

Acts 23 and 24

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.” // Acts 23:11

God Is in Control Even When We’re Going through Trials

- *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. // John 16:33*
- *And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. // Mark 13:11*
- John Stott said “Paul’s chances of surviving the attacks of the angry Jews and mighty Romans resemble that of a butterfly before a steamroller.” // Message of Acts
- “The names of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit aren’t mentioned in these verses—it’s a notable absence that reminds me of the book of Esther.” // Merida, Exalting Jesus in Acts
- “In this passage the same Lord who promised that Paul would get to Rome works through people and circumstances to accomplish his agenda.” // Merida, Exalting Jesus in Acts
- This is the only mention of Paul’s family found anywhere in the New Testament.
- This unnamed nephew becomes an incredibly important advocate, one clearly raised up for “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14) // Merida, Exalting Jesus in Acts
- The Lord already promised Paul that he would get to Rome, but God would preserve Paul through the actions of individuals.
- “Paul’s life is spared as a result of people doing what’s in front of them.” // Merida, Exalting Jesus in Acts
- Caesarea was a city named for Augustus Caesar and served as the headquarters for Roman military forces in the region.
 - *The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will. // Proverbs 21:1*
- Felix
 - “a freed slave, was a violent, licentious, and ineffective governor of the Roman province of Judea (AD 52–59).” // Merida, Exalting Jesus in Acts
 - “He rose to this official position because of his brother Pallas, who was for a number of years the head of imperial civil service.” Fernando, Acts
 - “He married three women of royal birth, and Drusilla—daughter of Herod Agrippa I—was his third wife. She was a woman of legendary beauty, who apparently divorced her husband in order to marry Felix.” // Thomas, Acts
 - “Eventually he would get recalled to Rome because he mishandled riots in Caesarea.” // Merida, Exalting Jesus in Acts
- “Though they assumed they were moving a prisoner, God was transporting his preacher safely.” // Merida, Exalting Jesus in Acts

- “Sometimes God delivers his children children by the simple word of a young relative. Sometimes he has to call in the cavalry. At all times, he is ultimately in charge.” // Gangel, Acts

We Can Be Faithful Witnesses Even in Stressful Situations

- “Tertullus expresses gratitude for the “great peace” brought about by Felix, but the fact was, Felix’s reign had been marked by constant unrest and fights between imperial forces and the oppressed Jews and Samaritans.” // Merida, Exalting Jesus in Acts
- “This is the only place where the term “Nazarenes” is used to describe Christians.” // Marshall, Acts of the Apostles
 - *“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” // John 1:46*
- Paul sat in prison for two years
 - Yakhai and Qayah
 - *I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. // Psalm 130:5-7*