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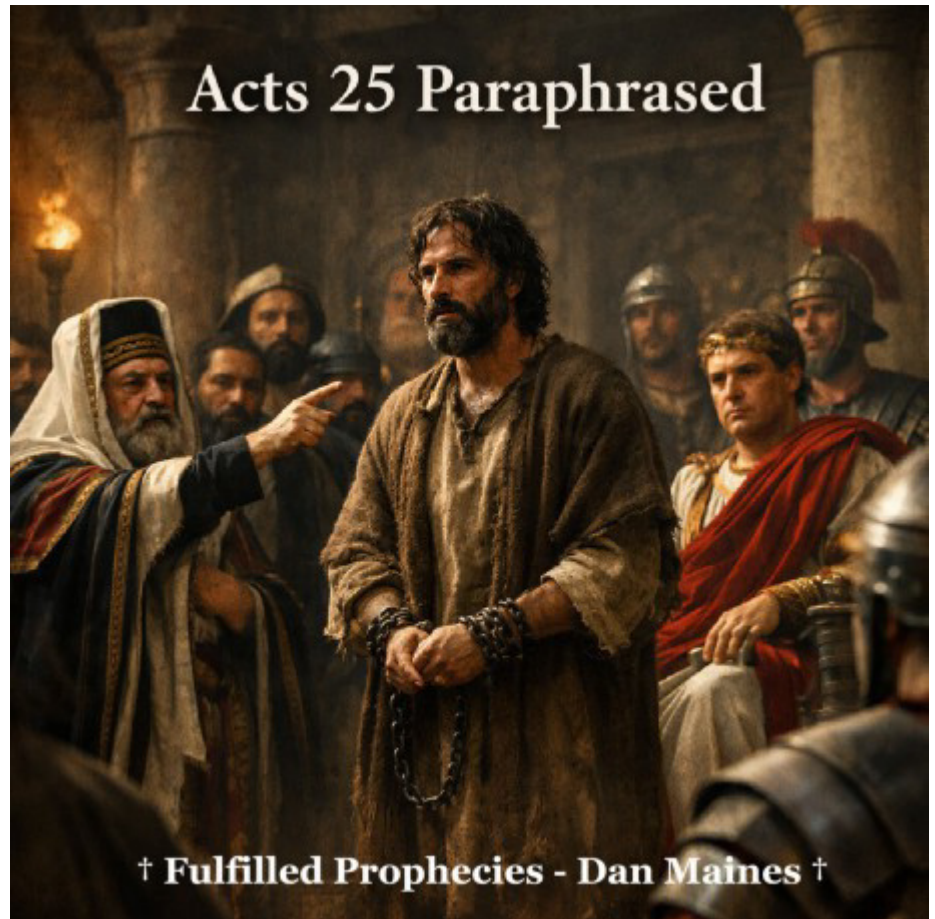
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Acts 25 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Acts 25 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This chapter shows Paul standing before Roman authority while the Jews continue seeking his death

† It reveals how God's plan moves Paul toward Rome through legal appeals and political pressure

† It confirms that the gospel is not stopped by persecution but advanced through it (Philippians 1:12-13)

Acts 25:1

Festus arrived in the province and after three days went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem

† Leadership changes, but the hostility against the truth remains

† The Jews seize every opportunity to renew their accusations against Paul

† God is still directing events even through political transitions (Proverbs 21:1)

Acts 25:2

The chief priests and leading men of the Jews brought charges against Paul and kept urging Festus

† Their persistence shows hardened unbelief, not a desire for justice

† This reflects the same opposition Jesus faced (John 15:18-20)

† Religious leaders can resist truth when it threatens their authority

Acts 25:3

They asked for a favor against Paul, that he be brought to Jerusalem, while planning to ambush and kill him along the way

† Their intent is murder, not law, proving their corruption

† This mirrors earlier plots against Paul (Acts 23:12-15)

† God continues to protect His servant from hidden schemes (Psalm 37:32-33)

Acts 25:4

Festus answered that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself was about to go there shortly

† God uses even unbelieving rulers to prevent evil plans

† Festus unknowingly blocks the ambush

† The Lord's protection often comes through ordinary decisions

Acts 25:5

He said let those who have authority among you go down with me and accuse the man if there is anything wrong about him

- † Festus insists on legal process rather than manipulation
- † Truth can stand under examination, false accusations cannot
- † This aligns with proper judgment standards (Deuteronomy 19:15)

Acts 25:6

After staying among them no more than eight or ten days he went down to Caesarea and the next day took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought

- † The trial setting shows Roman authority in action
- † Paul is brought again to give testimony
- † God continues positioning Paul before rulers as promised (Acts 9:15)

Acts 25:7

When Paul arrived the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him bringing many serious charges which they could not prove

- † Accusations without evidence expose their falsehood
- † Truth does not need exaggeration, lies depend on it
- † This reflects the trial of Christ with false witnesses (Mark 14:55-56)

Acts 25:8

Paul said in his defense I have committed no offense against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar

- † Paul stands on truth, not emotion
- † He affirms innocence in all areas, religious and civil
- † The gospel does not produce rebellion against lawful authority (Romans 13:1-2)

Acts 25:9

But Festus wanting to do the Jews a favor answered Paul and said are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there concerning these things

- † Political pressure begins to influence judgment
- † Leaders often compromise justice to gain favor

† This shows the weakness of human authority without truth

Acts 25:10

Paul said I am standing before Caesar's tribunal where I ought to be tried I have done no wrong to the Jews as you also know very well

† Paul appeals to proper jurisdiction

† He exposes that Festus already knows his innocence

† Truth boldly confronts compromised authority

Acts 25:11

If I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death I do not refuse to die but if none of those things is true of which these men accuse me no one can hand me over to them I appeal to Caesar

† Paul shows willingness to accept justice if guilty

† His appeal to Caesar fulfills God's plan to bring him to Rome (Acts 23:11)

† The gospel will reach the highest levels of authority

Acts 25:12

Then when Festus had conferred with his council he answered you have appealed to Caesar to Caesar you shall go

† The decision is sealed, Paul will go to Rome

† God's promise is moving forward through legal process

† What looks like imprisonment is actually divine direction

Acts 25:13

Now when several days had passed King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and paid their respects to Festus

† God brings more rulers into contact with Paul's testimony

† Agrippa represents Jewish authority under Rome

† This sets the stage for further witness

Acts 25:14

While they were staying there many days Festus laid Paul's case before the king saying there is a man who was left as a

prisoner by Felix

† Paul's case becomes a matter of discussion among rulers

† The gospel continues spreading through official channels

† God uses every opportunity to bring truth before leaders

Acts 25:15

When I was at Jerusalem the chief priests and elders of the Jews brought charges against him asking for a sentence of condemnation against him

† Their desire is condemnation, not truth

† This reflects hardened rejection of the gospel

† Religious systems often oppose what exposes them

Acts 25:16

I answered them that it is not the custom of the Romans to hand over any man before the accused meets his accusers face to face and has an opportunity to defend himself

† Roman law required fairness in trial

† This highlights the injustice of the Jewish leaders

† Truth benefits from open examination

Acts 25:17

So after they assembled here I did not delay but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought

† Festus emphasizes his prompt handling of the case

† The legal process continues under scrutiny

† Paul remains central in God's unfolding plan

Acts 25:18

When the accusers stood up they began bringing charges against him not of such crimes as I was expecting

† Even Festus recognizes the weakness of their accusations

† The issue is not criminal but theological

† The gospel often confuses those outside it

Acts 25:19

They simply had some points of disagreement with him about

their own religion and about a dead man Jesus whom Paul asserted to be alive

† This is the core issue, the resurrection of Christ

† The entire conflict centers on whether Jesus lives

† This truth defines the gospel message (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

Acts 25:20

Being at a loss how to investigate such matters I asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and stand trial there concerning these matters

† Festus admits confusion about spiritual truth

† Natural reasoning cannot grasp spiritual realities

† This shows the limitation of human understanding (1 Corinthians 2:14)

Acts 25:21

But when Paul appealed to be held in custody for the Emperor's decision I ordered him to be kept in custody until I send him to Caesar

† Paul's appeal continues to move him toward Rome

† God's plan is unfolding step by step

† What seems like delay is divine timing

Acts 25:22

Then Agrippa said to Festus I also would like to hear the man myself tomorrow he said you shall hear him

† God brings Agrippa to hear the gospel

† Paul's testimony will reach yet another ruler

† This fulfills Christ's commission to witness before kings

Acts 25:23

So on the next day when Agrippa came together with Bernice amid great pomp and entered the auditorium accompanied by the commanders and the prominent men of the city at the command of Festus Paul was brought in

† The scene contrasts earthly glory with spiritual truth

† Paul stands as a prisoner, yet carries the truth of God

† The gospel stands before power without fear

Acts 25:24

Festus said King Agrippa and all you gentlemen here present with us you see this man about whom all the people of the Jews appealed to me both at Jerusalem and here loudly declaring that he ought not to live any longer

† Public pressure is intense against Paul

† The crowd seeks death, not justice

† This echoes the cries against Jesus (Luke 23:21)

Acts 25:25

But I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death and since he himself appealed to the Emperor I decided to send him

† Even the governor confirms Paul's innocence

† The case has no legal basis

† Yet the process continues because of political pressure

Acts 25:26

Yet I have nothing definite about him to write to my lord therefore I have brought him before you all and especially before you King Agrippa so that after the investigation has taken place I may have something to write

† Festus seeks clarity because the charges lack substance

† Truth cannot be clearly condemned because it stands firm

† God uses this hearing to expand Paul's witness

Acts 25:27

For it seems absurd to me in sending a prisoner not to indicate also the charges against him

† The case exposes the emptiness of the accusations

† Even secular authority recognizes the lack of evidence

† The gospel stands innocent before all accusations

Historical References

† Josephus records the corruption and violent plots of the Jewish leaders during this period, confirming their willingness to

use deceit and murder

† Tacitus describes Roman legal customs that required fair trials and proper charges, aligning with Festus' statements

† Eusebius notes how early believers saw Paul's trials as fulfillment of Christ's words about standing before rulers

How it applies to us today

† Truth doesn't need manipulation, it stands on its own even under pressure

† God is still working through governments and circumstances even when they seem opposed

† The resurrection of Christ remains the central dividing line, just as it was in Paul's day

† We can trust God's direction even when our path includes trials and delays

† The gospel advances even when it looks like we're being restrained

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why did Paul appeal to Caesar?

A: It was part of God's plan to bring the gospel to Rome (Acts 23:11)

Q: What was the real issue in Paul's trial?

A: The resurrection of Jesus (Acts 25:19)

Q: Why couldn't the Jews prove their charges?

A: Because their accusations were false and based on opposition to truth (Mark 14:55-56)

Q: What does this chapter show about authority?

A: Human authority can be influenced by pressure, but God still works through it (Proverbs 21:1)

Q: How should we respond to injustice?

A: Stand in truth and trust God's plan, just as Paul did (1 Peter 2:19-20)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

- † Acts 25
- † Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews
- † Tacitus, Histories
- † Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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