

Study of Acts 24
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This chapter opens up by stating that after *Five* days the High Priest, Ananias came to Ceasarea with the Elders and an orator named Tertullus. We have learned in the past that the number Five in Scripture speaks of Elohim's Torah and His grace for they are synonymous terms, and we know also that the name Ananias is the Hebrew name Chananyah, which means *the grace or favour of Yah*, so as we read through this chapter keep that fact in mind and see **IF YOU** can recognize where YHVH extended His grace to Paul and granted him favour..

Tertullus opens his talk to Felix by first buttering up Felix with words that express how thankful the Jews are for how great, kind and generous Felix has been and continues to be to the Jewish people and how blessed the Jews are to have such a benevolent leader in charge of their welfare. Then in *verse 5* he accuses Paul of being a pestilent fellow, a mover of sedition among all the Jews., a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes, an enemy of the public peace, and of the Jewish religion, which is what Felix the Governor of Israel is charged by Rome to uphold. Tertullus also accused Paul of profaning the Temple, which, like the other accusations was also false.

*Verse 5 For we have found this man a **pestilent** fellow (a plague, a blight, a disease), and a mover of **sedition** (uprising, controversy, insurrection, uproar) among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes: 6 Who also hath gone about to profane the temple: whom we took, and would have judged according to **OUR LAW**.*

Pestilent, Strong's Number 3061 λοιμός [LOIMO/S] {loimós} \loy'-mos\ of uncertain affinity; a plague (literally, *the disease*, or figuratively, *a pest*):--pestilence(-t).

Sedition, Strong's Number 4714 στάσις [STA/SIS] {stásis} \stas'-is\, from the base of 2476; a standing (properly, the act), i.e. (by analogy) position (existence); by implication, a popular *uprising*; figuratively, *controversy*:--*dissension, insurrection*, X standing, uproar.

These accusations of being a pestilent fellow, a mover of sedition, an enemy of public peace, to **ALL** the Jews of the world, could be said of anyone that does not agree with other people's religious views. The accusation that Tertullus has laid at Paul's feet is that he is ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes, but except for the general accusations of Paul being a pestilent fellow, a ringleader of sedition, who profaned the Temple, Tertullus doesn't stipulate any specific laws that Paul has broken. In essence Tertullus is accusing Paul of being the ring leader of a group that does **NOT** agree with the oral law of the Jewish man made religion, the religion of Judaism, and because of that, Tertullus says that Paul should be punished or jailed or maybe even put to death.

At best these are very weak accusations that barely warrant to be listened to, much less deserving of punishment. Tertullus describes an event where the Jewish leaders took Paul and were about to judge him and Claudius the Roman Captain and his soldiers violently took Paul out of their hands. As I read the account of what actually happened, I see that it was the religious leaders that were violent and beat Paul and if Claudius Lycias had not taken Paul out of their violent hands, then these Jewish leaders and their followers would have killed Paul.

In *verse 9*, it says that the Jews that were present at that meeting with Felix also assented, saying that these things that Paul was accused of were indeed true, knowing full well that they were false accusations. *Leviticus 5:1-6* And **IF** a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he has seen or known of it; **IF** he do not utter it, then **he shall bear his iniquity**. Or **IF** a soul touch any unclean thing, whether it be a carcass of an unclean beast, or a carcass of unclean cattle, or the carcass of unclean creeping things, and **IF** it be hidden from him; he also shall **be unclean, and guilty**. Or **IF** he touch the uncleanness of man, whatsoever uncleanness it be that a man shall be defiled withal, and it be hid from him; when he knows of it, **then he shall be guilty**. Or **IF** a soul swear, pronouncing with his lips **to do evil**, or to do good, whatsoever it be that a man shall pronounce with an oath, and it be hid from him; when he knows of it, **then he shall be guilty** in one of these. And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that **he shall confess** that he has sinned in that thing: And **he shall bring his trespass offering** unto YHVH for his sin which he has sinned, a female from the flock, a lamb or a kid of the goats, for a sin offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his sin.

These verses in Leviticus tell us that **IF** and **WHEN** anyone hears or is aware of a sin that has been committed and that person does **NOT** report it or do something to somehow remedy that sin, **THEN** that person becomes a partaker of that sin. Therefore, each and everyone of them that were there, and affirmed this lie, **ARE** guilty of the sin of false testimony and lying, for they supposedly knew the Torah, the Law and chose to break it of their own free will, for their selfish purposes, and the penalty for the crime of testifying falsely is whatever punishment that was supposed to be meted out to the accused person, whether death or prison, **IS** the penalty that would be assessed on the false witness, according to Scripture.

One more thing that must be brought up is that Tertullus said at the end of *verse 6* *whom we took, and would have judged according to OUR LAW; NOW IT IS* very important that we understand that the law that Tertullus was speaking of, the Law that they would judge Paul by, **WAS** the Jewish religious Law, their oral torah, and **NOT** the Law of Moses.

Now it's Paul's turn to speak and he also compliments Felix but his compliments are vastly different, he compliments him on the facts and not on fantasy, Paul says you have been a judge for many years onto this Jewish Nation and because of that, I, Paul, believe you will understand what I am about to say.

Paul says that just twelve days earlier, I was in Jerusalem to worship in the Temple at the Feast of Pentecost. When I was there the Jews did not find me in the Temple disputing with any man, neither inciting or raising up the people. I did none of those things in the Temple, the synagogues or the city and they cannot prove any of these accusations that they have brought against me, because they are **NOT TRUE**.

Now Paul says something very important to Felix, he says *after THE WAY* which they, the **RELIGIOUS LEADERS** of the Jewish man made religion and their oral torah, **CALL HERESY**, so **DO I WORSHIP** the Elohim of my Fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

What is **THE WAY** that Paul is referring to? It is **THE WAY** that Yeshua taught him, it is the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions that Yeshua has taught him, and what is that way?

Genesis 18:19 For I YHVH know Abraham, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall **KEEP THE WAY** of YHVH, to do justice and judgment; that YHVH may bring upon Abraham that which He has spoken of him.

Judges 2:20-22 And the anger of YHVH was hot against Israel; and He said, Because that this people has transgressed My Covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice; 21 I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died: That through them I may prove Israel, whether they **WILL KEEP THE WAY OF YHVH TO WALK THEREIN**, as their fathers **DID** keep it, or not.

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is **THE WAY**, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it.

Matthew 22:16 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that You are true, and that You teach **THE WAY OF ELOHIM IN TRUTH Torah, Psalm 119:142**), neither care You for any man: for You regard **NOT** the person or position of men.

John 7:16 Yeshua, the Living Torah, the Word of Elohim made flesh, said unto him, **I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE**: no man comes unto the Father, **BUT BY ME**.

Furthermore Yeshua said in *John 7:16* My doctrine **IS NOT MY OWN, BUT** it is the Doctrine of the One that sent Me. Therefore **THE WAY** that Paul is speaking of, the **WAY of Messiah IS THE WAY** of the Father and **THE WAY** of the Father of course **IS HIS TORAH**, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions.

Deuteronomy 5:29 O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep **ALL** My **COMMANDMENTS** always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

Deuteronomy 6:24-25 And YHVH Commanded us to do **ALL** these **STATUTES**, to fear YHVH our elohim, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. 25 And it **SHALL BE OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, IF** we observe **TO DO ALL** these Commandments before YHVH our Elohim, as He Has Commanded us.

Deuteronomy 10:12 And now, Israel, what does YHVH your Elohim **require** of you, **BUT** to fear YHVH your Elohim, to walk in **ALL HIS WAYS**, and to love Him, and to serve YHVH your Elohim with **ALL** your heart and with **ALL** your soul.

These verses and many others confirm that **THE WAY** of YHVH **IS** hearing, listening, understanding, believing, obeying, following and doing His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah, His directives for everlasting Life

Paul confirms what I have just said when he continues on in *verse 14* and says believing **ALL THINGS** that **ARE WRITTEN IN THE TORAH OF MOSES** and in the Prophets. What we have to realize **IS** that in the Hebrew mindset, **BELIEVING, IS NOT JUST SAYING YOU BELIEVE, BELIEVING IN THE HEBREW MIND SET IS, ACTUALLY DOING WHAT YOU SAY YOU BELIEVE**.

Now, **IF** we add this Hebraic understanding of actually **DOING WHAT YOU BELIEVE** to this verse, **THEN** what Paul said **IS THAT HE ACTUALLY BELIEVES AND DOES ALL THE THINGS THAT ARE WRITTEN IN THE TORAH OF MOSES AND IN THE PROPHETS**. Combine that with what James said about Paul in *Acts 21:24* **Them take, and purify yourself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and ALL MAY KNOW** that

*those things, whereof they were informed concerning you, are nothing; but that **YOU PAUL WALK ORDERLY, AND THAT YOU KEEP THE TORAH OF YHVH, THE LAW OF MOSES.***

There is absolutely no way that we can misunderstand Paul's words. **PAUL WAS A BELIEVER AND A DOER OF THE TORAH of Moses** and he affirmed that he Did indeed **KEEP** shamar **ALL** of the Law, **ALL** of the Torah of Moses, given to Moses by YHVH Himself at Mount Sinai.

Paul goes on to say that because he **IS A BELIEVER AND A DOER OF THE TORAH**, he therefore has hope that there **IS** a resurrection and these religious leaders that stand here accusing me also believe in the resurrection.

*Verse 16, is very important, because Paul says, I exercise myself. What does Paul mean when he says I exercise myself? It means that Paul had a daily routine in doing something he loved and knew was necessary for his physical and spiritual well being, and to help him improve and get better at it. Paul says I exercise myself to have always a conscience **VOID OF OFFENCE** toward **Elohim**, and toward **men**.*

According to Scripture the only way to please Elohim and **NOT** offend Him, **IS** by keeping His Torah, *1 John 3:4 Sin is transgressing the Torah and sin offends Elohim. Romans 8:7-8 Because the carnal (sinful) mind is enmity against Elohim; **FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE TORAH, LAW OF ELOHIM, NEITHER INDEED CAN BE.** 8 So **THEN** they that are in the flesh, they that willingly Sin, they that are Torahless **CANNOT** please Elohim.*

The Torah also tells us how to deal honourably and lovingly toward our fellow man. Therefore what Paul is saying here is exactly what he said in *verse 14 I keep the Torah and I live my life by being obedient to the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of my Heavenly Father.*

Now in *verse 17*, Paul makes a statement that should convince **ALL** people that the sacrificial system implemented by YHVH, in order for Israel to atone for their sins and be able to draw near to YHVH, had **NOT BEEN ABOLISHED** after Messiah's death and resurrection, **NOR** will it ever be abolished, until heaven and earth pass away, because our heavenly Father has said of the sacrificial system, **THIS SHALL BE AN ORDINANCE FOREVER.**

Paul says in *verse 17, Now after Many Years I came to bring alms to my Nation and offerings.* The word *offering* **IS** derived from the Hebrew word minchah or sacrifice. In the Greek text it is the word *Prosphora* which means *oblation or sacrifice*; Strong's G4376

We can quite clearly see through the text that Paul is willingly offering these sacrifices on the altar. This time period is about 25 to 30 years after Messiah's death and as I said, we can quite clearly see that Paul **IS STILL** offering **SACRIFICES** at the Temple. My friends, we simply have to understand that YHVH **IS UNCHANGING** and when He tells us, as our Creator, Redeemer and Saviour, that any and all of His ordinances, shall be ordinances **FOREVER**, we, with our finite mind and limited understanding shouldn't be surprised when we find out that the sacrificial system, which was implemented as an ordinance **FOREVER** by our omniscient infinite Elohim, **IS** still in **FULL EFFECT** today, because our inerrant YHVH Himself, who **ONLY SPEAKS TRUTH, SAID, THIS SHALL BE AN ORDINANCE FOREVER FOR YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR GENERATIONS.**

We have to understand that the Scriptures teach us that as soon as the Temple **IS** rebuilt, which **WILL** happen in the end times that you and I are living in, when the temple **IS** rebuilt, as it is prophesied to be, **THEN** the sacrifices that were prescribed to be offered by the infinite wisdom of Elohim, will begin again in earnest in these final days of the millennium that you and I are living in, and that **IS** because we will then, finally have **AN ALTAR** in the Temple to sacrifice on, and because Elohim Himself said that **IT** was an everlasting ordinance.

Now Paul has made his defence to Felix and he says certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the Temple. Paul is referring to what happened in *Acts 21* where he took a vow with those that had taken a Nazarite vow and he paid their expenses

Since Tertullus had accused Paul of being a *mover of sedition* to **ALL** the Jews of the world Paul says that these Jews that actually saw me being purified in the Temple, should be here accusing me, like these people are, **BUT** as you can see, **THEY are NOT here**, they were **NOT** invited here **BECAUSE THEY KNOW** that I am innocent of these false charges. Even my accusers that are here today, let them say **IF** they have found evil in me according to Torah, while I stood at the council in Jerusalem (*when Paul was struck by the High Priest Ananias' helper*). They cannot provide any proof, for **THERE IS NO EVIL INTENT WITHIN ME**. They bring me into question because of my belief in a resurrection.

When Felix heard both sides he said, *when Lycias shall come and testify I will know the uttermost of your matter*. In other words he wanted the testimony of the Chief Captain to confirm Paul's or the Jewish Leader's story.

It is pretty evident however that he believed Paul for he says to the Centurion *keep Paul under custody BUT let him have liberty and forbid NO ONE of his acquaintances from ministering unto him*. That sounds to me like Felix believed that Paul was innocent.

A Few days later, Felix, together with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess sent for Paul, because Felix wanted to hear more about the faith that Paul had in Messiah. As Paul reasoned with Felix of righteousness, temperance and judgement (*All these things are found in the Torah*) Felix trembled and told Paul to go back to his place of incarceration and that he would hear him later.

The Gospel my friends **IS** the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of YHVH, His Torah of Life. We know that for a fact because the Scriptures tell us in *Ephesians 1:13* that the Gospel **IS TRUTH**, *verse 13 In whom you also trusted, after that you heard THE WORD OF TRUTH, THE GOSPEL of your salvation*, and the word **TRUTH** in Scripture **IS** defined as the Torah of Moses, *Psalm 119:142*, the **COMMANDMENTS** of YHVH, *Psalm 119:152*, and the **WORD** of YHVH in *Psalm 119:161*, and *John 17:17*. Therefore since the Gospel **IS** the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of YHVH, His Word made flesh, **THEN** it certainly can and does have the effect on people that it had on Felix, **BUT** unless that person does something with what he has just learned and or felt in his heart, in his being, **THEN** that knowledge will wither and die along with ones eternal salvation.

Felix had the opportunity to do what Elohim had put on his heart and that **IS** why he actually experienced fear, for he was denying the Creator and His message. We don't know what happened to Felix, we don't know **IF** he ever had a change of heart and decided to surrender his will to our

heavenly Father, **BUT** what we do know **IS** that at this opportunity, where YHVH spoke to his spirit, Felix decided not to accept what Elohim had obviously put on his heart.

Felix, like most of the world had his heart fixed on things of this world, things such as wealth and power, and like the rich young ruler, **HE COULD NOT LET GO OF IT.**

Let us learn from Felix's mistakes and turn every thing over to Elohim, for **IT IS ALL** His anyways and the Scripture tells us that **IT IS** Elohim that gives us power to get wealth, *Deuteronomy 8:18*. YHVH **IS** our provider and He knows exactly what **IT IS** that we need and what **IS** good for each and every individual. Let us therefore resolve in our hearts to **TRUST YHVH** with all our possessions that He has so graciously given us and let us learn to worship Him and **NOT OUR THINGS**. Amein.

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein