



# CAPITOL COMMISSION<sup>®</sup>

## Ancient Racism: Death for Ministering to Gentiles!

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Pastor David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

**Acts 22:17-23** *“Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance 18) and saw Him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.’ 19) So I said, ‘Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. 20) And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’ 21) Then He said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.’” 22) And they listened to him until this word, then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!” 23) Then, they cried out and tore off their clothes and threw dust in the air. (NKJV)*

---

THE VIEW WAS THAT THEY WERE GOD'S PECULIAR AND ELECT PEOPLE, IN THE SENSE THAT HE HAD CHOSEN THAT NATION TO BESTOW HIS LOVE UPON IT, TO THE FORGETFULNESS OF OTHER NATIONS. THEY BELIEVED THAT GOD HAD NO CARE FOR THOSE GENTILE NATIONS, EXCEPT THAT OF GOVERNING THEM AND SMASHING THEM IF THEY STOOD IN THE WAY OF THE JEW. THAT WAS THEIR OUTLOOK, THAT WAS THEIR MISTAKE, THAT WAS THEIR PREJUDICE. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN

---

How much time had occurred between verse sixteen and verse seventeen? Who was talking to Paul in the trance? Does Paul willingly go to the Gentiles? Who else was trying to get Paul out of Jerusalem as soon as possible? Had Paul planned the

death of Stephen? Are these Jews more upset when they hear the word “Gentiles” from Paul’s mouth than even previously? Had Jesus suffered the same reaction from his own relatives and friends whom He grew up with in Nazareth?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 20: ACTS 22:24-30 **BARBARIC MEANS TO DISCERN THE TRUTH**
- FEBRUARY 27: ACTS 23:1-10 **ROGUE AUTHORITY OUTWITTED BY PAUL**

Over twenty years earlier, Jesus had returned to His hometown of Nazareth and had entered the synagogue and they had asked Him to read from Isaiah. So He read: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”* Then He told them, *“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”* After saying, *“No prophet is accepted in his own country,”* He revealed who He considered to be *“poor, brokenhearted, captives, blind,”* and *“oppressed”* when He said, *“I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”* Suddenly, at the mention of these Gentiles, they cut Him off, just like they did Paul in our passage! *“So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way”* (Luke 4:16-30). Jesus had just proven from their own Scriptures how Gentiles had been preferred by their God above the Jews when they had refused to repent, and it made them so furious that they tried to kill Him!

### BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR ROOM 300B

THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR ROOM 300B

# Virginia

## Ancient Racism: Death for Ministering to Gentiles!

---

**“YOU SAY CORRECTLY THAT I AM A KING. FOR THIS I HAVE BEEN BORN, AND FOR THIS I CAME INTO THE WORLD, TO TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH. EVERYONE WHO IS OF THE TRUTH HEARS MY VOICE.”** JESUS CHRIST OPENING THE DOOR FOR THE GENTILES TO BE SAVED (JOHN 18:37)

---

### I. A CAREFUL WARNING ACTS 22:17-18

After being beat, almost to death, and rescued by the Roman Soldiers, Paul took advantage of this singular opportunity to witness to his people while he was in Jerusalem. He had already identified with them as he had spoken of how he had persecuted the church, then he confronted them with the gospel as he spoke of his salvation in meeting the Risen Lord on the road to Damascus and now he reveals how Jesus had confirmed His commission given through Ananias. Saul had been saved for three years in which he was the singular student of Christ in Arabia before he returned to Damascus and then spent only fifteen days with Peter and James and the church in Jerusalem (Gal 1:1-19). Initially they were afraid of Saul, but Barnabas had introduced him and soon he was witnessing to the foreign Jews in his former synagogue and immediately they were plotting to kill him. As soon as the church found out, they wanted to help him escape (Acts 9:26-30). Saul probably wanted to make sure that this was what the Lord wanted for him, so he went to the temple to pray for direction. There he saw Christ again in a trance saying, *“Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.”* Yet, the heart of Saul was with his people!

---

**“JERUSALEM, THEREFORE, PAUL SAYS, WAS HIS INTENDED PLACE OF WITNESS AND THE TEMPLE GOD’S PLACE OF REVELATION.”**  
RICHARD LONGENECKER

---

### II. A CLEAR WITNESS ACTS 22:19-20

Though Saul had been told what he was to do in his commission by Jesus Christ through Ananias, as *“a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel”* (Acts 9:15), he believed that his witness would be more effective for Christ in Jerusalem. Besides, as a patriotic Jew loving the Old Testament law, he was probably not excited about his scandalous commission that placed the idolatrous *“Gentiles”* and their wicked *“kings”* before his own people, the chosen people, *“the children of Israel.”* Realizing that those of his own people in Jerusalem knew how zealous he had been against the church, he expected that his drastic change of life before those who knew him well would be the most effective witness to win them. So again he confesses his former persecution which he thought would be most persuasive.

---

**“PAUL’S CONVERSION AND COMMISSION WERE UNMISTAKABLY SOVEREIGN ACTS OF GOD. BY MAKING THOSE ACTS THE FOCUS OF HIS DEFENSE TO THE CROWD, THE APOSTLE PUT THE CROWD ON THE DEFENSIVE. SINCE HE HAD MERELY ACTED IN OBEDIENCE TO THE DIVINE CONFRONTATION AND COMMUNICATION FROM GOD, HOW COULD THEY QUESTION, LET ALONE CONDEMN HIM?”**  
JOHN MACARTHUR

---

### III. A COMMISSION WITHSTOOD ACTS 22:21-23

Yet their racism erupts even stronger than previously when he even mentions the word *“Gentiles!”* Though Paul could not have made it clearer that this was the commission God had divinely given, even in that very place, the temple, yet they exploded with anger, sealing their final rejection of Christ and His apostle and thus sealing the doom of their capital and their nation. The raging mob now shouts in unified demand for Paul’s execution, *“Away with such a fellow...he is not fit to live!”* Violent screams, clothes and dust require his death!

#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) When God speaks to you clearly through His Word, how long does it take you to obey?
- 2) Are there those that you look down on that you think even God has abandoned?
- 3) Are you sealing your own doom by continuing to reject Jesus Christ?