

Study of Acts 25
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Acts 25:1-27

Here in *Acts 25* we are told that a new Governor by the name of Festus has been appointed. It is now two years later and Paul has been incarcerated all this time.

Now it says that when Festus the new Governor came into the province, he first came to Caesarea and that ***Three Days*** later he ascended from Caesarea to Jerusalem.

Next we see that the High Priest and the Chief of the Jews informs Festus who is now in Jerusalem about their complaint against Paul and that they wanted to have Festus bring Paul to be tried at Jerusalem. The High Priest made that request knowing full well that the people that had vowed to kill Paul would have an opportunity to do so in Jerusalem where they probably would not have the same opportunity to do so in Caesarea.

The number three which is used in *verse 1* indicates to us to look for an incident or an event where someone will be brought from death or potential death to life, and here in these verses we see that Festus makes a decision to have Paul stay in Caesarea and be tried there instead of being tried at Jerusalem, and in doing so, I believe that he saved Paul from being attacked and possibly killed by the Jews lying in wait in Jerusalem.

Festus tells the High Priest and the leaders of the Jews that they are to come to Caesarea to make their formal accusations against Paul, and that he Festus will make the determination for himself ***IF*** there is any wickedness in Paul.

Verse 6 is very interesting to me. It says that Festus tarried in Jerusalem more than 10 days, before going back to Caesarea. As you know I believe and teach that YHVH ***IS*** sovereign and that throughout history, including today, ***ALL*** leaders of men in this world, ***HAVE BEEN PUT*** in their respective leadership positions by the sovereign Hand of YHVH. Therefore the ***TEN*** days that Festus tarried in Jerusalem tells me that YHVH wanted Paul to be judged by the Father's Commandments, by His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, rather than the man made doctrine of the Jewish religion, dispensed by these Jewish religious leaders that are determined to subvert the Word of YHVH for their own purposes and have Paul, who ***IS*** actually teaching the True Word of our Heavenly Father, His Torah of Life, ***PUT TO DEATH***. Therefore I believe that YHVH influenced the mind of Festus to have Paul tried in Caesarea rather than in Jerusalem? Festus certainly didn't know what had transpired two years ago when the Jews had vowed to kill Paul and yet he decides to have Paul tried at Caesarea rather than at Jerusalem, thus I believe, saving Paul's life. That my friends ***IS*** the hand of YHVH at work.

As I said above it is very evident to me that the fact that Festus tarried ***TEN*** days in Jerusalem before returning to Caesarea where Paul was to be put on trial, ***IS***, I believe, YHVH's way of telling us that He ***IS SOVEREIGN and IN CHARGE OF ALL THINGS*** and that Paul will be judged by YHVH's Righteousness and ***NOT*** by the doctrine of the corrupt religious Jewish leaders of the day. We must ***ALWAYS*** remember and ***BE AWARE*** of the fact that YHVH ***IS*** sovereign and that He ***IS*** in control of how things will turn out in the end, for as I said, He ***IS*** sovereign and ***HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD AND NOT MAN***. I believe that YHVH is telling us and the whole world that His plan of

REDEMPTION ONTO SALVATION WILL NOT be thwarted by man, for YHVH **IS IN CONTROL OF THE DESTINY OF MANKIND, AND NOT MAN HIMSELF.**

Next we find out that when the Jews arrived at Caesarea from Jerusalem that *they laid many and very grievous complaints against Paul* and the next five words are very telling, **WHICH THEY COULD NOT PROVE**, in other words they were **FALSELY** accusing Paul, they were using false witnesses that lied. What **IS IT** that they accused Paul of? They accused Paul of breaking the Law, the Torah, they accused Paul of going against the teachings and instructions of Moses and of the Prophets, they also accused Paul of desecrating the Temple and speaking out against Caesar, **ALL** false charges!

Now when someone **IS** accused by **FALSE** witnesses, it means that the testimony of these witnesses **IS** of course **FALSE**, and since their false accusations were accusing Paul of **BREAKING THE LAW and teaching AGAINST THE LAW OF MOSES AND THE PROPHETS**, it therefore stands to reason that Paul was **NOT TEACHING AGAINST THE TORAH, THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS, BUT THAT INSTEAD**, Paul **WAS** indeed obeying and teaching the Father's Torah, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, and furthermore Paul **DID NOT**, in any way, desecrate the Temple, the House of Elohim and he did not speak out against Caesar, for Messiah had taught him and all who would listen to obey the authorities.

Today we have people that teach that Paul in his teaching has somehow done away with some **IF NOT ALL** of the Law of Moses. Some teachers even separate the Law into two categories, the moral Law, and the ceremonial Law, and they then say that the Moral Law **IS** still in effect today, but that the Levitical or ceremonial Law **IS TOTALLY DONE AWAY WITH.**

Here in *Acts 25* Paul deals with both of these so called arguments. Paul says, **I DID NOT ACT NOR TEACH** in any way against the Law of the Jews, that **IS** the Torah of Moses **NOR** against the Temple which would represent the ceremonial Laws that Christianity **IS SO FOND** of saying have been done away with, **NOR** against the Prophets, who taught the same message that Messiah taught and that is to teach the people that they should return to the Ways, the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of YHVH, return to His Torah of Life. What **WE** have to understand **IS** that by saying these words, Paul **IS** actually affirming that **NOT ONE JOT OR TITTLE HAS EVER OR WILL** ever pass away from the Torah, the Law and that the Torah **IS STILL** in complete effect today and forever.

By saying what he did Paul again affirms as he has done so many times in the past and will continue to do in the future that he willingly and lovingly follows and obeys the Torah of Moses **ALL OF IT**, and that **IT WILL BE** in effect as long as YHVH exists, and that my Friends **IS FOREVER** or until **HEAVEN AND EARTH PASS AWAY** and since YHVH created the earth and He intends to **RESTORE IT TO ITS ORIGINAL SPLENDOUR**, I would say that, that means forever.

Now even with Festus siding with the Jews by putting Paul on trial, they do **NOT** realize that they are actually fulfilling the will of YHVH and His prophecy of Paul witnessing the Gospel in Rome. Fetus **IS** trying to have Paul agree to go to Jerusalem and be tried there, but Paul through instructions from the Holy Spirit appeals to Caesar and therefore **IT IS** off to Rome with him.

As I said before YHVH **IS** indeed sovereign and His plan of Redemption onto Salvation **WILL** come to pass regardless of how many obstacles man puts in His way. Paul says to Festus, **IF I** have offended or done or committed a crime worthy of death, **THEN I DO NOT REFUSE TO DIE, BUT SINCE NONE** of what they accuse me of **IS TRUE, THEN** I appeal to Caesar.

So we see that YHVH's plan of salvation, His plan to announce His message of redemption onto salvation in Rome, which at the time was the headquarters of **WORLD SYSTEM OF THE DAY, WILL INDEED COME TO PASS**. Festus therefore tells Paul after he has consulted with his council, you have appealed to Caesar, **THEN** to Caesar you shall go. It should **NOT** surprise any believer that Paul **IS OFF TO ROME BECAUSE** YHVH, through His Holy Spirit has prophesied and ordained it.

Next we see that King Agrippa and Bernice his wife come to Caesarea to salute Festus in his new post. At their first meeting Festus tells King Agrippa about this certain man named Paul that was left imprisoned by Felix and whom the Jews desired to have a judgement of **GUILT** of breaking their Law pronounced or imposed upon him. Festus says, when Paul was brought before me the Jews brought none of the accusations that I supposed that they would have, **BUT** instead they had certain questions about this Paul against him and their superstition, and one Yeshua which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive. I Festus then asked this fellow Paul, **IF** he was willing to go to Jerusalem to face these charges, **BUT** instead of agreeing, this fellow Paul appealed to Caesar, and since he is a Roman citizen, I commanded he be kept until I could send him to Caesar.

Agrippa then said to Festus, I want to hear this man and Festus said you will hear him tomorrow. The next day Agrippa and his wife Bernice arrive at the place where Paul was to be brought forth to speak to them. Then Festus presents Paul to Agrippa and says, the Jews did **NOT** want Paul to live anymore, but I found **NOTHING** that he had committed worthy of death.

Festus then goes on to say it seems ridiculous to send him to Caesar and not have him accused of anything, and that is why I wanted you to examine him King Agrippa that I might, with your help have something to write to Caesar regarding **WHY** this prisoner has been sent to him. Like Messiah, Paul **IS NOT GUILTY** of any transgressions against the Torah or the Temple, **BUT** yet he still stands accused of breaking the Torah and defiling the Temple.

That is what **ALL** man made religions do, they elevate the word of Man above the Word of YHVH and religion judges those that follow the whole of the Torah of Moses, the written Word of YHVH by **FALSE** reports, **FALSE** witnesses and tries to put men to death or at the very least discredit them by accusing the followers of the **TRUE** Word of YHVH, His Torah of Life, of being in a cult or in bondage and desecrating the Word of Man which **THEY**, the religious leaders have put forth **AS** the Word of Elohim. These religious leaders are doing exactly what they are accusing Paul of doing, they **ARE THE ONES** that are **BREAKING and CORRUPTING** the **TRUE** Word of YHVH, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life.

The treatment that Paul received at the hands of these religious leaders, my friends **IS THE VERY SAME TREATMENT** that **ALL BELIEVERS** and **DOERS** of the **TRUE** Word of Elohim, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life **CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE FROM ALL RELIGIOUS LEADERS** throughout the ages, therefore **WE ARE NOT TO BE SURPRISED WHEN** we are rebuked and even reviled by them, but instead we are to focus on

YHVH and His Word and pray for them, for they are the ones that are **BLIND** to YHVH's **TRUTH**, and unless they change their understanding, they **WILL** perish, and since we profess to **LOVE** Elohim, and Elohim has said that **IT IS HIS WISH** that **NOT** even **ONE** person perish, **THEN**, it should and **MUST** become of **PARAMOUNT** importance to us also that **NOT** even one person perish, therefore we are to pray that YHVH opens their eyes and their understanding to His everlasting **TRUTH**, His Torah of Life, that they **MAY** live. Amen

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. Amen