

ACTS 26; October 27; Paul Testifies Before King Agrippa

ANALYSIS:

1. What does Paul say about King Agrippa which qualified him to judge Paul's case? _____
2. What is the hope of the promise God has made to the Jewish fathers? _____
3. What are some blessings Paul's ministry would accomplish among the Gentiles? _____
4. When Festus said, "Paul, thou art beside thyself ... ", what did Paul say? _____
5. When Paul asked, "King Agrippa, believeth thou the prophets?" what was his reply? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

"This Agrippa was Herod Agrippa II, son of Herod Agrippa I, who 16 years before had killed James (12:2), grandson of Herod Antipas who had killed John the Baptist and mocked Christ, great grandson of Herod the Great who had murdered the children of Bethlehem. Scion of this murderous family, king over the Province on northeast border of Palestine, he is now asked to aid Festus.

"Bernice was his Sister, living with him as his wife. A woman of rare beauty, she had already been married to two kings, and had come back to be her own brother's wife. Later she became mistress to Emperor Vespasian and to Emperor Titus.

"Think of Paul making his defense before a pair like that.

"Even so, Agrippa was profoundly impressed (26:28). But to Festus the idea of a Resurrection from the dead was so unthinkable that he cried out that Paul must be crazy (26:31). [Halley's Bible Handbook, pages 580-1, 24th Edition, 1965]

Paul gives additional details about his conversion in his defense before Agrippa. He tells of the Lord saying, "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks" (v 14). This language pictures an ox kicking against the pointed pole or goad the driver is using to get the animal to do its work. Such kicking causes itself pain and trouble. This suggests the Lord had been pricking Paul's heart and conscience since Stephen's martyrdom. Do we readily obey the Lord, or does the Lord have to "goad" us with trouble and pain before we acknowledge His will? "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Heb 12:6). Think about it!

HELP:

1. The king was an expert in all customs and questions of the Jews (v 3).
2. That there is a resurrection of the dead (vs 6-8).
3. Paul's ministry would: open their eyes, turn them from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God, that they might receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them that are sanctified (v 18).
4. "I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness ..." (vs 25-26).
5. "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (v 28).