

“Paul Brought Before The King & Queen!”

Acts 25:23-27

So, the Next Day, When King (Herod) Agrippa (II) and (Queen) Bernice Had Come with ‘Great Pomp’, and had entered the Auditorium with the **Commanders** and the **Prominent Men** of the **City (Caesarea Maritima)**, at (Governor) Festus’ Command Paul was Brought In. And Festus said: “King Agrippa and All the Men Who Are Here Present with Us, You See This Man (Paul) About Whom the Whole Assembly of the Jews (Sanhedrin Council) Petitioned Me, both at Jerusalem and Here (Caesarea Maritima), Crying Out ‘That He Was Not Fit to Live Any Longer’ But When I (Festus) Found that He Had Committed Nothing Deserving of Death, and that He Himself Had Appealed to (Caesar) ‘Augustus’, I Decided To Send Him (to Rome). (However), I Have Nothing Certain To Write to ‘My Lord’ Concerning Him. Therefore, I (Festus) Have Brought Him Out Before You (All), and Especially Before You, King Agrippa, So that After the Examination Has Taken Place, I May Have Something to Write to (Caesar). For It Seems to Me Unreasonable To Send a Prisoner and Not to Specify the Charges Against Him.” **Acts 25:23-27 (NKJV)**

REVIEW - Last Week

Then (King Herod) Agrippa (II) said to Festus (Procurator / Governor), “I also would like to hear the Man (Paul) Myself.” Then He (Festus) said, “Tomorrow, You Shall Hear (by My Command) Him.”

Acts 25:22

Last Week’s Hanging Question

“What Will Paul Testify To This Incestuous Couple Concerning The Good News?”

Temporary Answer

Unfortunately, We Have To Kick That Question Down The Block

As We Set The Stage For Paul’s Presentation of the Gospel Message To All Those Gathered.

Today’s Setting

So, the Next Day, When King (Herod) Agrippa (II) and (Queen) Bernice Had Come with ‘Great Pomp’, and had entered the Auditorium with the **Commanders** and the **Prominent Men** of the **City (Caesarea Maritima)**, at (Governor) Festus’ Command Paul was Brought In. **Acts 25:23**

“With ‘Great Pomp’ & ‘Circumstance’”

Pomp & Circumstance

“An Elaborate Display of Formal & Ceremonial Awe, ¹ Adoration, ² & Praise ³ Given To Important Persons & Their Lifestyle: Philosophy, Position, Possessions, Power, Prestige, & Prosperity”

Excerpts From “Othello” by William Shakespeare

Agrippa & Bernice’s Lifestyle

- 1) Philosophy** or Worldview – Mixed Religious & Secular Human Thinking & Living
- 2) Position** of Selling Out Their Own People & Faith As Vassal’s of Roman Rule
- 3) Possessions** of Land, People, & Wealth Through Taxes, Trade Routes, & Deals
- 4) Power** – Almost Unlimited Save The Roman Caesar Above Them
- 5) Prestige** – Everyone Gives You Their Allegiance & Cooperation As They Need Your Approval
- 6) Prosperity** – Their Wealth & Decadence Gives Them The Right To Flaunt Themselves & Their Lifestyle. They Demand The Approval of Those Less Affluent & Under Their Patronage or Rule, Despite Their Disgust, Evil, & Irreverent Behavior

Festus Recaps The Main Point of Contention of Recent Trial of Paul For The Esteemed Audience And Festus said: “King Agrippa and All the Men Who Are Here Present with Us, You See This Man (Paul) About Whom the Whole Assembly of the Jews (Sanhedrin Council) Petitioned Me, both at Jerusalem and Here (Caesarea Maritima), Crying Out ‘That He Was Not Fit to Live Any Longer’” **Acts 25:24**

Festus Recaps The Main Findings of Paul's Recent Trial

"But When I (Festus) Found that He Had Committed Nothing Deserving of Death, and that He Himself Had Appealed to (Caesar) 'Augustus', I Decided To Send Him (to Rome)." Acts 25:25

Festus States The Reason He Has Invited All of Them Together To Hear Paul Themselves

"(However), I (Festus) Have Nothing Certain To Write to 'My Lord' Concerning Him. Therefore, I Have Brought Him Out Before You (All), and Especially Before You, King Agrippa, So that After the Examination Has Taken Place, I May Have Something to Write to (Caesar)." Acts 25:26

Central Question

"What Was Festus Hoping Would Happen After All His Distinguished Guests Heard Paul Themselves?"

1st Central Answer

They Would Give Him Something Important & Legal Sounding To Send As A Formal Allegation To Accompany the Roman Delegation of Soldiers to Rome With Paul As Their Prisoner.

2nd Central Answer

They, Especially King Agrippa II, Would Take Paul's Arrest & Future Into His (Their) Own Hands, And Alleviate Any Responsibility From Festus As Governor.

Therefore, He Could Legally Rescind Paul's Appeal To Caesar Himself.

Finally, Festus Discloses His Anxiety Over Sending Paul To Rome

"For It Seems to Me Unreasonable To Send a Prisoner And Not to Specify the Charges Against Him."

Acts 25:27

Important Future Question

"Will Governor Festus Find His Way Out Of His Dilemma Of Sending Paul To Rome With No Sure Set of Charges To Accompany Him?"

Central Future Question

"Over The Next Three Weeks,

As We See Paul's Gospel Presentation of Good News:

Will Governor Festus, King Agrippa II, Queen Bernice, Or Any Other Prominent Guest Hear, ¹ Be Enlightened, ² Understand, ³ Be Convicted, ⁴ Repent, ⁵ & Accept ⁶

God's Offer of Forgiveness, Grace, Mercy, & New Life, & Surrender ⁷

Their Will To Gods Will Through His Abiding & Indwelling Holy Spirit?"

Central Truth Of Our Surrendered Lives

"Our Life, Our Presence, Our Actions, Our Intentions, & Our Words, Are Always On Display Before Everyone We Meet!"

Therefore, We Must Always Be Ready In Mind, Body, & Spirit, Continually Surrendered To God's Abiding & Indwelling Holy Spirit Within Us!

So, We Must Be Ready To Do His Perfect Will For Our Lives And Thereby Have An Eternal Impact On Other People's Lives, In The Here & Now Of Today & Tomorrow!"