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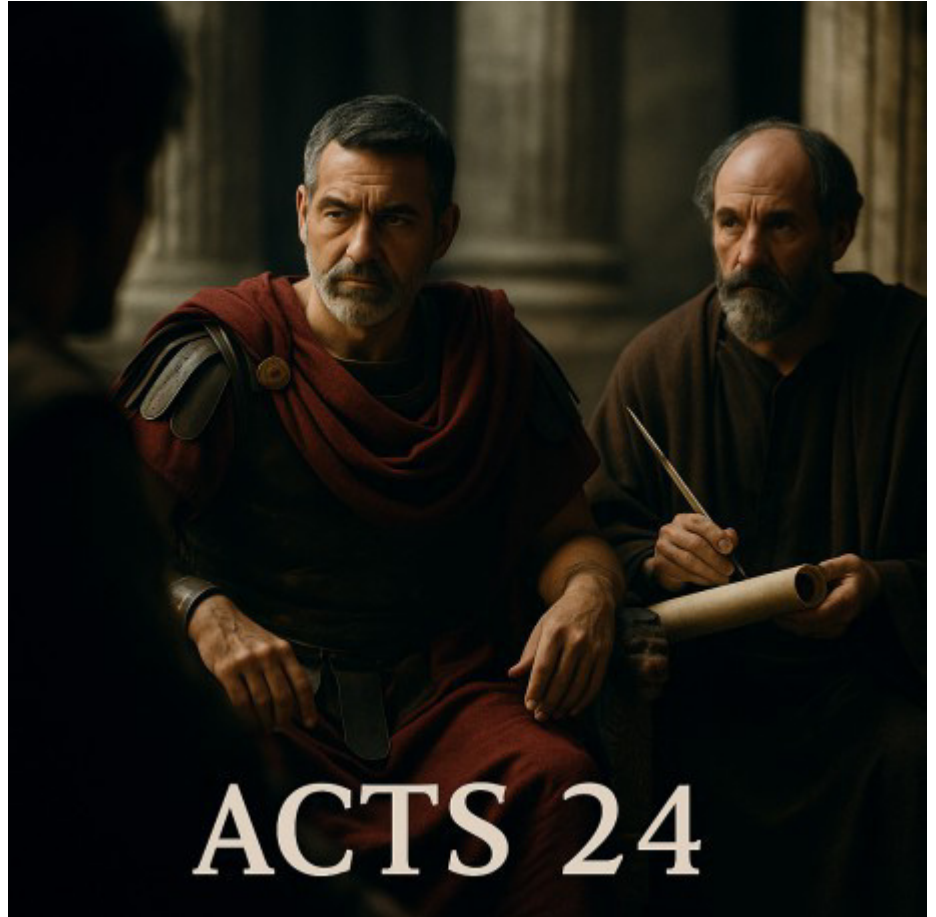
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Acts 24 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

## **Acts 24**

### **Acts 24:1**

Now after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders, with an attorney named Tertullus, and they brought charges to the governor against Paul.

† The Jewish leaders hired Tertullus, a professional orator, to prosecute Paul before Felix. Roman courts often used skilled advocates to sway officials.

## **Acts 24:2-4**

After Paul had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying to the governor, "We have attained great peace through you, and reforms are being carried out for this nation by your foresight; we acknowledge this in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness. But, that I may not weary you further, I beg you to grant us a brief hearing, by your kindness."

† Tertullus used flattery, common in Roman courts, though Felix's rule was marked by cruelty and corruption.

† Tacitus (Histories 5.9) describes Felix as ruling with "the power of a king but the mind of a slave," confirming his corrupt reputation.

## **Acts 24:5-6**

"For we have found this man to be a public menace and one who stirs up dissensions among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. And he even tried to desecrate the temple, so indeed we arrested him."

† The accusations painted Paul as a dangerous agitator, a sect leader, and a violator of the temple. These charges mirrored the accusations against Jesus.

## **Acts 24:7-9**

"But Lysias the commander came along, and with much violence took him out of our hands, ordering his accusers to come before you. By interrogating him yourself concerning all these matters, you will be able to ascertain the things of which we are accusing him." The Jews also joined in the attack, asserting that these things were so.

† The Jewish leaders distorted events, blaming Lysias for violence and exaggerating Paul's actions.

### **Acts 24:10-13**

When the governor had nodded for him to speak, Paul responded: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense, since you can take note of the fact that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. And neither in the temple, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city did they find me carrying on a discussion with anyone or causing a riot. Nor can they prove to you the charges of which they are now accusing me."

† Paul's defense was calm, factual, and based on verifiable truth. His short stay in Jerusalem showed he had no time to cause sedition.

### **Acts 24:14-15**

"But I confess this to you, that in accordance with the Way, which they call a sect, I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked."

† Paul affirmed his faith in the God of Israel, aligning himself with the Law and Prophets. His real "offense" was proclaiming the resurrection.

### **Acts 24:16**

"In view of this, I also do my best to maintain a blameless conscience both before God and before other people, always."

† Paul's integrity was central to his defense. His conscience was clear before both God and man.

### **Acts 24:17-19**

"Now after several years I came to bring charitable gifts to my nation and to present offerings, in which they found me occupied in the temple, having been purified, without any crowd

or uproar. But there were some Jews from Asia—who ought to have been present before you and to have been bringing charges, if they should have anything against me."

† Paul highlighted that his purpose in Jerusalem was charity and worship, not disturbance. The accusers who started the riot were absent.

### **Acts 24:20-21**

"Or else have these men themselves declare what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the Council, other than in regard to this one declaration which I shouted while standing among them: 'For the resurrection of the dead I am on trial before you today!'"

† Paul again pointed to the resurrection as the true dividing issue.

### **Acts 24:22-23**

But Felix, having quite accurate knowledge about the Way, adjourned them, saying, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case." He gave orders to the centurion for him to be kept in custody, and yet to have some freedom, and not to prevent any of his friends from providing for his needs.

† Felix delayed judgment, unwilling to decide. His knowledge of the Way shows Christianity was no small or obscure movement.

### **Acts 24:24-25**

Now some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla his wife, who was Jewish, and sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and responded, "Go away for now, and when I have an opportunity I will summon you."

† Paul boldly preached to Felix and Drusilla about judgment, causing fear. Drusilla was the daughter of Herod Agrippa I, adding political weight to the scene.

† Josephus (Antiquities 20.7.2) records Drusilla's marriage to Felix, noting its scandalous nature.

### **Acts 24:26-27**

At the same time he was also hoping that money would be given to him by Paul; therefore he also used to send for him quite often and talk with him. But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and since he wanted to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned.

† Felix's corruption is exposed—he hoped for a bribe from Paul. His decision to leave Paul in prison was political expediency.

† Tacitus confirms Felix's corruption and eventual recall to Rome, while Festus succeeded him around AD 59.

### **How it applies to us today**

† Believers must respond to false accusations with truth and integrity.

† Our hope in the resurrection is central to faith and mission.

† The gospel convicts rulers and the powerful, exposing sin and corruption.

† God's providence works even through corrupt leaders and unjust delays.

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

### **Source Index**

† Tacitus, Histories 5.9 – Character of Felix

† Josephus, Antiquities 20.7.2 – Drusilla's marriage to Felix

† Josephus, Antiquities 20.9.2 – Ananias the high priest

† Cicero, Against Verres 2.5 – Roman corruption in legal

proceedings

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