

NOON BIBLE STUDY: ACTS 23-24-25

ACTS 23:12-15 - CONSPIRACY AGAINST PAUL

- FAST UNTIL PAUL KILLED
- 40+ MEN, CHIEF PRIESTS AND ELDERS AGREE

ACTS 23:16-24 - PAUL'S NEPHEW HEARS AND AUTHORITY ALERTED

V. 23 - 200 SOLDIERS + 200 SPEARMEN + 70 HORSEMEN = 470 MEN!

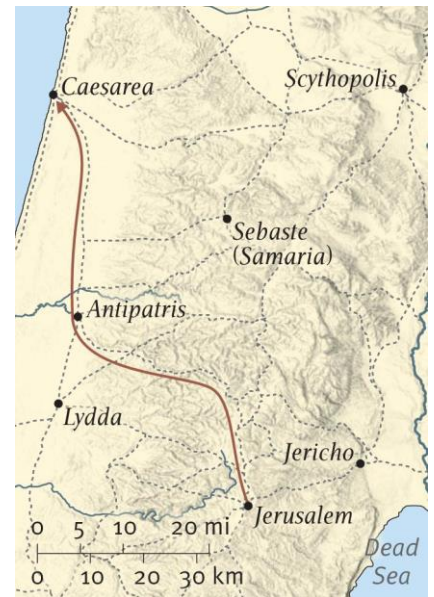
V. 23 - ESV STUDY BIBLE: THE ENTIRE ROMAN FORCE IN JERUSALEM CONSISTED OF A SINGLE COHORT OF UP TO 1,000 SOLDIERS. THE IMPORTANCE THAT LYSIAS ATTACHED TO HIS PRISONER IS EVIDENCED BY HIS SENDING APPROXIMATELY HALF THE FORCE TO PROTECT HIM.

ACTS 23:25-30 - LETTER FROM COMMANDER CLAUDIUS LYSIAS TO GOVERNOR FELIX

ACTS 23:31-35 - PAUL BROUGHT TO ANTIPATRIS, THEN CAESAREA

V. 34 - CILICIA WAS IN THE PROVINCE FELIX WOULD HAVE HAD JURISDICTION OVER

V. 35 - HEROD'S PRAETORIUM - PALACE



ACTS 24 - TRIAL BEFORE FELIX: JEWS PROSECUTE (V. 2-9), PAUL'S DEFENSE (V. 10-21), FELIX'S DECISION (V. 22-23)

ACTS 24:2-9 — ACCUSATION

- ACCUSATION AGAINST PAUL: REAL PEST, STIRS UP DISSENSION, RINGLEADER OF SECT OF NAZARENE, TRIED TO DESECRATE TEMPLE (CP. ACTS 21:28)

ACTS 24:10-21 — DEFENSE

- PAUL'S DEFENSE: I WAS IN JERUSALEM TO WORSHIP, WASN'T DISCUSSING WITH ANYONE (AKA PREACHING), WASN'T CAUSING A RIOT.
- ADMISSION: ACTS 24:15-15
- JEWS FROM ASIA CAUSED THE RIOT, THEY SHOULD BE HERE TODAY.
- ONLY THING I SAID "VS. 21"

ACTS 24:22-23 - FELIX'S RESPONSE

- FELIX KNEW ABOUT "THE WAY", DECIDED TO WAIT FOR LYSIAS THE COMMANDER TO COME TO CAESAREA
- V. 23 - PAUL STILL IN CUSTODY, BUT WITH FREEDOM

ACTS 24:24-27 - PAUL SPEAKS WITH FELIX

- FELIX'S WIFE (DRUSILLA) WAS JEWISH. **ESV STUDY BIBLE (V. 24)**: DRUSILLA WAS THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF HEROD AGRIPPA I AND THE SISTER OF AGRIPPA II (WHO WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT CHAPTER). HER MARRIAGE TO FELIX WAS SOMETHING OF A SCANDAL BECAUSE FELIX DECEPTIVELY PRECIPITATED HER DIVORCE FROM HER FIRST HUSBAND.
- FELIX AND DRUSILLA CALL FOR PAUL, TO HEAR HIM SPEAK. V. 25 - RIGHTEOUSNESS, SELF-CONTROL, JUDGMENT TO COME. FELIX BECOMES FRIGHTENED! (CONVICTED)
- PAUL DOESN'T COWER OR COMPROMISE WHEN FACING AUTHORITY/RENOWN.

V. 26-27 - FELIX WAS HOPING PAUL WOULD BRIBE TO LET HIM GO SO THEY WOULD MEET OFTEN. IN THE END, FELIX KEPT PAUL IN CUSTODY, IN CAESAREA FOR TWO YEARS! FELIX WILL THEN BE SUCCEEDED BY FESTUS.

ACTS 25:1-5 - TRIAL BEFORE FESTUS

- FESTUS, THE NEW GOVERNOR GOES TO JERUSALEM AND MEETS WITH JEWISH LEADERS THERE. WHILE MEETING WITH THEM, THEY BRING UP PAUL AND HIS CASE. THEY PLEA TO FESTUS TO BRING PAUL BACK TO JERUSALEM FOR HIS TRIAL. BUT (V. 3) TELLS US THAT THEIR REAL PLAN WAS TO KILL ON WAY FROM CAESAREA TO JERUSALEM. FESTUS' REPLY: "I'M GOING BACK TO CAESAREA ANYWAY. WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME WITH ME."

ACTS 25:6-9 - FESTUS QUESTIONS PAUL

- JEWS ACCUSE PAUL AGAIN, BUT CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING
- PAUL, "I DIDN'T COMMIT ANYTHING WRONG - AGAINST TEMPLE OR CAESAR
- V. 9 - FESTUS, TRIES TO CALL PAUL'S BLUFF: "OKAY THEN, SO IF YOU'RE INNOCENT, ARE YOU WILLING TO GO TO JERUSALEM AND BE TRIED BEFORE ME ON THESE CHARGES?"

ACTS 25:10-12 - PAUL'S APPEAL TO CAESAR

- **ESV STUDY BIBLE**: FESTUS ASSURED PAUL THAT HE—NOT THE JEWS—WOULD TRY HIM. BUT PAUL WAS NOT REASSURED. HE FEARED FESTUS WOULD GIVE HIM UP TO THE JEWS. AS A ROMAN CITIZEN HE HAD THE RIGHT TO APPEAL HIS CASE TO CAESAR. HE EXERCISED THAT RIGHT IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE MATTER FROM THE GOVERNOR'S HANDS (A.D. 59). "CAESAR" WAS THE EMPEROR NERO CAESAR, WHO REIGNED A.D. 54—68. THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF HIS REIGN WERE RELATIVELY PEACEFUL; AFTER THAT HIS ACTIONS BECAME INCREASINGLY CRUEL AND IRRATIONAL.