

LESSON 11

PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT AT CAESAREA (PART 3)

PAUL, IN HIS TRIAL BEFORE FESTUS, APPEALS TO CAESAR (25:1-12)

As we read chapter 25, we find many details that parallel the previous chapters: Paul on trial, a weak governor, a vindictive Council, a diabolical plot.

1. What is known about Festus' background and rule?
2. Why did Festus go up to Jerusalem only three days after arriving in the country?
3. What does the word translated "concession" in 25:3 tell us about the arrangement intended by the Jews?
4. What was the tribunal, and where was it likely located?
5. How did the behavior of Paul's accusers at this trial differ from the proper procedure they should have followed?
6. What does Paul's defense tell us that the Jews had accused him of?
7. What do the various words for the Roman emperor used in this chapter mean?
8. How was Festus caught between a rock and a hard place after Paul made his defense?
9. In what ways was Festus' suggestion in 25:9 illegal, illogical, and ill-advised?
10. What answer did Festus expect to his question in 25:9?

11. Under what circumstances did a Roman citizen have the right to appeal to Caesar?
12. What does history tell us about the Caesar to whom Paul had appealed?
13. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar, and why did he wait till this trial to do so?
14. How can we know that Paul did not make a mistake in appealing to Caesar?

TWO VISITORS COME TO CAESAREA (25:13–27)

While arrangements were being made for Paul's trial, Festus had two royal visitors: "King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and paid their respects to Festus."

15. Who were Agrippa and Bernice, and what does history tell us about them?
16. Why did Festus receive his guests so warmly?
17. What meanings can the word translated "religion" in 25:19 have, and why is this probably the best translation of it?
18. What items on Festus' agenda could he accomplish by granting his guests' request to hear Paul preach?
19. What was the nature of the "great pomp" (25:23) with which Agrippa and Bernice came to hear Paul?
20. What ironic statements did Festus make in 25:25, 27?