

Courting Favor Takes Time

Session Eighteen

The Sanhedrin is the Jewish _____. There were _____ members of the Sanhedrin, composed of Pharisees and Sadducees who were the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law. They sat in a semicircle, backed by three rows of disciples of the 'learned men' with the clerks of the court standing at the front (CSSB, 1661).

T / F The Sanhedrin could impose capital punishment if circumstances (such as blasphemy) warranted.

Acts 22:30-23:11

Prior to the Sanhedrin, what other ways has the commander tried to ascertain why Paul was being accused?

After Paul states he is blameless and in "good conscience", the high priest orders him to be struck in the mouth. How could Paul not have known that Ananias was the high priest? Some possibilities...

- a) It's an informal meeting of the Sanhedrin. Therefore, Ananias was not robed and not recognizable.
- b) Paul did know. He was just being sarcastic: "I did not realize that a man *such as you* could be the high priest."
- c) Paul had poor eyesight (see Gal. 6:11). "White-washed wall" may have been the blurry image of a white robed figure from afar.

In excusing himself for rebuking the high priest, Paul cites Exodus 22:28.

There are four main Jewish sects: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes and Zealots (see handout). How does Paul expose the differences between the Pharisees and Sadducees and use them to his advantage?

This is the third time the commander (Claudius Lysias) has rescued Paul! That night, while in the barracks, Paul receives a vision from Christ which states Paul will testify of him in _____.

Acts 23:12-22

How did Paul's nephew save his uncle's life?

Why is the commander (Claudius Lysias) forced to move Paul? Was the ambush of Paul the only threat on his mind?

Acts 23:23-35

Describe the military convoy used to transport Paul to Governor Felix in Caesarea.

Caesarea is the provincial capital of Judea. Governor Felix resided there in the *praetorium*. Felix ruled as Judea's procurator for seven to eight years from AD 52....Felix was utterly ruthless in quelling Jewish uprisings" (Stott, 355).

V. 27. Talk about putting the best construction on things! When exactly did Claudius realize Paul was a Roman citizen?

"Between these two powers, religious and civil, hostile and friendly, Jerusalem and Rome, Paul found himself trapped, unarmed and totally vulnerable....The source of his courage was his serene confidence in the truth. He was well aware that the Romans had no case against him. He was convinced that the Jews had no case either, because his faith was the faith of his fathers, and the gospel was the fulfillment of the law. And above all he knew that his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was with him and would keep his promises that he would bear witness, some day, somehow, in Rome" (Stott, 357).

Acts 24:1-9

Jerusalem to Caesarea is a 60 mile, two-day trip. The five days are just enough time to send a messenger from Caesarea to Jerusalem, have the proper legal counsel appointed and then return to Caesarea. Ananias and his lawyer Tertullus state their case before Felix, just as Claudius had ordered them to do.

Note the "almost nauseating flattery" (Stott, 359). "Peace" and "reforms"? Felix had brutally put down Jewish insurrection with barbaric brutality. He was feared and loathed by the Jews.

What are their charges against Paul?

Acts 24:10-21

Paul states his case. How does he answer their allegations?

Acts 24:22-27

Felix kept Paul in prison for more than two _____, "the maximum duration of preventive custody" (Stott, 364). Though never unguarded, his friends have access to him. Felix is succeeded by Porcius Festus, but he still chooses to leave Paul in prison. What did Felix want from Paul?

Drusilla, a Jewess, takes a strong interest in what Paul is saying. She is Felix's third wife, the youngest daughter of Herod Agrippa I (see Acts 12:1-23), the sister of King Agrippa II and Bernice (see Acts 25:13, 23; 26:30).

Paul speaks about "righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come". Why these topics?

During his captivity in Caesarea, Paul writes the following epistles: Philemon (AD 59), Colossians (AD 59), Ephesians (AD 59), 2 Timothy (AD 60).