

NOON BIBLE STUDY: ACTS 25-26-27

ACTS 25:13-22 - FESTUS TELLS AGRIPPA ABOUT PAUL

- **AGRIPPA & BERNICE** - AGRIPPA THE KING WAS AGRIPPA II, SON OF HEROD AGRIPPA I, AND GREAT-GRANDSON OF HEROD THE GREAT. HE RULED OVER SEVERAL MINOR, PRIMARILY GENTILE TERRITORIES. THE EMPEROR CLAUDIUS HAD CONFERRED ON AGRIPPA II RULE OVER THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM AND THE RIGHT TO APPOINT THE HIGH PRIEST. BERNICE WAS HIS SISTER AND CONSTANT COMPANION.

V. 22 - AGRIPPA DESIRES TO HEAR PAUL



ACTS 25:23-27 - FESTUS' INTRO TO HEARING

- FESTUS SEEMS CONFUSED AS TO WHY PAUL IS ARRESTED AND CHARGED. IT APPEARS HE DOESN'T AGREE WITH THE JEWISH LEADERS AND ACCUSERS THAT HE (PAUL) HAS DONE SOMETHING WORTHY OF DEATH/IMPRISONMENT. AT THE PRESENT TIME, HE IS OBLIGATED TO SEND HIM ON TO CAESAR, BUT DOESN'T KNOW WHY. AGRIPPA WILL INQUIRE OF PAUL, ON FESTUS' BEHALF.

ACTS 26:1-23 - PAUL'S DEFENSE BEFORE AGRIPPA.

- WHAT CAN WE GLEAN FROM PAUL'S MANNER? — (1) RESPECTFUL TONE, (2) RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY/HONOR KING (3) PAUL IS READY TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS: "WHY ARE YOU DOING WHAT YOU ARE DOING? WHY ARE YOU LIVING THE WAY YOU ARE LIVING?"

ACTS 26:24-26

V. 24 - FESTUS DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, V. 26 - PAUL'S MESSAGE WAS FOR AGRIPPA, NOT FESTUS

V. 26 - AGRIPPA WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE BULK OF WHAT PAUL WAS SAYING, AS FAR AS HIS SCRIPTURAL POINTS (EX. V. 22-23). BUT ALSO THE INFORMATION ABOUT JESUS BECAUSE (V.26) "THIS HAS NOT BEEN DONE IN A CORNER"

ACTS 26:27-29 - AGRIPPA NEARLY PERSUADED!

V. 27 - PAUL IS LOOKING FOR A PERSONAL RESPONSE FROM AGRIPPA

- THIS GIVES US SOME INSIGHT INTO PAUL'S METHOD/MANNER. HE WOULD TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS, GOSPEL, BIBLE, ETC AND THEN ASK "SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?" ETC.

ACTS 26:30-32 - AGRIPPA'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT PAUL IS NOT GUILTY OF DEATH OR IMPRISONMENT, AND HAD PAUL NOT "APPEALED TO CAESAR", HE WOULD HAVE LET HIM FREE.

ACTS 27:1-8 - ROME-
WARD ITINERARY

THE VOYAGE TO ROME
(WHICH PROBABLY
BEGAN IN THE AUTUMN
OF A.D. 59) IS GIVEN
IN GREAT DETAIL AND
WITH REMARKABLE
EXACTNESS,
CONSISTENT WITH WHAT
IS OTHERWISE KNOWN
ABOUT SEA TRAVEL IN
THAT TIME AND PLACE.
THE KEYNOTE OF THE



STORY IS GOD'S PROVIDENCE, ESPECIALLY IN PRESERVING PAUL FOR HIS ROMAN TESTIMONY. AT A LITERARY LEVEL THE STORY IS TOLD TO INDICATE HOW FAR AND DIFFICULT THE JOURNEY TO ROME IS, AS THE GOSPEL HEADS TOWARD THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

V. 1, 3 - CENTURION JULIUS TREATS PAUL VERY WELL. LUKE & ARISTARCHUS ARE ALSO TRAVELING WITH PAUL

V. 7-9 - TROUBLE SAILING BECAUSE OF THE WINDS.

ACTS 27:9-12

V. 9 - THE FAST REFERS TO THE DAY OF ATONEMENT IN THE FALL, WHEN MEDITERRANEAN VOYAGES BECAME TOO DANGEROUS FOR SAILING VESSELS. DESPITE THE POOR HARBOR, PAUL'S ADVICE WAS THAT THEY STAY PUT (V. 10). (ESV STUDY BIBLE)

- IT HAS ALREADY PROVEN TO BE A DIFFICULT TRIP, AS THEY WERE OFF THE NORMAL COURSE. "THE NORMAL ROUTE FROM MYRA TO ROME WOULD HAVE TAKEN THEM SOUTH OF RHODES AND NORTH OF CRETE TO SICILY. THEY WERE ALREADY WELL OFF COURSE WHEN THEY REACHED CNIDUS (SOUTHWESTERN TIP OF ASIA/TURKEY) AND EVEN MORE SO WHEN THEY HAD TO SEEK SHELTER ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CRETE. (ESV STUDY BIBLE, V. 7)

- WHAT SEEMED RIGHT TO "NATURAL" MAN WASN'T RIGHT TO THE "SPIRITUALLY" MINDED MAN. WHAT THE MAJORITY THOUGHT WASN'T NECESSARILY THE RIGHT THOUGHT!