s help) for Paul to be brought to the council so that they can kill him
 - 2. Paul’s nephew finds out about the plot and warns Paul and Lysias
- C. Lysias prepares to sneak Paul out of Jerusalem and on to Caesarea, v.23-30
 - 1. They leave at 3 am
 - 2. 200 soldier, 70 horsemen, 200 spearmen escort Paul as far as Antipatris
 - 3. Lysias writes a letter to Felix explaining the situation

III. Paul is taken to Caesarea, and Felix, v.31-35

Questions for Acts 22:

1. What applications can be drawn from what Ananias told Paul to do in verse 16?
2. What was it that caused the people to seek Paul's death? V.21-22
3. What is the significance of Paul having been born a Roman citizen compared to the commander who had purchased his citizenship?
4. Why was the fact that Paul was a Roman citizen such a big deal to the commander and centurion?

Questions for Acts 23:

1. Why does Paul not recognize Ananias as the High Priest?
2. Why does Paul set the council at odds within itself by appealing to the resurrection of the dead? Does Paul lie in saying this?
3. What is the implication of Jesus' words to Paul in verse 11? How do you suppose this affected Paul's actions and words after this?
4. Read the letter from Lysias to Felix. Is Lysias completely truthful in his letter? If not, what does he say that is untruthful and why does he say it?