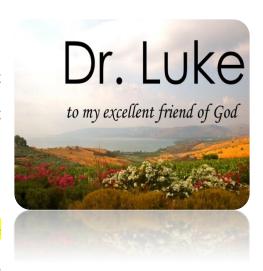
## ACTS 26 vs 1



The previous chapter ended with Felix followed by a successor; Paul was kept free to move around, yet guarded: And attempting to resolve this conundrum, Festus says: I have nothing definite to write to my lord about him. So I have brought him before you, and specially before you, King Agrippa, so that after this examination is over, I have something to write. For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner, and not to indicate what are the charges against him.

Paul's defense before King Agrippa and Festus,

<sup>1</sup> King Agrippa said to Paul, You have permission to speak for yourself. Then Paul stretched out his hand, and began his defense for himself:



- <sup>2</sup>I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that today in your presence I make my defense concerning everything I am accused of by the Jews:
- <sup>3</sup> especially since I know that you are an expert in all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.
- <sup>4</sup> All the Jews know my way of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation in Jerusalem;
- <sup>5</sup> they had previously known me for a long time, if they were willing to testify truthfully, that according to the strictest sect of our religion, I lived as a Pharisee.
- <sup>6</sup> And now I stand on trial for the hope of the promise made by God, to our fathers:
- <sup>7</sup> the promise of inheritance our twelve tribes hope to obtain, as they earnestly serve Him day and night. King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews because of this hope.
- <sup>8</sup> Why do any of you considered it incredible, that God raises the dead?
- <sup>9</sup> In fact, I myself was convinced it was necessary to do many things in opposition to the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- <sup>10</sup> I actually did this in Jerusalem: and locked up many of the saints in prison, since I had the authority to do so from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.

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<sup>11</sup> In all the synagogues, I often tried to make them blaspheme by punishing them; and being extremely enraged against them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

Paul's conversion retold.

- <sup>12</sup> As I traveled to Damascus under these circumstances with authority and a commission from the chief priests,
- <sup>13</sup> King Agrippa, while on the road at mid-day, I saw a light from heaven brighter than the brightness of the sun, shining all around me and those who journeyed with me.
- We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice speaking to me in the Hebrew language, saying, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.
- <sup>15</sup> Then I said, Who are you, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.



- <sup>16</sup>But get up, and stand on your feet: for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you a servant and an eye-witness of what you have seen, and of what I will reveal to you;
- <sup>17</sup> I will rescue you from the people, and from the Gentiles. I now send you to them,
- <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so they can turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that by faith in Me, they may receive forgiveness of sins, and share among those who are sanctified.
- <sup>19</sup> So, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision:
- instead, I preached to those in Damascus first, and to those in Jerusalem, and in all the regions of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they meta = change + noeo = mind / change their mind... and turn to God, and do works worthy of a changed mind / because Paul was learning what Jesus the Messiah knew, without a changed mind, there will be no changed heart.
- <sup>21</sup> For these causes the Jews seized me in the temple complex, and tried to kill me.

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<sup>22</sup>So having obtained help from God, I continue to this day, testifying to both small and great, saving nothing other than what the prophets and Moses said would happen:

<sup>23</sup> That Christ / the Messiah would suffer, and that He would be first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to our people, and to the Gentiles.

<sup>24</sup> And as he said this in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, you are out of your mind; too much learning is making you mad.

<sup>25</sup> But Paul said, I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus; on the contrary, I am speaking words of truth and good judgment.

<sup>26</sup> For the King knows about these matters, It is to him I am actually speaking freely. For I am convinced none of these things escape his notice; since this was not done in a corner.

<sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you believe.

<sup>28</sup> Agrippa said to Paul, Are you going to persuade me to become a Christian so easily?

<sup>29</sup> And Paul said, I desire before God, that easily or with difficulty not only you, but all who listen to me today, become as I am -- except for these chains.

<sup>30</sup> And when he had said thus, the king got up, and the governor, and Bernice, and those who sat with them:

<sup>31</sup> and when they left, they talked among themselves, saying, This man is doing nothing that deserves death or chains.

<sup>32</sup>And Agrippa said to Festus, This man could have gone free, if he had not appealed to Caesar.

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