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GOD'S PEOPLE STAND FAITHFULLY ON HIS PROMISES

(ACTS 24:10-15).

¹⁰ When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied, “Because I know you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I am glad to offer my defense in what concerns me. ¹¹ You can verify for yourself that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem. ¹² They didn’t find me arguing with anyone or causing a disturbance among the crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or anywhere in the city. ¹³ Neither can they prove the charges they are now making against me. ¹⁴ But I admit this to you: I worship the God of my ancestors according to the Way, which they call a sect, believing everything that is in accordance with the law and written in the prophets. ¹⁵ I have a hope in God, which these men themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection, both of the righteous and the unrighteous.

GOD'S PEOPLE WAIT PATIENTLY ON HIS TIMING

(ACTS 25:22-27).

²² Agrippa said to Festus, “I would like to hear the man myself.” “Tomorrow you will hear him,” he replied. ²³ So the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the auditorium with the military commanders and prominent men of the city. When Festus gave the command, Paul was brought in. ²⁴ Then Festus said, “King Agrippa and all men present with us, you see this man. The whole Jewish community has appealed to me concerning him, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he should not live any longer. ²⁵ I found that he had not done anything deserving of death, but when he himself appealed to the Emperor, I decided to send him. ²⁶ I have nothing definite to write to my lord about him. Therefore, I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after this examination is over, I may have something to write. ²⁷ For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner without indicating the charges against him.”

GOD'S PEOPLE REST ASSUREDLY IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY

(ACTS 26:24-32).

²⁴ As he was saying these things in his defense, Festus exclaimed in a loud voice, “You’re out of your mind, Paul! Too much study is driving you mad.” ²⁵ But Paul replied, “I’m not out of my mind, most excellent Festus. On the contrary, I’m speaking words of truth and good judgment. ²⁶ For the king knows about these matters, and I can speak boldly to him. For I am convinced that none of these things has escaped his notice, since this was not done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you believe.” ²⁸ Agrippa said to Paul, “Are you going to persuade me to become a Christian so easily?” ²⁹ “I wish before God,” replied Paul, “that whether easily or with difficulty, not only you but all who listen to me today might become as I am — except for these chains.” ³⁰ The king, the governor, Bernice, and those sitting with them got up, ³¹ and when they had left they talked with each other and said, “This man is not doing anything to deserve death or imprisonment.” ³² Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

