

Note: In Jerusalem, Paul defends himself to the Jewish mob by stressing his Jewish upbringing and his former antagonism toward Christianity. Like Jesus, Paul is put on trial in the Jewish council. To prevent getting murdered, Paul claims his Roman citizenship, and is placed under the protection of the Roman governor.

Chapter 22

1. The false accusation of the Jews from Ephesus regarding Paul was that he brought a Gentile into the inner court of the temple, which he did not do. In his defense from the steps of the military compound, Paul could have simply denied the accusation. Why do you think he instead told his conversion story? (Acts 22:1-21)
2. Paul's speech in Acts 22:5-16 is a retelling of his conversion story that was first described in Acts 9:1-19. Can you find any new facts in the present retelling that we did not know from chapter 9?
3. When the crowd got unruly again, the Roman commander had Paul brought back to the barracks.
 - a. What were the soldiers planning to do to Paul to find out why the Jews wanted him punished? (Acts 22:24)
 - b. What did Paul say to the centurion to prevent such interrogation? (Acts 22:25)
 - c. Why was the tribune afraid? (Acts 22:27-29)
4. How did Paul's and the cohort commander's Roman citizenship differ? (Acts 22:27-28)

Chapter 23

5. In Acts 23:1-3, Luke shows us that Paul, like Jesus, was tried in the presence of the high priest. What actions are similar and different in this trial compared to Jesus' trial? (John 18:19-24)
6. Members of the Sanhedrin included Pharisees and Sadducees.
 - a. What tactic does Paul use to create debate among Sanhedrin members to take the attention away from him? (Acts 23:6-8)
 - b. How did this tactic backfire on Paul? (Acts 23:10)
7. More than 40 fanatical Jews swore to kill Paul.
 - a. Describe their oath and plan. (Acts 23:12-16)
 - b. How was the Sanhedrin involved? (Acts 23:15)
8. How did a member of Paul's family foil the conspiracy and describe the sequence of events? (Acts 23:16-22)
9. What did the Roman commander do to ensure Paul's safety until Paul was in the custody of Felix, the provincial governor? (Acts 23:23-25)
10. It was customary for a subordinate (tribune) to send a written explanation to his superior (procurator) about the transfer of a prisoner.
 - a. What information was omitted in the letter? (Acts 22:24-28; Acts 23:27)
 - b. Why wasn't Paul tried immediately when he reached Caesarea? (Acts 23:30-35)