

THE BOOK OF ACTS

The Time of the Holy Spirit and the Birth of the Church

TO JERUSALEM

The apostle Paul ends his 3rd Missions Trip going to Jerusalem, for the Feast of Pentecost.

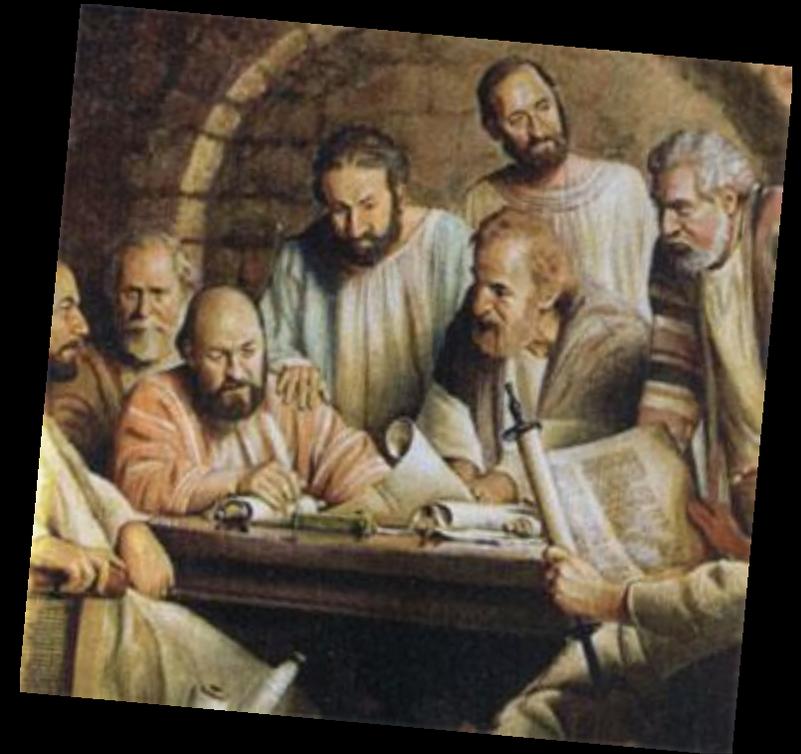
As he nears the city, in Tyre and Caesarea several people tried to convince him not to go (21:4, 10-11).



ENCOURAGING THE SAINTS

Acts 21:12-14

¹² When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, **“What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”** ¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, “Let the will of the Lord be done.”



THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF LIFE

2 Corinthians 5:15

And Christ did die for all of us. He died so we would no longer live for ourselves, but for the one who died and was raised to life for us.

Philippians 1:20-21

²⁰I honestly expect and hope that I will never do anything to be ashamed of. Whether I **live** or **die**, I always want to be as brave as I am now and bring honor to Christ. ²¹ If I live, it will be for Christ, and if I die, I will gain even more.

IN JERUSALEM

In Jerusalem, Paul visited the church then the Temple for worship. While there, Jews who knew him from his missions trips incited the crowd.

Acts 21:28

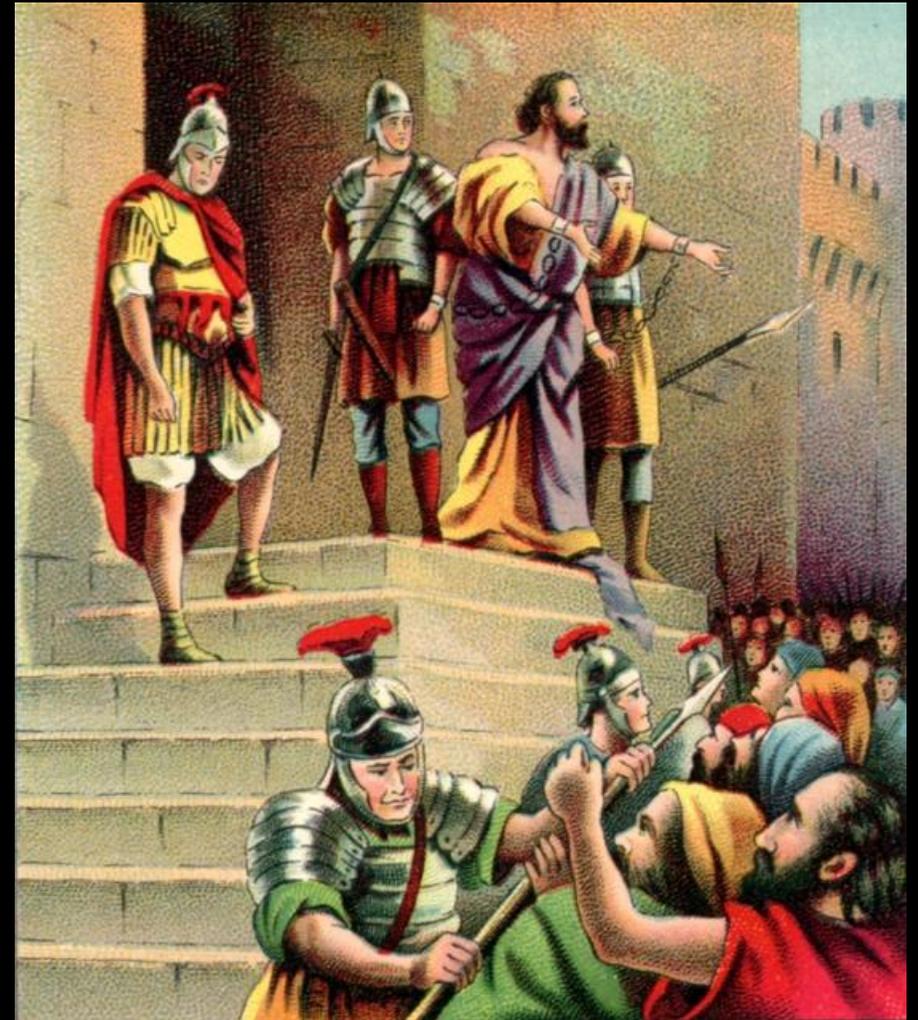
²⁸ crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”



HIS DEFENSE BEFORE THE MOB

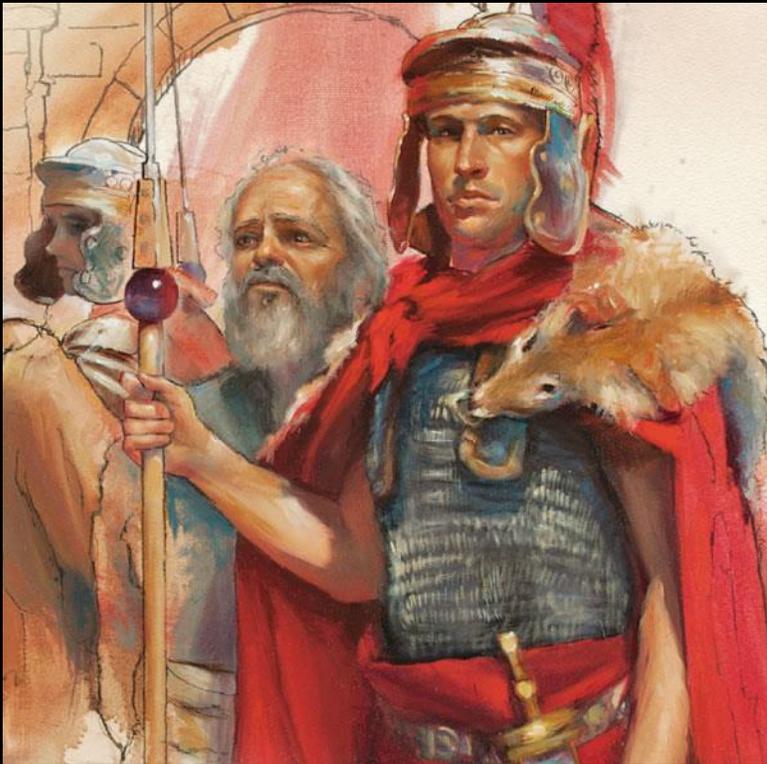
Paul was rescued from the angry mob by a Roman army commander. Paul then defended himself to the crowd (21:37-22:29) by sharing his testimony and personal experience with Christ.

In response, the mob tried to kill him and the commander locked him in jail for safekeeping and interrogation.



DEFENSE BEFORE THE SOLDIERS

The Roman commander sent his torturers to interrogate Paul. (22:24-29)



Acts 22:25

“²⁵ While the soldiers were tying Paul up to be beaten, he asked the officer standing there, “Is it legal to beat a Roman citizen before he has been tried in court?”

And so he escaped the beating.

DEFENSE BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

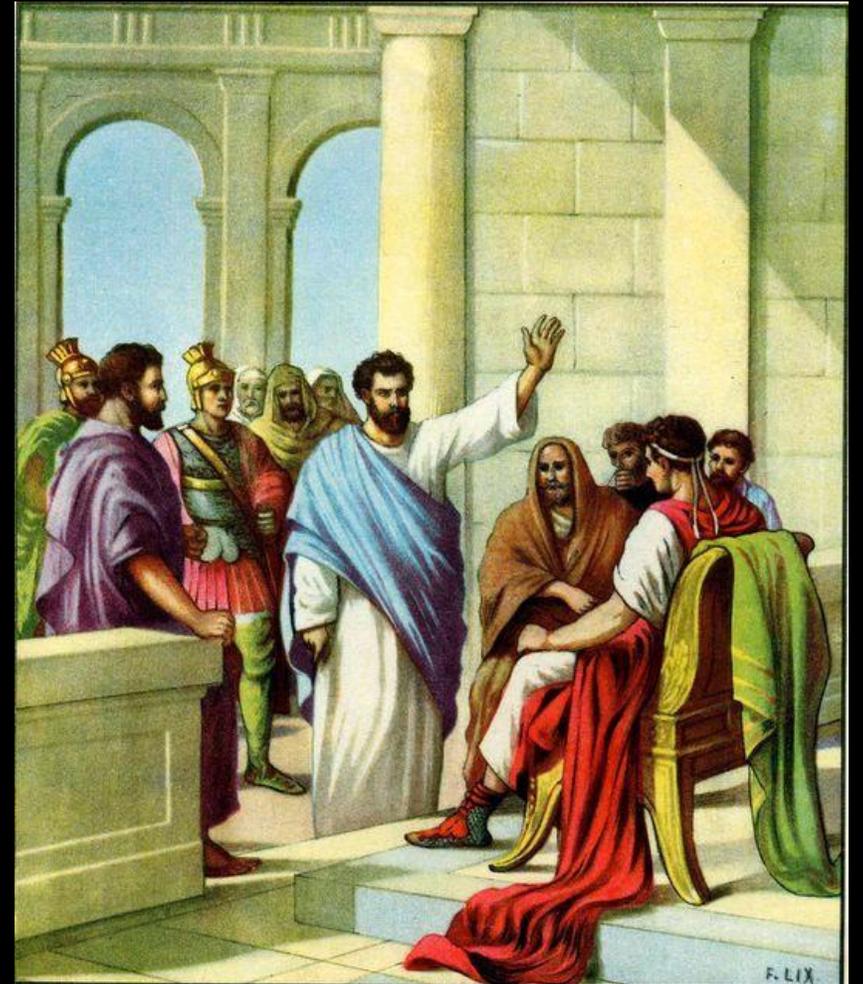
Next, Paul was taken before the ruling elders of Israel, the Sanhedrin (22:30-23:10), to defend himself. Here again, he started to tell his testimony but was interrupted by a blow to his face. He then began to speak of the resurrection of Christ and so split the Sanhedrin, because some of them were Sadducees (no resurrection) and others Pharisees (believe in resurrection).



DEFENSE BEFORE THE FELIX

The Roman commander, Claudius Lysias, then dispatched Paul with a letter to governor Felix in Caesarea, to stand trial before him. (23:23-24:27) Leaders of the Sanhedrin also went to Felix to accuse Paul.

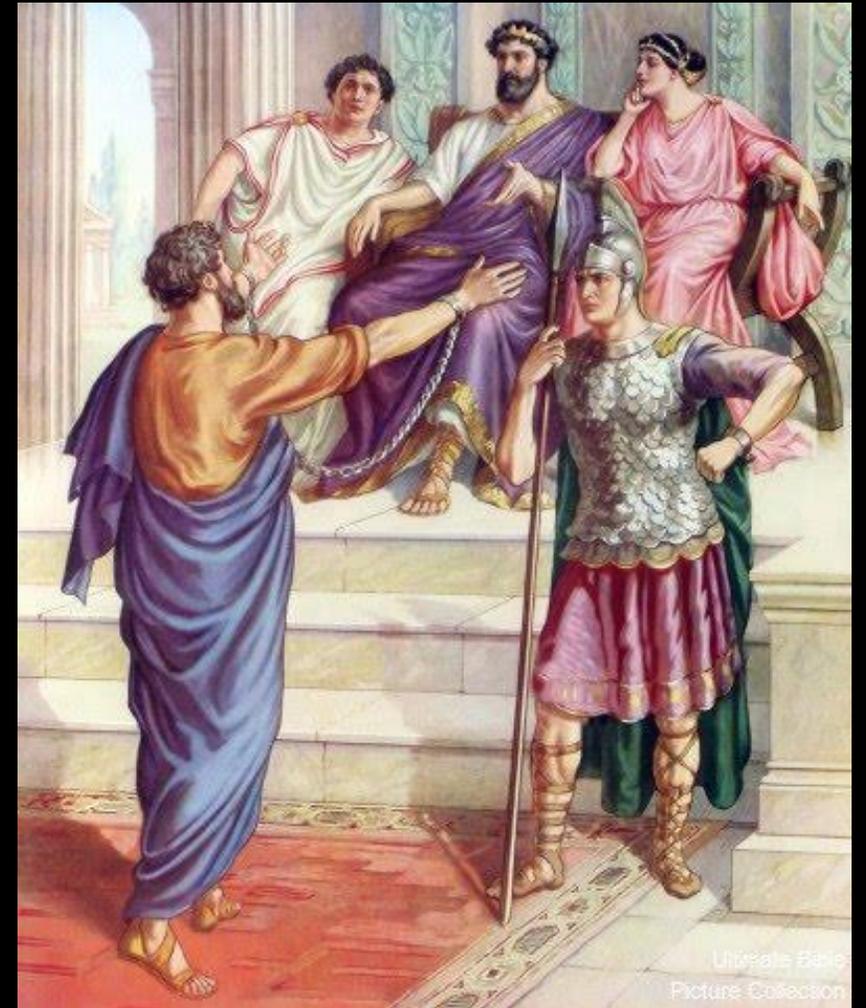
As before, Paul shared his testimony of life in Christ. Yet, Felix never made a decision but instead, left Paul in jail.



DEFENSE BEFORE THE FESTUS AND AGRIPPA

Paul was kept in the fortress in Caesarea and two years later, Festus succeeded Felix as the Roman governor. Paul then presented his defense to Festus. Later, when governor Agrippa visited Festus, Paul made his case to him, as well. (25:1-26:32)

Again, Paul shared his testimony of life in Christ.



TO ROME

Finally, Paul was shipped to Rome to stand before the Roman Emperor. (27:1-28:31)

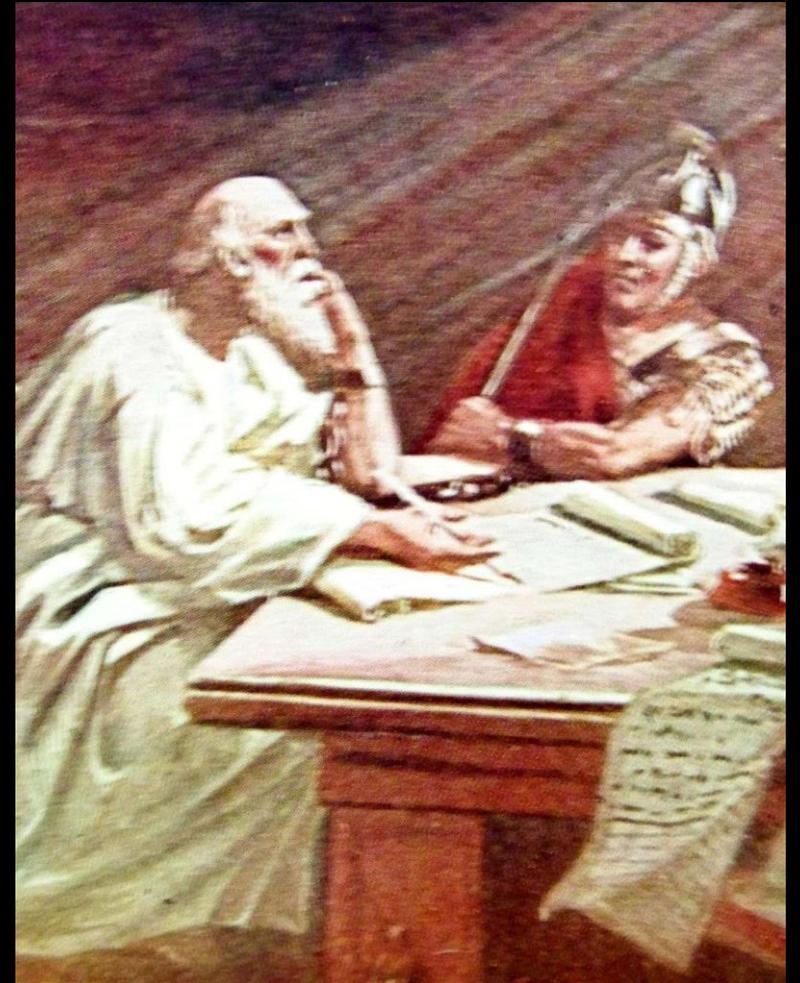
Acts 28:30-31

³⁰ For two years Paul stayed in a rented house and welcomed everyone who came to see him. ³¹ He bravely preached about God's kingdom and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ, and no one tried to stop him.



PAUL IN ADVERSITY

Through out his ordeals, Paul shared his faith in Christ, his personal experience with God, the truths of Scripture, and his confidence that God was guiding the course of his life and of history. These were productive years. He wrote epistles, witnessed to kings, and share the gospel with everyone he encountered.



REMEMBER...



For to me,
and to LIVE is Christ,
to die is
GAIN.

Philippians 1:21