

Paul on Trial - Part 03 – Acts 22

Paul's Public Defense

1. The Accusations Against Paul

- a. Some ministry is only for Paul, like the collection (Rom 15:26) & trial (Acts 21-28)
- b. 21:28 – It is said Paul taught against the people, the law, and polluted the temple
- c. 21:37 – *“May I speak with thee?”* – these are the times of Gentile rule over Israel
- d. Paul presents himself as a citizen of Tarsus so as to get a hearing with Lysias
- e. 22:2 – Paul spoke Greek and Hebrew in the same place – *“to the Jews, ... a Jew”*
 - i. Translation note: He spoke Hebrew words, but it was written in Greek.

2. Paul's Defense as a Jew (22:3-5)

- a. Jesus was silent to fulfill prophecy – Isa 53:7-8, Matt 27:12-14
- b. This time Jesus has witnesses, and Paul was to give a defense – Acts 9:15-16
- c. Remember, the three charges; see Paul answer each of them in his defense.
- d. Paul presents himself as a Jew, zealous of the traditions – 2 Tim 1:3, Gal 1:14
- e. Taught by Gamaliel, doctor of law, a Pharisee, council in Jerusalem – Acts 5:34
- f. *“as ye all are this day”* – He gives them every every benefit of the doubt.
- g. Saul was a part of the persecution in Jerusalem – Acts 4:1-3; 5:17-18 & Acts 9:1-2
- h. He was a zealous religious Jew, of the law blameless, and under temple authority

3. Paul's Experience (22:6-11)

- a. He was not in apostasy, or persuaded: it was miraculous – Gal 1:1
- b. His experience had hard details, audible words, and witnesses, unlike most.
- c. The men saw, and heard the voice (sound), but not the words – Acts 9:8 vs. 22:9
- d. The main point: Paul witnessed Jesus of Nazareth was resurrected.
- e. In ignorance Paul was blind – just as the nation Israel was blind.

4. Paul Chosen of God (22:12-16)

- a. *“a devout man according to the law”* – The only man associated with his conversion
- b. A blind Jew, healed by a disciple of Jesus – albeit reluctantly – Acts 9:10-17
- c. *“chosen vessel”* – Paul had a special calling – 2Ti 1:11, Eph 3:7, Rom 15:15-16
 - i. *“preach the mystery”* or *“a new creature”* would not be a good defense.
- d. *“God of our fathers”* – *“Just One”* – Holy One is language of Israel – Ps 16:10, 89:18
- e. *“hear the voice of his mouth”* – Paul was a prophet to the nations (see also Jer 1:5-9)
- f. The baptism was Jewish tradition; priests/prophets were made clean – Isa 6:5-9

5. Paul Praying in the Temple (22:17-21)

- a. He came to Jerusalem – probably in Acts 9:26-30 – 3 years after – Gal 1:15-18
- b. His temple trance is similar to what God said to Ezekiel 3:6-10
- c. Paul pleads to God for Jerusalem – he is not against the city or their promises.
- d. *“Gentiles”* – It was not ‘Jesus’ that caused the uproar but this word – Rom 11:11, 32