



**Dr. Jack Scott**

**Study of Acts:  
Chapters 24-25**

**We're glad you're here!**

## **Procurator**

- **The political and military ruler of a Roman province appointed by the emperor. It is similar to the governor of a state in the United States, except a procurator is appointed, not elected and answered to a foreign power. In Acts 24 and 25 we have two procurators: Felix (52-58) and Festus (58-62). They ruled over the province of Judea. Their office was in Caesarea, but they often visited Jerusalem since this was the central city of the Jews.**



## **Paul is formally accused before Felix (24:1-9)**

- **A Jewish delegation from Jerusalem arrives in Caesarea to accuse Paul. Their spokesman, Tertullus, accuses Paul of being "an agitator among all the Jews throughout the world and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes." Furthermore, he charges Paul with profaning the temple. (24:2-8)**

## **Paul makes his defense (24:10-21)**

- **Paul denies this charge. He points out that he came to worship, not to stir up a crowd. (24:10-12)**
- **Furthermore, Paul declares that he came to bring alms and offerings to the nation. (24:17)**
- **He declares that the Jews have not proven their charge. He adds that the Jews of Asia who made the original charge are not present to substantiate their claims. (24:18-20)**
- **Paul concludes that "with respect to the resurrection of the dead I am on trial before you this day." (24:20,21)**

## **The response of Felix (24:22-27)**

- **Felix puts off a decision by declaring that he needs to hear from Claudius Lysias, the tribune. (24:22)**
- **Paul is granted a lenient custody; he is permitted to see his friends, and the friends can meet his needs. (24:23)**
- **Felix and his wife, Drusilla, often meet with Paul. Paul, in turn, presents material "about justice and self-control and future judgment." (24:24-25)**
- **Felix reveals his corrupt nature. He hopes to receive money from Paul. And he leaves Paul in prison for two years in order "to do the Jews a favor." (24:26,27)**

## **Festus arrives as a successor to Felix (25:1-5)**

- **In the initial visit of Festus to Jerusalem, the chief priests and principal men inform Festus of their case against Paul. (25:1,2)**
- **This group requests that Paul be brought to Jerusalem for trial. Actually, they were planning to ambush and kill Paul on his trip to Jerusalem. (25:3)**
- **However, Festus states that these men of authority should come to Caesarea to present their charges against Paul. (25:4,5)**

## **Paul's appearance before Festus and the Jews (25:6-12)**

- The trial before Festus and the Jewish delegation is similar to the trial before Felix. Paul makes it clear that he had done nothing "against the law the Jews nor against the temple nor against Caesar." (25:1-8)**
- Festus, in an effort to please the Jews, suggests that Paul go to the Jews in Jerusalem for a trial. (25:9)**
- Paul quickly objects. He states that if he were a wrongdoer, he would be willing to die. But since he had done no wrong, he appeals to Caesar. (25:10,11)**
- Festus tersely replies, "You have appealed to Caesar, to Caesar you shall go." (25:12)**

## **Festus discusses the case with Agrippa (25:13-22)**

- Agrippa and Bernice, his sister, pay a royal visit to Festus. Agrippa of the Herod family was king of Galilee and portions of Syria. (25:13)**
- Festus details the accusation of the Jewish leaders against Paul. He states the dispute seemed to be "about their superstition and about one Jesus, who was dead, but Paul asserted to be alive." (25:14-19)**
- Festus adds that he had suggested that Paul be tried in Jerusalem, but Paul had appealed to Caesar. (25:20,21)**
- Agrippa responds, "I would like to hear the man myself." (25:22)**



## **Paul before Agrippa (25:23-27)**

- **Paul is brought in after the arrival of Agrippa and Bernice. Agrippa is accompanied by a host of important people. (25:23)**
- **Festus introduces the gathering by describing the intense opposition of the Jews toward Paul and the subsequent trial. (25:24)**
- **However, Festus admits that he found nothing against Paul worthy of death. Since Paul had appealed to Caesar, Festus had nothing to write about Paul to write to the emperor. Thus he is seeking assistance from Agrippa to solve this problem. (25:25-27)**

