

LESSON 12

PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT AT CAESAREA (PART 4); PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME (PART 1)

PAUL'S DEFENSE BEFORE KING AGRIPPA (26:1–27)

In chapter 25, an illustrious assembly had gathered to hear Paul. In chapter 26, we will see Paul's account of how God had "prodded" him in a direction that caught him by surprise—and how he used that story to "goad" a royal listener into facing spiritual realities.

1. How truthful were Paul's words to Agrippa in 26:2, 3?
2. What myth does Paul's mention of "our twelve tribes" show to be false?
3. In addition to the restoration of the glory of Israel, what did Jews look to the Messiah to bring about?
4. What contact had the Herod family had with Jesus and His followers through the years?
5. What does the word "first" modify in 26:23, and what does that make Paul's statement mean?
6. What dilemma did Paul place Agrippa in by asking him if he believed in the Prophets?

"ALMOST PERSUADED?": THE NON-CONVERSION OF AGRIPPA (26:28, 29)

Agrippa had to say *something*; everyone in the hall was waiting for his response. At last he spoke: "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."

7. Did Agrippa's statement in 26:28 reflect a sincere response?

NEXT STOP: ROME (26:30–32)

Evidently, Agrippa thought he had said too much. Abruptly, he stood up along with “the governor and Bernice, and those who were sitting with them.” When prominent individuals such as these stand up, one knows the interview is over.

8. Why was Agrippa’s verdict in Paul’s favor not the victory for which Paul was looking?

THE JOURNEY BEGINS (27:1–8)

Acts 27 is a remarkable chapter. It is a detailed account of a few weeks’ voyage that took months—a thrilling adventure filled with raging seas, a shipwreck, and a narrow escape.

9. What was Luke’s purpose for including the story of the shipwreck?
10. How are we able to date Paul’s departure for Rome?
11. How might Luke and Aristarchus have been allowed to accompany Paul?
12. What was an Augustan cohort?
13. What facts tell us that the “Alexandrian ship” (27:6) was a grain ship?

WARNED BY PAUL (27:9–12)

Since considerable time had passed . . . the voyage was now dangerous. Every day, the goal to reach Rome by late October looked less attainable.

14. When was the dangerous season for sailing, and what made it dangerous?
15. Was Paul’s statement of warning about the ship in verse 10 inspired?

ADVENTURES ON THE SEA (27:13–44)

At first, it seemed that the majority had made an excellent decision—for the wind change they had been looking for came. There is often a “calm before the storm.” A few hours from their destination, disaster struck.

16. What was an Euraquilo?
17. Why did Paul insist that all of the sailors remain on the ship (27:31)?
18. What was Paul’s three-step program to raise spirits in verses 33–35?
19. What three things did the crew do to continue their preparation for running aground?
20. Why were the soldiers so anxious to kill the prisoners?