

## LESSON 9

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### PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT AT JERUSALEM (PART 2)—AND HIS IMPRISONMENT AT CAESAREA (PART 1)

#### PAUL BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN (23:1–10)

The Bible teaches that Jehovah is a patient God, but there is a limit to His patience. He will tolerate disobedience only so long. Then He says, "That's enough! You will go no further!" In this chapter, we will see some of the final events that made God say "That's enough!" to the city of Jerusalem.

1. Why was Paul "looking intently at the Council" (23:1)?
2. What did Paul mean by "a perfectly good conscience" in verse 1?
3. Historically, what sort of man was the high priest Ananias?
4. How was Paul's prophecy that God would strike Ananias fulfilled?
5. How could Paul not have known he was speaking to the high priest (23:5)?
6. Was Paul really apologizing, or were his words merely spoken in irony?
7. What did Paul mean by saying he was "a son of Pharisees" (23:6)?
8. What did Paul believe to be the real issue behind his being on trial?
9. Did Paul convince some members of his audience, according to verse 9? Explain.

#### AN ENCOURAGING VISION (23:11)

The buffeting the apostle had received in the Council chambers had aggravated the wounds he had received when the mob beat him and had given him fresh aches and pains. The greatest pain, however, was in his heart. As far as the record goes, he received no help or support from the local congregation during his troubles in Jerusalem.

10. Should the phrase “stood at his side” (23:11) be taken literally or figuratively, and what does it indicate?
11. How was the encouragement Paul received different from the encouragement most of us would have hoped for?

### **A MURDEROUS CONSPIRACY EXPOSED (23:12–22)**

The Lord’s promise that Paul would preach in Rome was immediately and severely tested. Even as the Lord spoke to Paul of his future, the apostle’s enemies were considering how they might prevent him from having a future.

12. How was the plot to be carried out?
13. How could Paul’s nephew have learned of the proposed ambush?
14. What options would the commander have had when he learned of the plot?

### **PAUL TAKEN TO CAESAREA (23:23–35)**

Quickly the official put his plan into action. The commander sent 470 men to escort one prisoner—probably about half of the regiment under his command.

15. What does the word translated “form” (23:25) mean and indicate about the letter?
16. To what sort of people was the title “most excellent” given?
17. How were the facts in the letter manipulated to make the commander look good?
18. What was the history of the city of Antipatris?
19. What were probably the deciding factors in Felix’s choice to try Paul’s case?
20. What was Herod’s Praetorium?