

Persevere with Passion

with the same old message

*“you shall be witnesses to Me and to the **end of the earth**”*

Group Teaching | 24 October 2023

Acts 25-26 (ESV)

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KEY THEME

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,
and **you will be my witnesses**
in Jerusalem

*and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth*

4 journeys

Paul took four missionary journeys:

1st: through Cyprus, Pamphylia, and Galatia.

2nd: through Galatia, Macedonia, and Achaia.

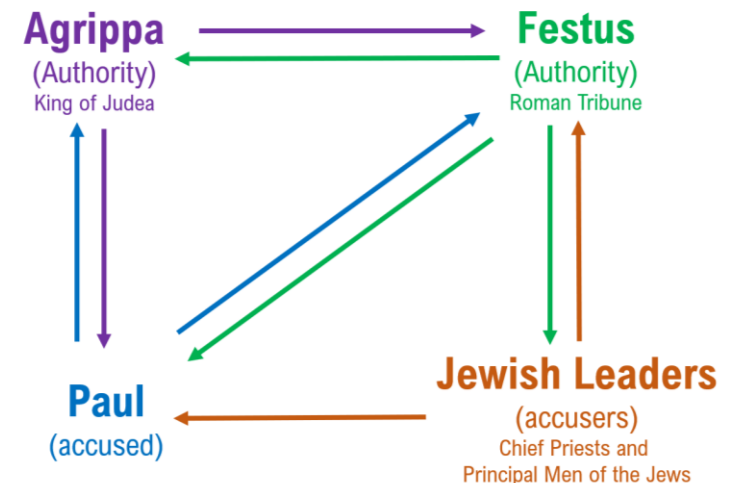
3rd: through Galatia, Asia, Macedonia, Achaia, end at Jerusalem.

imprisoned in Caesarea for at least 2 years

Today's Passage

Acts 25-26

4th: not clear, maybe in Spain, Crete, Asia, Achaia, Macedonia.



Acts 25-26

Today's Passage
At Caesarea

What amazes you after reading two chapters?

25:1-12

Paul & Festus

- Paul appealed
- Festus approved

25:13-22

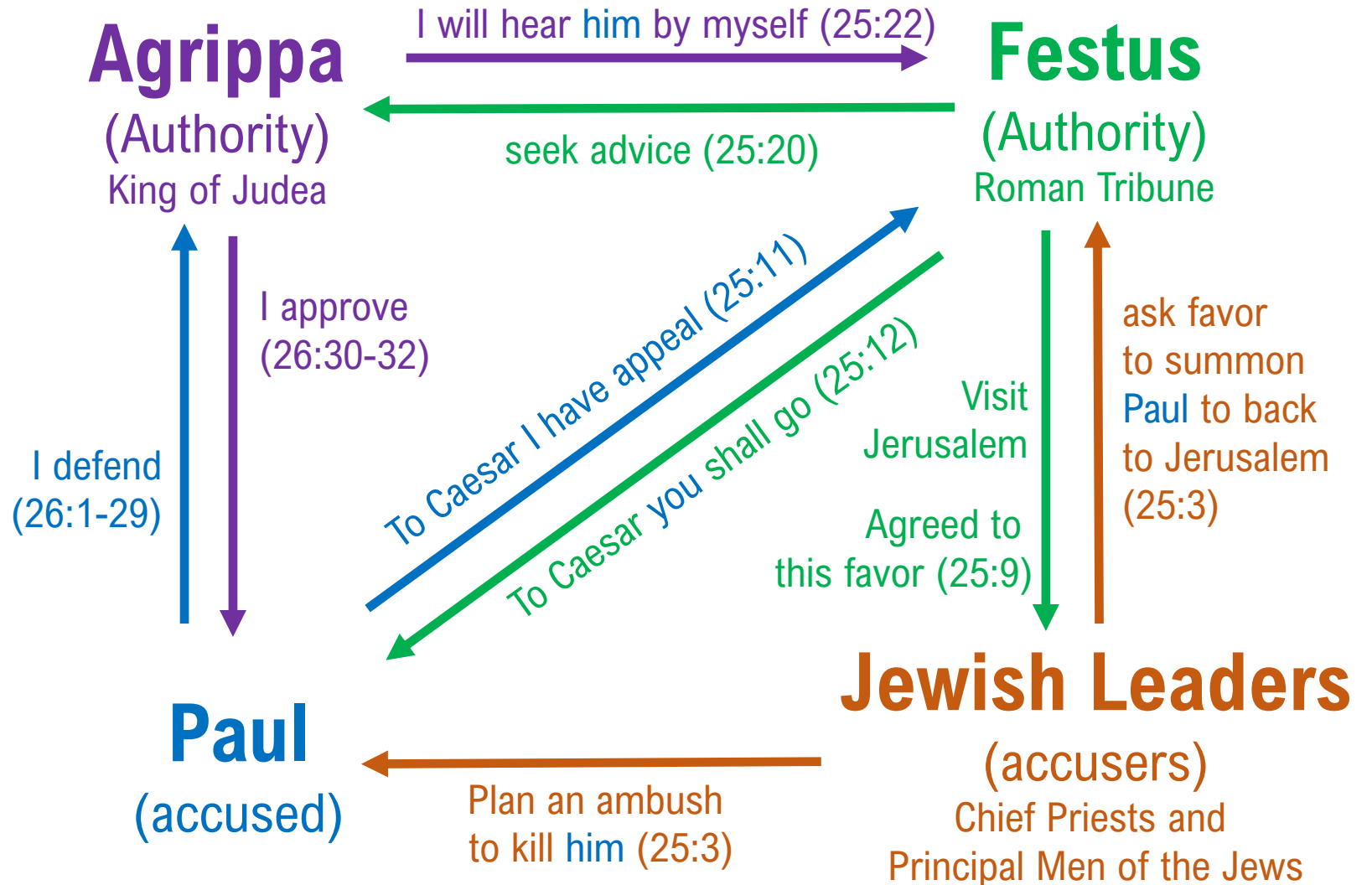
Festus & Agrippa

- Festus sought for advice
- Agrippa stepped in

25:23-26:32

Festus, Agrippa & Paul

- Festus setup the hearing
- Paul defended his stand
- Agrippa approved the appeal



Understand Authority

Roman Emperor

Caesar _____

Roman Governor

(For Judea Region)

Name _____

King of Judea

(Herodian Family)

King Herod _____

Paul' Time

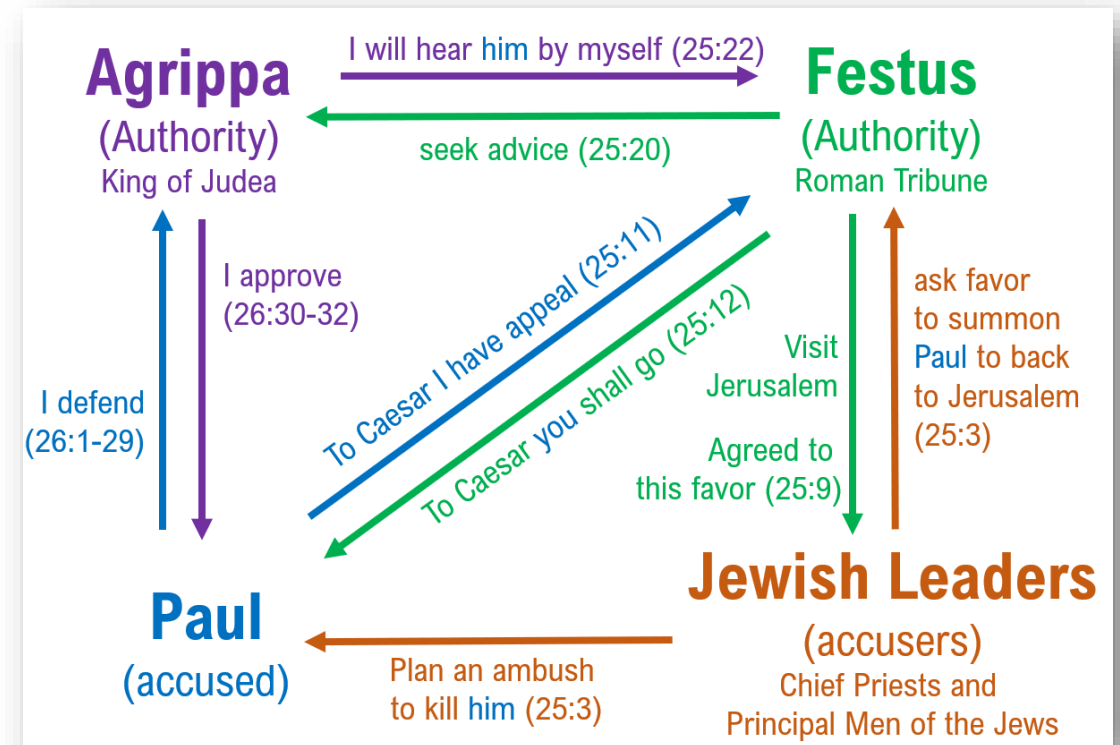
Caesar
Claudius

Caesar
Nero

Felix

Festus

King Herod
Agrippa II



Key Observation Trend

After the expected arrest (at Jerusalem)

Paul defended himself 5 rounds
and waited ____ years patiently
to eventually get an approval to go Rome.

Teaching Point #1

In doing **LONGDRAWN** God's Work, we must

Persevere to defend the gospel (repeatedly)

Patient to wait upon God's timing

to see breakthrough for His Work

KEY THEME
Acts 1:8
But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,
and you will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem
and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth

Saul → Paul: Old Life & New Life

Acts 7:54-60 = stoning of Stephen by Saul

Acts 8:1-3 = persecution against the church by Saul

Acts 9:1-19 = conversion of Saul at Damascus with Ananias' help

Acts 13:47 = salvation to the ends of the earth (Rome)

Acts 21:37-22:29

before the Mob
fathers" (22:1)

his upbringing as a Jew

language

under Gamaliel

er as Pharisee persecuting Ct

his new identity in Christ

appeared at Damascus

anias

y God to proclaim Jesus

t accepting his speech...

his citizenship as a Roman by birth

" before the Roman Tribune

Acts 22:30-23:11

before the Jewish Council

his belief in Christ's R

gh priest (Ananias) & apologised

id among the Pharisees & Sadducees.

ir resurrection

Paul to take courage

Jesus

ission to Rome (23:11)

Acts 23:12-24:26

• They (some Jews) so wanted Paul (a Jew)

dead at all cost

• They (Romans) so wanted Paul (a Roman)

alive at all cost

Paul spoke

before Felix the Governor (24:10)

Paul continue to proclaim the

gospel message as God's witness

• Gospel proclaimed during Roman Custody

King
Agrippa

Acts 24:27 When two years had elapsed, Felix was **succeeded by Porcius Festus**.

And **desiring to do the Jews a favor**, Felix left Paul in prison (at Caesarea).

Acts 24:10 > Paul to Felix (Roman Governor)

"Knowing that for many years
you (Felix) have been a judge over this nation,
I cheerfully make my defense."

Acts 26:2 > Paul to Agrippa (King of Judea)

"I consider myself fortunate that it is before you,
King Agrippa, to make my defense today."

Understand Authority

Roman Emperor
Caesar

Roman Governor
(For Judea Region)
Name

King of Judea
(Herodian Family)
King Herod

Paul's Time

Caesar Claudius
Caesar Nero

Felix Festus

King Herod
Agrippa II

Acts 25-26

Key Observation Trend

At the final 5th defense (at Caesarea)

Paul defended with clear conscience
and proclaimed the HOPE with conviction
with the desire that all who hear will repent.

Teaching Point #2

In proclaiming the **SAME** message, we must be governed by

Consistency & Clear Conscience
Clarity & Conviction

with the desire to see repentance from the hearers

25:13-22

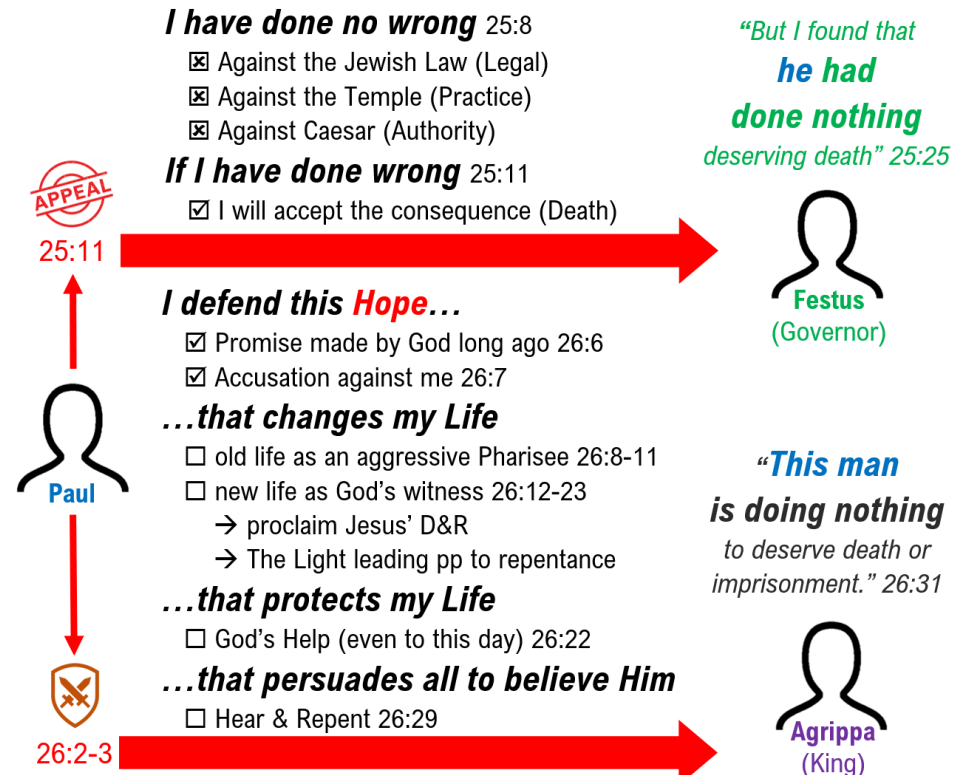
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Comparative Observations: Similar Experience

1. Involvement of Roman Authority & King of Judea
2. Found nothing wrong with the accused
3. Yet Roman Authority will give in to the mass' decision

Suffer like Christ



Understand Authority

Roman Emperor

Caesar _____

Roman Governor

(For Judea Region)

Name _____

King of Judea

(Herodian Family)

King Herod _____

Jesus' Time

Caesar Caesar
Augustus Tiberius

Pontius Pilate

King Herod
Antipas

Paul' Time

Caesar Caesar
Claudius Nero

Felix **Festus**

King Herod
Agrippa II

Persevere with Passion

with the same old Message

*“you shall be witnesses to Me and to the **end of the earth**”*

Words of Affirmation

Acts 26:22

*To this day I have had the
help that comes from God,
and so I stand here testifying
both to small and great...*

Reality #1

Struggle with
STAMINA to go on

Teaching Point #1

In doing **LONGDRAWN** God's Work, we must

Persevere to defend the gospel (repeatedly)

Patient to wait upon God's timing

to see breakthrough for His Work

Reality #2

Struggle with
MOTIVATION to go on

Teaching Point #2

In proclaiming the **SAME** Message, we must be governed by

Consistency & Clear Conscience

Clarity & Conviction

with the desire to see repentance from the hearers