



EPISODE 9: November 1 / 2
 The Witness in Caesarea
 Acts 24:1–26:32

PAUL ON TRIAL

THE TRIAL, PART I (ANTIPATRIS)

- I. **Felix Reviews the Charges against Paul (24:1–23)**
 - a. **THE PRINCIPALS** of the Trial
 - i. Ananias (PLAINTIFF)
 - ii. Tertullus (PROSECUTOR).
 - iii. The Governor Felix, Part 2, Festus (JUDGE)
 - iv. Paul (DEFENDANT)
 - b. **THE PROSECUTION** (24:1–9): The Jewish high priest comes to Caesarea from Jerusalem accompanied by a Jewish lawyer named Tertullus, who levels three charges against Paul:
 - i. *Paul is a political rebel* (24:1–5a).
 - ii. *He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect* (24:5b).
 - iii. *He is a Temple defiler* (24:6–9).
 - c. **THE DEFENSE** (24:10–21): Paul responds:
 - i. *He denies charges one and three* (24:10–13, 15–20).
 - ii. *He affirms charge number two* (24:14, 21).
 - d. **PRIVATE AUDIENCE:** Both the governor and his wife, Drusilla, hear Paul in a private meeting. (24:24–25): Felix denies Christ.
 - i. **Paul’s theme** (24:24–25a): He speaks on righteousness and future judgment.
 - ii. **Felix’s terror** (24:25b): The fearful governor responds, “Go away for now. When it is more convenient I’ll call for you again.”

- iii. Felix expects a bribe from Paul (24:26–27): For the next two years, Felix continually visits the imprisoned Paul, hoping (in vain) to receive bribe money.

THE TRIAL, PART II (Two Years Later, CAESAREA)

II. Paul testifies before Porcius Festus, who is Governor Felix’s replacement, and Herod Agrippa.

- a. Festus and Paul (25:1–12).
 - i. **The plot to kill Paul** (25:1–5).
 - 1. *The plotter’s request* (25:1–3): Jewish leaders ask Festus to bring Paul on his visit to Jerusalem, for they plan to kill him en route.
 - 2. *Festus’ refusal* (25:4–5): Festus declines, saying Paul will remain in Caesarea for his trial.
 - ii. **The governor and the prisoner** (25:6–12)
 - 1. *False Accusations* (25:6–7): The Jewish leaders bring many charges against Paul but can’t prove any of them.
 - 2. *Paul’s defense* (25:8): Paul pleads innocent to all these charges.
 - 3. *Motion to Change Venue and Paul’s Appeal*.
 - a. (25:9): Anxious to please the Jews, Festus asks Paul to continue his trial in Jerusalem.
 - b. Paul refuses and appeals to Caesar, and his request is granted. (25:10–12).
- b. Festus and Agrippa (25:13–27).
 - i. Festus tells the visiting monarch about this famous political prisoner. (25:13–22):
 - 1. He talks about Paul’s accusers. (25:13–19).
 - 2. He talks about Paul’s appeal. (25:20–21).
 - 3. The king desires to meet Paul. (25:22–27).

III. Paul and King Agrippa.

- a. Paul’s Testimony (26:2–23).
 - i. **Religious man** (26:2–11).
 - 1. *His Background* (26:2–8): From birth he was very zealous in this strict Jewish sect.
 - 2. *His Rebellion against Christ and Cruelty to Christians* (26:9–11): He hated and hounded Christians.
 - ii. A man **Redeemed and restored** (26:12–23).
 - 1. *Conversion* (26:12–14): It occurred on the road to Damascus when Jesus himself appeared.
 - 2. *Commission* (26:15–23): God appointed him to preach repentance and forgiveness of sin to the Gentiles. In spite of terrible persecution, Paul faithfully obeyed the message of his heavenly vision.
 - iii. **Festus’s accusation** (26:24): The governor interrupts Paul, accusing him of insanity.

- iv. **Paul's Argues with the Court** (26:25): The apostle assures Festus he is speaking only the "sober truth."
 - 1. **Paul to Agrippa** (26:26–27): "Do you believe the prophets? I know you do."
 - 2. **Agrippa to Paul** (26:28): "Do you think you can make me a Christian so quickly?"
 - 3. **Paul to Agrippa** (26:29): "I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become as I am, except for these chains."
- v. **Ticket to Rome:** After the meeting Agrippa and Festus agree that Paul could be set free had he not appealed to Caesar. (26:30–32)