

August Sermon Series

Leader Guide ESV, Session 1

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Preaching in All Circumstances

Summary and Goal

What a blessing it is to worship a God who is involved in all the details of our lives. In this session, we will see how God continuously ordered Paul's steps even while he was in Roman custody. God's plan and God's truth, the gospel, cannot be thwarted by Satan or the schemes of man. Our goal in this session is to identify God's providence at work not only in the life of Paul but also in our lives, both before and after we embraced Jesus as Savior. It is good for us to remember this truth as we walk through life: God will never lead us where He can't keep us.

Session Outline

1. God guides His servant to preach to others (Acts 24:1-10).
2. God sends His servant where He wishes (Acts 25:9-12).
3. God controls His servant's circumstances (Acts 26:27-32).

Background Passage: Acts 24–26

Session in a Sentence

God guides His people where He desires to carry out the mission He gives them.

Christ Connection

God had told Paul that he would preach before kings and that he would reach Rome. God's chosen path for Paul to fulfill these promises was in chains as a prisoner for His faith. Paul's trust in God and his continuing to preach the gospel in the face of false accusations, unjust sentencing, and possible torture and death is an example of confidence in the power of the gospel to save.

Missional Application

Because Jesus humbled Himself on our behalf to bring about our salvation, we live with greater concern for others' salvation than for our own situation.

Group Time

Introduction

EXPLAIN: Use the paragraphs on page 48 in the DDG to set up the writer's scenario for group members to consider how they would have responded to the interviewer's question.

I had just finished an interview when the lady asked me, "May I ask you a personal question, off the record? I just want to know if you consider yourself a man of faith?" I promptly responded, "Yes ma'am, I embraced Jesus as my Savior when I was about sixteen years old and have been following Him ever since."

She then asked one more question: "Do you think it's appropriate for me to say God saved me and has a plan for my life because He didn't let me die in a car accident a few years ago?" Seeing her sincerity, I could tell she wasn't trying to have a theological debate or asking a question to trap me. Rather, she was inquiring about her relationship with God.

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

How would you have answered this question? (be prepared to give an answer of your own to jump-start the conversation)

SAY: The writer agreed that God, in His providence, delivered this woman from death because He cares for His creation and He wanted her to know of His offer of salvation from His wrath against sin. Because of the lady's puzzled look, the writer proceeded to share with her the gospel, and she then professed her faith in Christ. God's providential actions in the lives of people are a platform for gospel proclamation.

SUMMARIZE: What a blessing it is to worship a God who is involved in all the details of our lives. In this session, we will see how God continuously ordered Paul's steps even while he was in Roman custody. God's plan and God's truth, the gospel, cannot be thwarted by Satan or the schemes of man. Our goal in this session is to identify God's providence at work not only in the life of Paul but also in our lives, both before and after we embraced Jesus as Savior. It is good for us to remember this truth as we walk through life: God will never lead us where He can't keep us.

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Point 1: God guides His servant to preach to others (Acts 24:1-10).

READ Acts 24:1-10 (DDG p. 49).

1 And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a spokesman, one Tertullus. They laid before the governor their case against Paul. **2** And when he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying:

“Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this nation, **3** in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude. **4** But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly. **5** For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. **6** He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him. **8** By examining him yourself you will be able to find out from him about everything of which we accuse him.”

9 The Jews also joined in the charge, affirming that all these things were so.

10 And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied:

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

EXPLAIN: Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 49) to note that serving the Lord and sharing His gospel comes with an expectation of suffering.

Paul had a unique calling upon his life, at least in the details. Paul knew that in Jerusalem he would be handed over in chains to the Gentiles (21:10-11). But he also knew he would have opportunities to preach the gospel to Jews, Gentiles, and even rulers in those respective worlds (9:15-16). Still he would have to suffer for the name of Jesus. Here Paul patiently endured false accusations against his character and his Lord.

- Likely most of us would be thrilled with the possibility of sharing the gospel with presidents, prime ministers, and

celebrities, but are we prepared for the reality of suffering that no doubt would follow such ministry? We live in the era of “cancel culture,” where if you say one wrong thing on the record, our society is ready to cast you off, never to be heard from again. There is no concept of grace. This is similar to Paul’s day with how easily one could face prison time for personal beliefs.

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

How can we prepare for suffering and persecution we might experience for preaching the gospel in certain places or to certain people? (we read God’s Word and pray knowing God is always in control of our circumstances; we fix our eyes on Jesus, who suffered in our place for our salvation; we care for and support brothers and sisters in Christ who are already suffering for Christ; we prioritize the salvation of others above our own suffering and safety)

EXPLAIN: Use the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 49) to show how the Lord provided opportunities for Paul to share the gospel, even while in custody.

Paul was able to give his defense and express how his accusers objected to his belief in the resurrection (24:10-21). By confessing that he worshiped God according to “the Way,” Paul aligned himself with Jesus Christ. This opened the door for Paul to preach the gospel both to Felix and his wife, Drusilla (24:24-26). Paul didn’t wallow in self-pity but waited faithfully for God to give him the opportunities to make Jesus known.

- The Lord provided multiple occasions for Paul, while still in custody, to share the gospel with Felix over a period of two years (24:27). Felix was greedy for a bribe from Paul to let him out of prison, so he kept requesting that Paul come to speak with him (24:26)
- In the details, our callings to serve the Lord will look different from Paul’s, but we all share in the challenges that come with being a believer. Jesus calls all of His followers to count the cost of being affiliated with Him. We are all called to lose our lives for the sake of finding our lives in Christ (Luke 9:23-25). Therefore, believers must recognize that every opportunity given to us can either be a demonstration for the gospel or a distraction from God’s glory.

Commentary: “The phrase **the Way** is used throughout Acts as a self-designation by Christians (v. 22; 9:2; 19:9,23). At this early date, Christianity was considered a sect of Judaism. It became independent over time as it spread to Gentiles and as Jews continued to reject it in large numbers. Paul saw Christianity as continuous with, and the fulfillment of, ancient Judaism. Thus Paul and other believers worshiped the **God** of their **ancestors.**”¹

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

How has God created an opportunity for you to make Jesus known while you were in the midst of suffering? (be prepared to give an answer of your own to jump-start the conversation)

Point 2: God sends His servant where He wishes (Acts 25:9-12).

READ Acts 25:9-12 (DDG p. 50).

9 But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?” **10** But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. **11** If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one

can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.” 12 Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”

EXPLAIN: Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 50) to explain Paul’s predicament when faced with Festus’s request for Paul to go back to Jerusalem for trial.

Before Felix left his post, as a favor to the Jews, he kept Paul in prison (24:27). The next governor was of a similar mind. The Jews wanted Paul tried in Jerusalem, planning to kill him during the transport (25:2-3). Festus was willing to move Paul to increase his stature with the Jews, but Paul, being a Roman citizen, had to agree to the change of venue.

Voices from Church History

“Someone might ask, ‘Why it is that when [Paul] heard “You must testify about me in Rome,” he did this, as if he did not believe?’ God forbid! He did this not because he did not believe but because he believed very strongly, for it would have been the action of one who is tempting God to be bold on account of that declaration, to plunge himself into ten thousand dangers and to say, ‘Let’s see if God can deliver me even so.’ Paul did not do this but made use of all that was in himself, entrusting everything to God.”²

–Chrysostom (c. 349-407)

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

What are some ways you process decisions to make sure you choose wisely and obey in faith? (be prepared to give an answer of your own to jump-start the conversation)

EXPLAIN: Use the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 50) to highlight how the Lord worked providentially to direct His apostle toward Rome.

Paul rejected Festus’s request. Perhaps sensing the danger and by knowing his rights, Paul appealed his case to be taken directly to Caesar. This appeal would relocate Paul’s trial in the opposite direction of Jerusalem, namely, to the city of Rome, the destination the Lord had declared for him (23:11). Providentially, the Lord worked through Paul’s chains and his citizenship to send His apostle to the capital city of the empire.

- Festus granted Paul’s appeal to Caesar, but Paul was not given his freedom. Though innocent of the crimes he was charged with, he remained in custody. We cannot neglect this important part of the story. God remained in control of all things in Paul’s life, even while he remained in custody wrongfully. The Lord had been guiding Paul’s steps from birth, and He would continue to do so (Gal. 1:15-16).

Application: When we come to crossroads in our lives and must make decisions about which path to take, how should we decide? Consider this instruction:

- Psalm 34:4: “I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.” List out all your fears and present them to the Lord.
 - Psalm 37:4: “Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Ask the Lord to remove any desires from your heart that are selfish or untimely and to put His desires in your heart.
 - Psalm 20:4: “May he grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill all your plans!” Trust that the Lord has a plan and He will work in your heart to guide you toward it.
 - Psalm 37:23-24: “The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.” Trust that God’s plan includes the details and He will take you where He wants you to go and support you on the way. Then act in faith.
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FILL IN THE BLANKS: Provide group members with the answers for the call-out in their DDG (p. 50).

God's Providence: Christians believe in God's personal and direct intervention in the world—as opposed to a hands-off approach to creation—that affects not only the **natural order** but also the **individuals** and **events** within human history.

Essential Doctrine “God’s Providence”: Providence refers to God’s continuing work and involvement in His creation. This includes, in various degrees, God’s preservation of the created order, His governance, and His care for His people (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Gen. 8:21-22). Christians believe the world, and even the cosmos itself, is contingent upon God, incapable of existing apart from Him. Christians also believe in God’s personal and direct intervention in the world—as opposed to a hands-off approach to creation—that affects not only the **natural order** but also the **individuals** and **events** within human history.

Point 3: God controls His servant’s circumstances (Acts 26:27-32).

SAY: After Paul appealed to Caesar, King Agrippa, a Roman ruler of Jewish descent, arrived in Caesarea along with his sister Bernice, and they visited Festus. Festus briefed them about Paul’s situation, even admitting Paul had done nothing wrong and was part of a religious disagreement about the resurrection of Jesus, hardly a Roman concern. Intrigued, Agrippa wanted to hear from Paul himself (25:13-22).

READ: Ask a volunteer to read Acts 26:27-32 (DDG p. 51).

27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.” 28 And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” 29 And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”

30 Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them. 31 And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.” 32 And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

PACK ITEM 6: THE LIFE OF PAUL: Use this handout and the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 51) to comment on Paul’s bold and respectful defense before Agrippa as he shared his testimony of coming to embrace Jesus as the Messiah.

The Lord set up yet another providential conversation, fulfilling in part His call on Paul’s life to share the gospel with kings (9:15-16). Paul capitalized on this moment and shared his personal story of embracing Jesus as Messiah, even though previously he had persecuted the people who believed as he now did (26:1-23). This testimony and the truths Paul proclaimed were too much for Festus, and the Roman governor dismissed Paul as being crazy (v. 24). But Paul responded with respect to Festus and boldly stated that Agrippa, a Jew, knew the truth of what he was saying (vv. 25-27).

- King Agrippa had knowledge of the Scriptures, the reports of Jesus’ life and ministry, and the “rumors” of His death and resurrection. So Paul pointedly asked the king if he believed what the Scriptures said. As part of his defense, Paul had declared that the prophets foretold the Messiah’s suffering, His resurrection, and the gospel going forth to both Jews and Gentiles (vv. 22-23).
- Paul knew well the difficulties of presenting the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. Gentiles prided themselves on

wisdom; Jews placed their hopes in supernatural power. But the cross of Jesus the Messiah seemed like foolishness and weakness, and the resurrection of a crucified Messiah was equally foolish. Yet Paul never backed down from these fundamental truths because the message of the gospel is God's wisdom and strength on display in the world (1 Cor. 1:18-25).

Application: Often our evangelism is found lacking because Christians don't talk openly about Jesus. We naturally talk about what excites us: our favorite sports team, a new business adventure, or a recent accomplishment. But we struggle to talk about Jesus because He doesn't excite us as much as He should. We must become more excited about Jesus, and this starts by spending time with Him in prayer, reading deeply in His Word, and asking Him to open doors for us to speak to others about Him.

EXPLAIN: Use the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 51) to highlight Paul's commitment to the gospel message while enduring chains and criticism.

Agrippa's response to Paul insinuated it would take more than a short, compelling speech to persuade him to become a Christian. Indeed, it takes a work of God in a person's heart, but God does that work through the proclamation of the gospel of Christ. Paul gave everything he had for this message to go forward. He stood before Festus, Agrippa, and others while in chains and enduring their criticism in the hope that everyone who heard the gospel through him would believe just as he had. What a life goal to have—for everyone you share a meaningful conversation with to be supernaturally compelled to embrace Jesus as Lord.

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- Agrippa sidestepped Paul's question (v. 28). In addition to unbelief, there may have been political reasons for doing so. If he denied belief in the prophets, he might have caused an uprising from the Jews under his leadership. If he affirmed his belief in the prophets, he too might have seemed out of his mind in the eyes of the Gentile governor, Festus.

Application: Following Jesus, we may be ridiculed, falsely accused, and chained. Whatever the difficulties we experience as believers, we must hold on to the truths Paul did: God will guide our steps so we can preach Jesus to others; God will send us where He wants us to serve; and God remains in control over all of our circumstances.

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

What are some circumstances in your life that could lead to sharing the gospel with others? ([be prepared to give an answer of your own to jump-start the conversation](#))

My Mission

EXPLAIN: God continuously guides His people collectively and individually where He has called them to carry out the mission He has given them. God carved out Paul's path and protected him amidst false accusations, being unjustly detained, and the constant threat of being killed by his accusers. God also sent His Son, Jesus, who humbled Himself by enduring false accusations and an undeserved death sentence so that we might be saved. Knowing this should compel us to be concerned for the salvation of others. God providentially connects us with people who don't know Jesus so we can share Jesus' story with them and they might believe and be saved.

READ the following missional application statement in the DDG (p. 52), and encourage group members to choose at least one of the options below as a way to respond to the truth of God's Word.

Because Jesus humbled Himself on our behalf to bring about our salvation, we live with greater

concern for others' salvation than for our own situation.

- **How are your circumstances drawing you to Christ in faith or opening doors for you to share your faith?**
- **What are some ways your group can support one another so you do not suffer alone?**
- **What opportunities has God revealed to you for sharing the gospel with others this week?**

Voices from Church History

“He is infinite in wisdom as well as in power. And all His wisdom is continually employed in managing all the affairs of His creation for the good of all His creatures. For his wisdom and goodness go hand in hand: They are inseparably united and continually act in concert with Almighty power, for the real good of all His creatures.”³

–John Wesley (1703-1791)

CLOSE IN PRAYER: Father, by Your grace we have been saved through faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank You for this grace, and may we never grow complacent in it. Because we have been saved not simply for ourselves but for your glory. We magnify Your worth as we willingly suffer for the name of Jesus and boldly proclaim His gospel to the world no matter our circumstances. In fact, You providentially work through our circumstances so we can share this good news. Help us to be faithful with these opportunities. Amen.

INSTRUCT: As your group departs, encourage group members to read and respond to the **Daily Study** devotions in their DDG (pp. 53-55), which build and expand upon the group study. Also advocate for small groups or families to use **Encourage One Another** (p. 56) for mutual accountability and fellowship grounded upon the foundation of God's Word.

Daily Discipleship

Throughout the week following the session, use the ideas below to remind and encourage your group members to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. The **Daily Study** devotions in the DDG (pp. 53-55) will help group members get into God's Word and study it for themselves. **Encourage One Another** (p. 56) will help group members and families fellowship with one another with purpose.

Daily Study

Brief daily devotions in the DDG (pp. 53-55) will help group members take initiative in their own discipleship.

- Make sure all group members have access to a Bible to read. Have some Bibles available to give to guests who may need one, or offer to get one and arrange a time to meet to give it and show how to navigate it for the devotions.
- Share the following idea from the devotion for **Day 5** as a part of point 3 in the session: **Not everyone we share the gospel with will embrace Jesus as Savior. We have to remember that salvation is a work of God, not us. God the Holy Spirit is the One who changes the hearts of non-believers in order to give them new life.**

Consider leading by example and reading the daily devotions yourself with your own DDG. Based on your study, use brief messages throughout the week (group text, email, social media) to encourage your group to keep up with their daily time in God's Word and to live it out. Here are a couple of examples you can use:

- **Day 2: “Even in our darkest moments in life, we can have assurance that God is guiding us.”**
- **Day 4: “We must realize that when it comes to our personal testimony of how we embraced Jesus, it carries power with it because it is centered on the gospel.”**

Visit www.GospelProject.com/Blog for additional content and resources you can use to help group members gain more insight into their daily studies. Send group members a link or a portion of a blog post or other content that you believe will be helpful and encouraging for their time in God's Word.

Encourage One Another

This brief plan for fellowship and accountability in the group member's DDG (p. 56) will help groups of 2-4 people to meet sometime during the week to reflect on the session and to share how God is working and they are responding. It could also be used for family discipleship with students and children who are using *The Gospel Project* in their groups.

- **Encourage group members to talk openly about where God has placed them on mission and to what extent they prioritize this providential calling.**
- See yourself as a member of the group who also needs encouragement in the faith, and participate in such a group this week.

Additional Commentary

Point 1: God guides His servant to preach to others (Acts 24:1-10).

“Luke’s reporting of the case against Paul reflects standard Roman legal procedure, including the prosecution brought by a *rhetor* (lawyer). **Tertullus** was a common Roman name, but he may have been a Jew (v. 6), although he refers to the Jews objectively in v. 5. Tertullus began with a *captatio benevolentiae*, the standard opening of a Greco-Roman speech designed to curry the favor of the listener, **Felix**. Paul was accused by Tertullus of far more than just bringing a Gentile into the temple (**desecrate the temple**). Although the charge of desecrating the temple would perhaps make Felix suspicious of Paul, the charges of being an **agitator** and **ringleader** would have genuinely alarmed him since it implied Paul was a threat to Roman rule. Tertullus finished with another compliment toward Felix, this time expressing confidence in his abilities to rightly judge the case against Paul. When Felix asked Paul to **speak**, Paul offered a less flattering *captatio benevolentiae* (see vv. 2-4). Instead of offering hyperbole, he recognized that Felix was an experienced governor of **many years** before whom he would gladly offer his **defense**. This is Paul’s second apologetic or defensive speech in Acts; see 22:1-2.”⁴

“The first charge Tertullus levelled against Paul was a political one. This is a pattern that emerges in the Gospels and Acts and still happens today, with facts being distorted to turn religious issues into political ones ... Paul was accused of being a known troublemaker inciting riots among the Jews all over the Roman Empire (**24:5a**) ... The second charge was a religious one, namely that as a *ringleader of the Nazarene sect* Paul had desecrated the temple (**24:5b**; 21:28-29). This in itself was grounds for the death penalty. Stephen had been stoned to death after similar charges were laid against him (6:14).”⁵

Point 2: God sends His servant where He wishes (Acts 25:9-12).

“Here we see a picture of God’s creative sovereignty as he redirects injustice for his good purposes. Paul is embroiled in a legal squabble that has kept him imprisoned in Caesarea for two years (24:27), even while he yearns to bring the gospel to Rome (19:21). But in God’s providence this convoluted legal squabble becomes the means for the gospel to reach Rome. When Festus attempts to transfer Paul out of his jurisdiction, Paul seizes the opportunity: taking advantage of his right as a Roman citizen, Paul appeals directly to the emperor, guaranteeing a journey to Rome. It is unlikely that Paul ever imagined that his journey to Rome would occur in chains. But Paul was confident that God would fulfill his promise (23:11), and he knew that God’s sovereignty works even through convoluted legal structures. Knowing that God is in control and that his gospel will ultimately triumph allows us, like Paul, to take creative risks for God and trust him in the times of confusion and suffering.”⁶

“The Lord had told [Paul] that he would testify in Rome (23:11). Thus, he decided to appeal to Caesar (25:11)—a privilege granted to Roman citizens. Felix must have been relieved by Paul’s appeal to Caesar, for he could now wash his hands of the

case. It was clearly beyond his abilities to judge, considering his unfamiliarity with Jewish customs and beliefs. He conferred with his council and declared the appeal valid (25:12).”⁷

Point 3: God controls His servant’s circumstances (Acts 26:27-32).

“Paul had made his appearance before governors and kings, very much in fulfillment of the Lord’s words (Luke 21:12). Agrippa rose to his feet, followed by Bernice, and then all the other leading Gentiles who had attended the hearing (cf. 25:23). The latter probably constituted Agrippa’s *consilium*, his advisory council on the matter of Paul. If so, their presence heightened the impression of Paul’s innocence; for Luke indicated that the whole group as they departed began to declare to one another that they could find nothing in Paul deserving of death or imprisonment (v. 31). This is now the fifth time Paul’s innocence had been declared: first by the Pharisees (23:9), then by the Roman tribune Lysias (23:29), then twice by the governor Festus (25:18f.,25). In a private conversation with Festus, Agrippa went even further: If Paul had not made his appeal to Caesar, he could have been released (v. 32). The reader knows what Agrippa did not know—how Festus had wanted to do the Jews a favor and how Paul had felt forced to appeal to save his life (25:9-11) ... Evidently in this instance it was the opinion that Paul was innocent of any breach of Roman law. The reminder of Jesus’ own experience is stark. Governor and king together declared his innocence (Luke 23:14f.), and still he went to the cross. Governor and king declared Paul innocent likewise, and still he was on his way to Rome in chains.”⁸

“Agrippa, not to be outdone, enters into the conversation for the first time since he gave permission for Paul to speak (v. 1). In the course of this short speech, Agrippa’s position has changed. He began as the king who held power at court. Now Agrippa is being invited not only to agree with Paul’s position but to join Paul in giving allegiance to another king—King Jesus. In what almost appears to be an attempt at humor to deflect his own discomfort, Agrippa asks, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?” (v. 28). Paul is now focused in his pursuit of his prey and possibly even enjoying the verbal sparring.”⁹

References

1. Stanley E. Porter, “Acts,” in *CSB Study Bible* (Nashville, TN: B&H, 2017), 1763, n. 24:14.
2. Chrysostom, Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 51, quoted in *Acts*, ed. Francis Martin, vol. V in *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2001) [Logos].
3. John Wesley, “On Divine Providence,” in *The Essential Works of John Wesley*, ed. Alice Russie (Uhrichsville, OH: Barbour, 2011), 735.
4. Stanley E. Porter, “Acts,” in *CSB Study Bible* (Nashville, TN: B&H, 2017), 1763, n. 24:1; n. 24:2-4; n. 24:5-6; n. 24:8-9; n. 24:10.
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8. John B. Polhill, *Acts*, vol. 26 in *The New American Commentary* (Nashville, TN: B&H, 1992) [Logos].
9. Dean Pinter, *Acts*, in *The Story of God Bible Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019) [Logos].