

“The King & Queen Visit Governor Festus!”

Acts 25:13-22

And after some days King (Herod) Agrippa (II) and (Queen) Bernice came to Caesarea Maritima to greet Festus (Procurator / Governor). When They had been there many days, Festus laid Paul's Case before the King, saying: “There is a certain Man left a Prisoner by Felix (The Former Procurator / Governor), about Whom the Chief Priests and the Elders of the Jews (Of The Sanhedrin Council) informed Me, when I was in Jerusalem, Asking for a Judgment Against Him. To Them I answered, ‘It is not the Custom of the Romans to deliver any man to destruction before the accused meets the accusers face to face, and has opportunity to answer for himself concerning the charge against him.’ Therefore, when They (Inner Circle of the Sanhedrin Council) had come together, without any delay, the next day I (As Governor) sat on the Judgment Seat and Commanded the Man (Paul) to be brought in. When the Accusers stood up, They brought No Accusation Against Him of such things as I supposed, but had some questions against Him about Their Own Religion and about a certain Jesus, Who had died, Whom Paul Affirmed to be Alive. And because I was uncertain of such questions, I asked whether He was willing to go to Jerusalem and there Be Judged Concerning These (Religious) Matters. But when Paul Appealed to be Reserved for the Decision of (Caesar) ‘Augustus’, I Commanded Him To Be Kept (Under House Arrest) till I Could (Officially) Send Him (Directly) to Caesar (Nero).” 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 25:13-22 (NKJV)

CQ1

“Who Is King Herod Agrippa II & His Queen Bernice?”

CA1a

King Marcus Julius Agrippa II was the Son of Herod Agrippa I. He had Three Sisters: Berenice, Mariamne, & Drusilla. His Kingship Was Broadened & Backed Personally By Emperor Nero.

CA1b

The Youngest Sister, Drusilla, was married to the Procurator / Governor Marcus Antonius Felix, the Past Roman Ruler of Palestine. Thus, Marcus Agrippa & Marcus Felix were Brother-In-Laws. Therefore, This New Official Political Visit Was Also A Family Consolidation of Power & Rule, To Cement A New Bond of Trust & Dependence with the New Roman Leader, Porcius Festus.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Drusilla - Youngest Daughter of Herod Agrippa 1st

The chief other source of information regarding Drusilla is Josephus' History. Drusilla was the Youngest of the Three Daughters of Herod Agrippa I, Her Sisters – Bernice the oldest, and the middle child, Mariamne. Herod Agrippa I had Only One Heir and Son, Herod Agrippa II.

Drusilla was born about 38 A.D. and was married at the age of 14 in 52 A.D. to Azizus, Priest / King of Emeza (Arabic Kingdom of Southeastern Modern Day Turkey & Syria). Shortly afterward, about 1 year later, Drusilla Was Seduced to desert her husband by Marcus Antonius Felix, Who employed a Cyprian Sorcerer, Simon (Magnus), to Carry Out His Seductive Purposes. Drusilla was also influenced to take this step by the Cruelty & Abuse of her Husband Azizus and the Hatred of Her Sister, Bernice, Who was always jealous of Drusilla's Beauty.

In fact, Bernice Who helped make the arrangements to marry off Drusilla to Azizus in the first place, as a long-standing tension had existed between the Kingdom of Emeza & the Line of Idumean Kings of Her Father's Lineage. This marriage was supposed to ease tensions between the Two Roman Vassal Kingdoms.

Her Marriage to Felix took place in 54 A.D. and She had one Son, Agrippa III, Who perished at the age of 23, under the Rule of Emperor Titus during the Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D.

See: Josephus Flavius' History – Antiquities: XX, vii, 2

CA1c

It was also a well-known fact, documented by **Josephus Flavius**, the Great Historian & Personal Friend of **Agrippa II**, that **Marcus** had a Lifelong Incestuous Affair with His **Sister Julia Berenice**.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Julia Berenice, Oldest Daughter of **Herod Agrippa 1st**

Prior to Her Lifelong Incestuous Affair with Her Brother, **Julia Berenice** was married three times, all in short, successive order, and Mothered Her Only Two Children by Her Second Husband.

She also had an affair with the soon to be **Co-Roman Emperor Titus Caesar Vespasianus**, who was the **General** That Destroyed **Jerusalem** & The **Temple** in **70 A.D.** This Affair Took Place during the Great Jewish Revolt from **66 - 70 A.D.**

Later, She was not allowed to become His Wife because the Roman Court of Popularity among the **Senate** & the **Elite Ruling Families** Denounced Her Jewish - mixed-race genealogy, & Her sorted past / lifestyle.

CQ2

“What Is The Purpose Of This Royal Visit?”

CA2

Much Like The **New Governor Festus**’ Earlier Visit To **Jerusalem**

To Greet The **Jewish High Priest** & **Sanhedrin Council** To Pay His **Respects**.

So Now, The **King of Palestine** Now Visits The **New Governor** To Pay His **Respects** As Well!

... And after some days **King (Herod) Agrippa (II)** and (**Queen**) **Bernice** came to **Caesarea Maritima** to greet **Festus (Procurator / Governor)**. Acts 25:13

CQ3

*“Why Does **Governor Festus** Retell The Entire Story To **King Agrippa** Concerning The **Jewish Sanhedrin Council** & Their Case Against **Paul**?”*

CA3a

To Assure The **Regional Vassal King of Rome**

That The **Roman Empire** Has His Back In All These Affairs Concerning The **Jewish People**.

And That This Problem Is Soon To Go Away,

As **Paul** Is Being Sent Officially To **Rome** To Be Judged By **Emperor Nero** Himself!

CA3b

Further, **Paul’s** Only Offense Was **Merely Religious In Nature**. He Also Is Trying To Assure **Agrippa** That The **Emperor** Was Sure To Take Care Of This **Jewish Question** To Everyone’s Favor!

Important Question Of Historicity

*“Why Did Luke Say, That **Paul’s** Direct Appeal Of The Right Of Roman Citizenship*

*Was Made To The **Ruling Emperor Nero**, But Whose Official Title Was Instead ‘Augustus’?”*

Festus Opines, *“But when **Paul** Appealed to be Reserved for the Decision of (Caesar) ‘Augustus’, I Commanded Him To Be Kept (Under House Arrest) till I Could (Officially) Send Him (Directly) to **Caesar (Nero)**.”* Acts 25:21

Important Historical Answer

The Roman Title **‘Augustus’** Had Been Applied To **Every Emperor**

From **Octavianus Augustus Caesar** On Down To **Caesar Nero**,

And Was In Continual Use Until The Fall of **Constantinople** In **1453 A.D.**

NOTE

Σεβαστός] - **‘Sebastos’** / **‘Venerandus’** in Greek & **‘Augustus’** in Latin / Roman,

Was A Well-Known Royal Title Given To All of the Emperors Since the Time of Octavianus Augustus.

Meaning: *“What is Venerable, Worthy of Honor, Majesty, or Reverence!”*

Next Week's Central Question

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

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

Question For My Walk With God With Week?

"How Do I Use This Week, What I Have Learned Today?"

Questions & Answers In My Head Right Now!

- A) I Do Not Know Who I Will Meet This Week?
- B) I Do Not Know What I Will Have To Testify To?
- C) Nonetheless, I Do Know What God Wants Me To Do Every Day I Am Alive!

What I Will Do This Week!

- 1) I Will Testify To What Jesus Has Done In The History of the World To Today.
- 2) I Will Witness To What Jesus Has Done In My Life Till Now.
- 3) I Will Tell Everyone, Every Day, The Good News Of His Gospel Of Forgiveness & Grace That Is Still Available To All Who Call On His Name By Faith.
- 4) I Will Prophecy Of What Jesus Is Going To Do Soon In The History Of The World.