



Acts.



Defenders **OR** Ambassadors





Paul's Trials

ARREST
CH. 21

JEWISH CROWD
CH. 22

SANHEDRIN
CH. 23

FELIX
CH. 24

FESTUS
CH. 25

AGRIPPA
CH. 26





Paul has clarity of his calling.

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the **Gentiles** and **their kings** and to the **people of Israel**.¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

ACTS 9:15-16 NIV





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DEFENDER

I HAVE TO WIN THIS ARGUMENT.

AMBASSADOR

I KNOW MY ASSIGNMENT.



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Paul has the words & wisdom of Christ.

The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience room with the high-ranking military officers and the prominent men of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. ²⁴ Festus said: “King Agrippa, and all who are present with us, you see this man! The whole Jewish community has petitioned me about him in Jerusalem and here in Caesarea, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. ²⁵ I found he had done nothing deserving of death, but because he made his appeal to the Emperor I decided to send him to Rome. ²⁶ But I have nothing definite to write to His Majesty about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that as a result of this investigation I may have something to write. ²⁷ For I think it is unreasonable to send a prisoner on to Rome without specifying the charges against him.”

ACTS 25:23-27 NIV





Paul has the words & wisdom of Christ.

“But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³ And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴ But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵ For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.”

LUKE 21:12-15 NIV





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DEFENDER

I HAVE TO COME UP WITH THE PERFECT ANSWER.

AMBASSADOR

I RELY ON CHRIST'S WISDOM, NOT MY OWN.



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Paul speaks with the humility of Christ.

Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.”

So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense:

² “King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews, ³ and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently.”

ACTS 26:1-3 NIV





Paul speaks with the humility of Christ.

“The Jewish people all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. ⁵ They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, living as a Pharisee. ⁶ And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. ⁷ This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that these Jews are accusing me. ⁸ Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?”

ACTS 26:4-8 NIV





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DEFENDER

I NEED TO PROVE I'M RIGHT.

AMBASSADOR

I CAN SPEAK WITH HUMILITY & TRUTH.



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Paul points to Jesus, not himself.

“I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth.¹⁰ And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord’s people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.¹¹ Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.”

ACTS 26:9-11 NIV





Paul points to Jesus, not himself.

“On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. ¹⁴ We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

¹⁵ Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’”

ACTS 26:12-15 NIV





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DEFENDER

I NEED TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WITH WHAT I KNOW.

AMBASSADOR

I MAKE JESUS THE FOCUS, NOT ME.



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Paul remembers why he was sent.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” the Lord replied.
¹⁶ ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to **appoint you as a servant** and as a **witness** of what you have seen and will see of me. ¹⁷ **I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them**
¹⁸ **to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”**

ACTS 26:15B-18 NIV





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DEFENDER

MY JOB IS TO CONVINCЕ EVERYONE.

AMBASSADOR

MY JOB IS OBEDIENCE.



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Paul proclaims the King's message.

“So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.²¹ That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me.²² But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen—²³ that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

ACTS 26:19-23 NIV





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DEFENDER

I NEED TO MAKE THE MESSAGE MORE ACCEPTABLE.

AMBASSADOR

I TEACH THE GOSPEL IN LOVE & TRUTH.

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At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. “You are out of your mind, Paul!”
he shouted. “Your great learning is driving you insane.”

ACTS 26:24 NIV





Paul isn't shaken by opposition.

“I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable. ²⁶ The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.”

ACTS 26:25-27 NIV





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DEFENDER

REJECTION MEANS I HAVE FAILED.

AMBASSADOR

I REMAIN FAITHFUL EVEN WHEN I'M REJECTED.



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Paul trusts God with the outcome.

Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

²⁹ Paul replied, “Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.”

ACTS 26:28-29 NIV





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DEFENDER

EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON ME.

AMBASSADOR

I TRUST GOD TO CHANGE HEARTS.



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Paul's chains were God's instruments.

The king rose, and with him the governor and Bernice and those sitting with them. ³¹ After they left the room, they began saying to one another, “This man is not doing anything that deserves death or imprisonment.”

³² Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

ACTS 26:30-32 NIV





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DEFENDER

MY CIRCUMSTANCES ARE KEEPING ME FROM MINISTRY.

AMBASSADOR

GOD CAN USE EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE FOR HIS MISSION.



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How was Paul able to witness like this?

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Paul looked to the ambassador of heaven.

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate;
when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted
himself to him who judges justly.

1 PETER 2:23 NIV





**We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God
were making his appeal through us.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20 NIV