

Acts 24:1 – 25:12

Ch24

v1 – high priest	(noun)	the leader of the priests in the Jewish religion
v1 – Caesarea	(noun)	Roman city, 70 miles from Jerusalem on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea; <u>see map</u>
v1 – charges	(noun)	accusations of an offense under the law
v2 - foresight	(noun)	ability to predict what is needed or will happen in the future
v5 – sect	(noun)	a group of people who hold common beliefs that are different from the beliefs of the main religious group they belong to
v9 – asserting	(verb)	speaking a belief or fact with confidence and/or force
v14 – ‘the Law and... the Prophets’		the Old Testament
v14 – follower of the Way	(noun)	someone who follows Jesus “the Way, Truth and Life”; a Christian
v16 – conscience	(noun)	a person’s sense of right and wrong
v20 – Sanhedrin	(noun)	the council or assembly of 30-70 men appointed to every city in Israel who were the religious leaders and judges of their religious law
v21 – resurrection	(noun)	the rising of the dead to life
v26 – bribe	(noun)	a gift (especially of money) which is to cause someone to act dishonestly and give special treatment

Ch 25

v3 – ambush	(verb)	hide and make a surprise attack
v6 – convened	(verb)	brought together, or assembled
v12 – conferred	(verb)	discussed or spoke with someone

Acts 24:1 – 25:12 (New International Reader's Version)

Paul's Trial in Front of Felix

24 Five days later Ananias the high priest went down to Caesarea. Some elders and a lawyer named Tertullus went with him. They brought their charges against Paul to the governor. **2** So Paul was called in. Tertullus began to bring the charges against Paul. He said to Felix, "We have enjoyed a long time of peace while you have been ruling. You are a wise leader. You have made this a better nation. **3** Most excellent Felix, we gladly admit this everywhere and in every way. And we are very thankful. **4** I don't want to bother you. But would you be kind enough to listen to us for a short time?"

5 "We have found that Paul is a troublemaker. This man stirs up trouble among Jews all over the world. He is a leader of those who follow Jesus of Nazareth. **6-7** He even tried to make our temple impure. So we arrested him. **8** Question him yourself. Then you will learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him."

9 The other Jews said the same thing. They agreed that the charges were true.

10 The governor motioned for Paul to speak. Paul said, "I know that you have been a judge over this nation for quite a few years. So I am glad to explain my actions to you. **11** About 12 days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. You can easily check on this. **12** Those bringing charges against me did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple. I wasn't stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. **13** They can't prove to you any of the charges they are making against me. **14** It is true that I worship the God of our people. I am a follower of the Way of Jesus. Those bringing charges against me call it a cult. I believe everything that is in keeping with the Law. I believe everything that is in keeping with what is written in the Prophets. **15** I have the same hope in God that these men themselves have. I believe that both the godly and the ungodly will rise from the dead. **16** So I always try not to do anything wrong in the eyes of God or in the eyes of people.

17 "I was away for several years. Then I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for those who were poor. I also came to offer sacrifices. **18** They found me doing this in the temple courtyard. I had already been made pure and 'clean' in the usual way. There was no crowd with me. I didn't stir up any trouble. **19** But there are some other Jews who should be here in front of you. They are from Asia Minor. They should bring charges if they have anything against me. **20** Let the Jews who are here tell you what crime I am guilty of. After all, I was put on trial by the Sanhedrin. **21** Perhaps they blame me for what I said when I was on trial. I shouted, 'I believe that people will rise from the dead. That is why I am on trial here today.' "

²² Felix knew all about the Way of Jesus. So he put off the trial for the time being. "Lysias the commanding officer will come," he said. "Then I will decide your case." ²³ He ordered the commander to keep Paul under guard. He told him to give Paul some freedom. He also told him to allow Paul's friends to take care of his needs.

²⁴ Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla. She was a Jew. Felix sent for Paul and listened to him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ Paul talked about how to live a godly life. He talked about how people should control themselves. He also talked about the time when God will judge everyone. Then Felix became afraid. "That's enough for now!" he said. "You may leave. When I find the time, I will send for you." ²⁶ He was hoping that Paul would offer him some money to let him go. So he often sent for Paul and talked with him.

²⁷ Two years passed. Porcius Festus took the place of Felix. But Felix wanted to do the Jews a favor. So he left Paul in prison.

Paul's Trial in Front of Festus

²⁵ Three days after Festus arrived, he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem. ² There the chief priests and the Jewish leaders came to Festus. They brought their charges against Paul. ³ They tried very hard to get Festus to have Paul taken to Jerusalem. They asked for this as a favor. They were planning to hide and attack Paul along the way. They wanted to kill him. ⁴ Festus answered, "Paul is being held at Caesarea. Soon I'll be going there myself. ⁵ Let some of your leaders come with me. If the man has done anything wrong, they can bring charges against him there."

⁶ Festus spent eight or ten days in Jerusalem with them. Then he went down to Caesarea. The next day he called the court together. He ordered Paul to be brought to him. ⁷ When Paul arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him. They brought many strong charges against him. But they couldn't prove that these charges were true.

⁸ Then Paul spoke up for himself. He said, "I've done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple. I've done nothing wrong against Caesar."

⁹ But Festus wanted to do the Jews a favor. So he said to Paul, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem? Are you willing to go on trial there? Are you willing to face these charges in my court?"

¹⁰ Paul answered, "I'm already standing in Caesar's court. This is where I should go on trial. I haven't done anything wrong to the Jews. You yourself know that very well. ¹¹ If I am guilty of anything worthy of death, I'm willing to die. But the charges brought

against me by these Jews are not true. No one has the right to hand me over to them. I make my appeal to Caesar!"

¹² Festus talked it over with the members of his court. Then he said, "You have made an appeal to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"



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