



# CAPITOL COMMISSION<sup>®</sup>

## Paul's Witness: The King Almost Believes!

APRIL 28-30, 2021

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**Acts 26:19-32** *“So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20) but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, practicing deeds appropriate to repentance. 21) for this reason some Jews seized men in the temple and were trying to put me to death. 22) Therefore, having obtained help from God to this day, I stand here bearing witness both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; 23) that the Christ was to suffer, and as first of the resurrection from the dead, He was going to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.” 24) Now while Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, “Paul you are out of your mind! Great learning is driving you out of your mind.” 25) But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth. 26) For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner. 27) King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.” 28) But Agrippa replied to Paul, “In such short time are you persuading me to be a Christian?” 29) And Paul said, “I would pray to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains.” 30) And the King stood up and the governor and Bernice, and those who were sitting*

*with them, 31) and when they had gone aside, they began talking to one another, saying, “This man is not doing anything worthy of death or imprisonment.” 32) And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.” (2021 Legacy Standard Bible)*

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*“THE GENTILES SHALL COME TO YOUR LIGHT AND KINGS TO THE BRIGHTNESS OF YOUR RISING.” ISAIAH 60:3*

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How did Paul prove that he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision? Was Paul's obedience the reason why they were trying to kill him? To whom did Paul attribute his safety? Where is the suffering and resurrection of Christ in the Prophets? Why does Festus accuse Paul of being insane? Is King Agrippa dodging Paul's questions?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE SATELLITE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 5-7: ACTS 27:1-8 *THE BEGINNING OF A DANGEROUS VOYAGE*
- MAY 12-14: ACTS 27:9-20 *PAUL'S WARNING IGNORED*

Festus had played the politician and favored the Jews for political gain rather than give a Roman citizen justice and it had backfired into an embarrassing situation. Paul was to be tried by the emperor, but Festus had no accusations for which the trial should take place. King Agrippa had come, the last with the title, “king of the Jews,” and he wanted to hear Paul, so Governor Festus was relieved that he would probably find something to write. Paul had courteously begun his address acknowledging that his king was “*an expert in all customs and questions among the Jews*” (Acts 26:3). He immediately showed Agrippa that the reason for all the animosity from the Jews was “*the hope of the promise made by God to our Fathers*” (26:6). Paul then revealed that his persecution against the Church had

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### BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST & NOON – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 14490 SMOKETOWN RD.

THURSDAY @ 8:00AM – BIBLE STUDY – RICHMOND – SHONEY'S, 9963 HULL STREET ROAD (LOCATED AT HULL & COURTHOUSE)

FRIDAY @ 7:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – VILLAGE INN, 6116 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

# Virginia

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been much worse than his enemies. But he had been arrested from heaven by the Risen Christ who identified Himself as Jesus and had commissioned him as an Apostle on His behalf. Agrippa knew his life was still under the authority of Satan by his scandalous sins!

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**"AGRIPPA WAS A JEW BY EDUCATION AND PROFESSION, AND AS WE HERE LEARN BY SINCERE CONVICTION THAT THE SCRIPTURES WERE INSPIRED OF GOD."**

**J. A. ALEXANDER**

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### **I. ANNIHILATION FOR OBEDIENCE ACTS 26:19-21**

In contrast to his king, Paul was not disobedient to God. He had immediately proclaimed the truth of the Gospel in Damascus where he had authority from the chief priests to arrest those who proclaimed the Gospel. Soon, the Jews of Damascus were trying to kill him, but he was protected by the church and escaped to Jerusalem. There Saul had also been obedient and had influenced all Judea and even planted many churches in the Gentile capitals. He preached the same message as all the prophets, to "*repent and turn to God, practicing deeds of repentance.*" While claiming to believe the prophets, the "*Jews seized me in the temple and were trying to put me to death.*"

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**"HIS ARGUMENT IS THAT THE LORD JESUS HAD FROM HEAVEN COMMANDED HIM TO DO THIS, AND THAT HE HAD DONE NO MORE THAN OBEY HIS INJUNCTION."**

**ALBERT BARNES**

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### **II. ACCUSATION FOR OBLIGATION ACTS 26:22-26**

Though rescued by the Roman tribune in the temple, Paul gives all the glory to God for his life and safety. He made it clear to his king that he did not just witness to the least of society, but also the greatest. His message stayed the same either way, "*stating nothing but what the*

*Prophets and Moses said was going to take place.*" Here Paul gets specific, "*that the Christ was to suffer, and that as first of the resurrection from the dead, He was going to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.*" These truths are obvious within Genesis 3:15, Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. Festus has no clue what Paul is talking about, but he knows that this trial is going awry from his intended purpose. Since it all sounds crazy to him, he decides to try the accusation of insanity. Paul has always challenged false accusations and told the truth, so he does again but brilliantly calls upon Agrippa to be his alibi and witness.

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**"BY REMAINING SILENT, AGRIPPA CONFIRMED THE TRUTH OF WHAT PAUL SAID." JOHN MACARTHUR**

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### **III. AFFIRMATION FOR OBSERVATION ACTS 26:27-32**

Since Agrippa knows the Scriptures, Paul presses him on the most important point, does he believe them? If he believes them, then the logical decision for the king is to receive Jesus as the Christ, thus becoming his Lord and Savior. Agrippa dodges the question and its resulting decision by claiming that he has not had enough time to ponder such a momentous decision. "*In such a short time are you persuading me to become a Christian?*" Paul responds to this evasion with a prayer for him and all those with him, "*I would pray to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains.*" The king is obviously not looking for more time because he ends the hearing by standing and departing. But he and all do decide on Paul's innocence, "*This man could have been set free ...*"

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**"LATER HE TELLS TIMOTHY TO PRAY FOR KINGS FOR GOD 'WANTS ALL MEN TO BE SAVED AND TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH' (1 TIM. 2:1-4)."**

**AJITH FERNANDO**

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#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you believing God and His Word, have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?
- 2) If you have repented, are you proving it with "*deeds worthy of repentance?*"
- 3) Do you obey 1 Timothy 2:1-4 and pray for the salvation of our leaders?