

Acts 26 – Paul before Agrippa and Bernice

I. Paul invited to offer his defense before Agrippa, v.1-23

- A. Paul was happy to stand before Agrippa, as Agrippa had a Jewish background, v.1-3
- B. Paul was a Jew, but was persuaded by the promise of the resurrection, v.4-8
- C. Paul had mightily persecuted the Way, v.9-11
- D. Paul recounts the events on the road to Damascus, v.12-18
- E. Paul set about teaching the Gentiles, for which cause he was arrested, v.19-23

II. Paul appeals to Agrippa's faith, v.24-29

- A. Festus thought Paul had gone crazy from too much learning, v.24
- B. Paul responds that spoke "the words of truth and reason", v.25
 - 1. Agrippa knew of these events, v.26
- C. "Do you believe the prophets?" v.27-29
 - 1. Paul does not ask about belief in Jesus or the resurrection, but about the prophets
 - 2. "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."
 - 3. Paul wished that all could be like him, a saved Christian, except for the chains he wore

III. Paul innocent in the minds of Agrippa and Bernice, v.30-32

- A. After leaving, Agrippa, Festus, and Bernice feel Paul is no deserving of death
- B. Agrippa considers Paul worthy of being set free, if not for Paul's appeal to Caesar

Questions for Acts 26:

1. Why was Paul "happy" to answer for himself before Agrippa?

2. Does Paul admit that he *himself* put Christians to death? What was Paul trying to force the Christians he captured to do? How do you suppose he "compelled" them?

3. What did the prophets and Moses say would come?

4. Why do you suppose that Festus considered Paul had gone mad?

5. Why did Paul ask Agrippa if he believed the prophets, rather than asking if he believed in Jesus or the resurrection?