

## Acts 25:1-12 **Festus – Ambush Plot – Paul's Appeal to Caesar**

### Porcius Festus visits Jerusalem

<sup>1</sup> Now when Festus had come to the province, after three days he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem.

### Jewish High Priest and Council endeavor to kill Paul

<sup>2</sup> Then the high priest and the chief men of the Jews informed him against Paul; and they petitioned him, <sup>3</sup> asking a favor against him, that he would summon him to Jerusalem--while they lay in ambush along the road to kill him.

### Festus prefers to judge the case in Caesarea

<sup>4</sup> But Festus answered that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself was going there shortly. <sup>5</sup> Therefore," he said, "let those who have authority among you go down with me and accuse this man, to see if there is any fault in him." <sup>6</sup> And when he had remained among them more than ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day, sitting on the judgment seat, he commanded Paul to be brought.

### Charges by the Jews

<sup>7</sup> When he had come, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood about and laid many serious complaints against Paul, which they could not prove,

### Paul's defense

<sup>8</sup> while he answered for himself, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I offended in anything at all."

### Festus offered Paul a chance to go to Jerusalem

<sup>9</sup> But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things?"

### Paul Appealed to Caesar

<sup>10</sup> So Paul said, "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. <sup>11</sup> For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar."

### To Caesar you shall go

<sup>12</sup> Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, "You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go!" NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### Porcius Festus visits Jerusalem

✚ Three days after Porcius Festus became Governor of Judea headquartered in Caesarea he went to Jerusalem. [Acts 25:1]

### Jewish High Priest and Council endeavor to kill Paul

✚ Then the high priest and the chief men of the Jews informed him against Paul; and they petitioned him, asking a favor against him, that he would summon him to Jerusalem. [Acts 25:2-3]

✚ Their intent was to lay in ambush along the road to kill him. [Acts 25:3]

### Festus prefers to judge the case in Caesarea

- ✚ Festus indicated that his plan was to return to Caesarea very soon. [Acts 25:4]
- ✚ Festus invited the Jews of authority to accompany him to Caesarea and the hearing would take place there. [Acts 25:5]
- ✚ Festus remained in Jerusalem ten days and returned to Caesarea. [Acts 25:6]
- ✚ The following day Festus sat on the judgment seat and commanded Paul to be brought. [Acts 25:6]

### Charges by the Jews

- ✚ When Paul had come, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood about and laid many serious complaints against Paul, which they could not prove. [Acts 25:7]

### Paul's defense

- ✚ Paul answered for himself, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I offended in anything at all." [Acts 25:8]

### Festus offered Paul a chance to go to Jerusalem

- ✚ But Festus, **wanting to do the Jews a favor**, answered Paul and said, "**Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things?**" [Acts 25:9]

### Paul Appealed to Caesar

- ✚ Paul remembered that the Jews had plotted to kill him by tricking the Romans to bring him to them when he was in Jerusalem before, and that was the reason he was sent to Caesarea in the first place. [Acts 23:12-33]
- ✚ Now the same prospect is placed before him and the choice is his to make.
- ✚ As a Roman Citizen Paul had the right to appeal to Caesar.
  - ✧ Paul, as Saul of Tarsus, was born a Jew in Tarsus of Cilicia, a Roman citizen. [Acts 9:11, 13:9, 21:39, 22:3]
- ✚ So Paul said, "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but **if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar.**" [Acts 25:10-11]

### To Caesar you shall go

- ✚ Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, "**You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go!**" [Acts 25:12]