



Dr. Jack Scott

**Study of Acts:
Chapters 22-23**

We're glad you're here!



Paul's defense before the Jewish mob (22:1-5)

- Speaking in Hebrew, Paul recounts his Jewish heritage. He was born in Tarsus, educated in Jerusalem under Gamaliel, and zealously followed the law. (22:1-3)**
- Paul relates his vigorous persecution of Christians. This mission led him to travel to Damascus in order to arrest and imprison followers of "the Way." (22:4,5)**



Paul relates his conversion on the Damascus road (22:6-11)

- A great light fell on Paul, causing him to fall to the ground. He heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (22:6-8)**
- Jesus identifies himself and instructs Paul to go into Damascus to receive further instructions. (22:9,10)**
- Paul was blinded by the light; so he is led by hand to Damascus. (22:11)**



Ananias and Paul (22:12-16)

- **Ananias, a devout Jewish Christian, comes to Paul and restores his sight. (22:12,13)**
- **Ananias informs Paul that he is to be a witness "of what you have seen and heard." (22:14,15)**
- **Then Ananias says to Paul, "Rise and be baptized, and wash away your sins." (22:16)**



Paul returns to Jerusalem (22:17-21)

- **While Paul was praying in the temple, he receives a vision. The Lord informs him that he should leave Jerusalem, since his testimony will not be received. (22:17,18)**
- **Paul wonders about this directive, but the Lord emphasizes this message: "Depart, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles." (22:19-21)**



The violent reaction of the Jewish mob (22:22-24)

- **At Paul's statement that he was sent to the Gentiles, the Jewish mob angrily declares, "Away with such fellow from the earth! For he ought not to live." (22:22,23)**
- **This commotion causes the tribune to have soldiers rescue Paul and bring him back to the barracks. The tribune then decides to scourge Paul in order to discover the reason for this violent opposition. (22:24)**

Paul and the tribune, Claudius Lysias (22:25-30)

- Paul objects to being scourged, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?" (22:25)**
- The tribune asks Paul if he was a Roman citizen. Paul replies that he was a Roman citizen born in Tarsus. (22:26-28).**
- After learning this, the tribune was afraid and unbinds Paul. However, the tribune wants to discover more about the reason for the intense Jewish opposition against Paul. So he decides to have Paul appear before the Sanhedrin about this matter. (22:29,30)**

Paul before Ananias, the high priest (23:1-5)

- **Paul begins his speech by proclaiming that he "had lived before God with all good conscience up to this day." (23:1)**
- **The high priest orders Paul to be struck in the mouth. Paul angrily replies, "You whitewashed wall!" He adds that this order was contrary to the law. (23:2,3)**
- **However, when Paul is informed that Ananias is the high priest, Paul states that he did not know that Ananias was the high priest. (23:4,5)**

Paul's speech to the Sanhedrin (23:6-10)

- Paul proclaims that he is a Pharisee, and that he was on trial because of his hope of the resurrection of the dead. (23:6)**
- This divides the council, since the Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead and the Sadducees did not. Some of the Pharisees stated that they find nothing wrong with Paul, and even said, "What if an angel or spirit spoke to him?" (23:7-10)**
- Once again, the tribune rescues Paul in the midst of a heated conflict, and brings him back to the barracks. (23:10)**

A plot against Paul (23:12-22)

- **More than forty men take an oath to kill Paul. They discuss their plan with the council. They suggest that the council ask for Paul be brought back for further investigation. These men would then murder Paul on his way to the council. (23:12-15)**
- **Paul's nephew learns of this plot and comes to Paul to inform him. Paul instructs his nephew to go to the tribune and reveal this information. After the tribune hears this, he tells the nephew not to tell anyone that he has informed the tribune. (23:16-22)**

The plot is thwarted (23:23-30)

- **Claudius Lysias, the tribune, decides to send Paul to Felix, the Roman governor, in Caesarea. In this journey taken at night, Paul is protected by 470 soldiers, horsemen, and spearmen. (23:23,24)**
- **In his letter to Felix, the tribune explains that the case against Paul was a matter of Jewish law. And he adds that he had found nothing in the case against Paul that was "deserving of death or imprisonment." (23:25-30)**

Paul in Caesarea (23:31-35)

- **Paul arrives safely. Felix receives the letter from the tribune. In the letter the tribune had recommended that Paul's accusers should be given the opportunity to state their case against Paul before Felix. (23:31-33)**
- **Felix tells Paul that the accusers will present their case, but also that Paul would be given the opportunity to defend himself. (23:34,35)**
- **In the meantime, Paul was guarded in Herod's praetorium. (23:35)**

