

NOTE: King Agrippa II was well-acquainted with Judaism and the differences between the Sadducees and Pharisees. He had been authorized by the Romans to have charge over the Temple treasury and to appoint its high priests. We follow Paul on his hazard-filled journey to Rome.

Chapter 26

1. In retelling his background and conversion story, Paul added something that had not been said before.
 - a. What did Christ say to Paul that we did not know before? (Acts 26:17-18)
 - b. Why was this fact important to mention?
2. Why would Paul's appointment or mission from Christ anger the Jews? (Acts 26:19-22; Ex 23:32-33; Deut 7:25-26)
3. After Paul concluded his defense, neither Agrippa nor Festus could find any guilt in Paul. Why did they not set him free? (Acts 26:32)

Chapter 27

4. Who was responsible for guarding Paul on his trip to Rome, and how was Paul treated? (Acts 27:1, 3)
5. In verse 9, the text locates the time of the year by saying, "the time of the fast had already gone by." This "fast" refers to the solemn Feast of Atonement (Lev 23:27) and is celebrated in late September or early October.
 - a. Why was this time of year seen as hazardous for sea travel?
 - b. *Challenge question:* What is the current feast day for the Jewish Day of Atonement?
6. Paul predicts hazards ahead. Who did the centurion listen to for advice and why do you think he did? (Acts 27:11)
7. When all others aboard the ship thought they were doomed:
 - a. Why was Paul optimistic that they would reach their destination? (Acts 27:23-26)
 - b. How long had they been drifting? (Acts 27:27)
 - c. What did some of the sailors try to do? (Acts 27:30)
8. Paul was a man of action.
 - a. What advice did Paul give the centurion and soldiers? (Acts 27:31)
 - b. What did Paul advise all on board to do? (Acts 27:33-34)
9. When the ship went aground:
 - a. Why did the soldiers want to kill the prisoners? (Acts 27:42)
 - b. What was the centurion's response? (Acts 27:43-44)

Note: God grants Paul's prayer to spare the ship and its occupants, even though Paul prophesied earlier that they would all perish. Throughout scripture, we have often seen that "prophecies" or expected outcomes in dire situations can be modified by prayer.

10. *Reflection:* Has there ever been a time or situation in your life where all seemed lost? No solution or remedy seemed possible. However, by prayer and complete trust in God, the outcome was totally different.