

The Book of Acts

“You Shall Be My Witnesses”

**The Establishment and Growth
of the Lord’s Church**

Acts 9:15

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel:

Roman and Jewish Rulers

Roman Emperors	Roman Procurators	Jewish Kings
Augustus (27 B.C. - A.D. 14) Luke 2:1	Quirinius (6-12) Luke 2:1	Herod the Great Luke 1:5
Tiberius (14-37) Luke 3:1	Pontius Pilate (26-36) Luke 13:1	Herod Archelaus Matthew 2:22
Claudius (51-54) Acts 11:28	M. Antonius Felix (52-58) Acts 23:24	Herod Antipas Mark 6:14-28
Nero (54-68) Acts 25:11	Porcius Festus (58-62) Acts 24:27	Herod Philip Mark 6:17
		Herod Agrippa I (41-44) Acts 12:1
		Herod Agrippa II (48-93) Acts 25:13

Caesarea (Maritima)



Caesarea (Maritima)





Ruins of King Herod's Palace
(Praetorium)

Bonds and Afflictions Await Me

1. Falsely accused by the Jews based upon pure supposition and then mobbed in the temple (Acts 21)
2. Jews riot against him again and almost scourged by the Romans (Acts 22)

Bonds and Afflictions Await Me

3. Unlawfully struck in the council, the Jews plot to assassinate him, and held in bonds even though he was innocent (Acts 23)
4. Falsely accused by secondary accusers and continued to be held in bonds for self-serving reasons (Acts 24)

Felix and Paul

Felix

- Intelligent
- Unrighteous
- Lacked self-control
- Giving judgment

Paul

- Reasoned
- Righteousness
- Self-control
- Judgment to come

Problems with a Convenient Season

1. Jesus may come first
2. You may get hardened first
3. You don't understand the severity of the situation; we are not to be thinking "convenience" to start with

Cases of Non-Conversion in Acts

- Jews before Stephen (Acts 7) – because they stopped their ears and didn't want to be convicted by the truth
- Jews at Antioch (Acts 13) and Thessalonica (Acts 17) – because of jealousy and people leaving them for Jesus

Cases of Non-Conversion in Acts

- Jews at Iconium (Acts 14) – because of unbelief/disobedience in Jesus
- Jews at Athens (Acts 17) – because of intellectual arrogance and mocking the simple truth

Cases of Non-Conversion in Acts

- Greeks at Ephesus (Acts 19) – because they feared losing money or their jobs
- Jews in Jerusalem (Acts 22) – because of prejudice; they didn't like just one word Paul said ("Gentiles")

Cases of Non-Conversion in Acts

- Felix (Acts 24) – because of delay and a “convenient” season; procrastination
- King Agrippa (Acts 26) – because of “almost” (short time) being persuaded

Acts 24

Lessons for Today

1. People who make accusations against others should not do so from “second hand” information (24:1-9). False accusations against anyone should be addressed and answered (24:10-16; Jn. 18:23). People who make accusations against others should be present in person (when possible) to face those who they are accusing (24:17-21).

Acts 24

Lessons for Today

2. There will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust (24:15, 21; Jn. 5:28-29).
3. People today need to hear about “the faith in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:22; Gal. 2:16; 3:22; Phil. 3:9), righteousness, self-control, and judgment to come (24:24-25; Jn. 16:8).

Acts 24

Lessons for Today

4. People still procrastinate and put off obedience until a “convenient season” which often never comes (24:25; 2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7).
5. Greed and self-serving favor will keep people from obeying the truth of God’s word (24:26-27; 1 Cor. 5:10-11; 6:10; 2 Pet. 2:3, 14-15).

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Acts 25

Lessons for Today

1. Just because someone brings a charge against you doesn't mean it's true (25:7; Mk. 15:3-4; Lk. 23:2, 10).
2. Don't be afraid to stand up for yourself when you are falsely accused (25:8-12; Dan. 6:22).

Acts 25

Lessons for Today

3. It is unreasonable to hold someone for a crime without written charges against him (25:26-27; Jn. 7:51).

Acts 26

Lessons for Today

1. We should be happy to defend ourselves with the truth when we have done nothing wrong (26:2; 1 Cor. 9:3).
2. It is good to be trained from your youth up to serve God (26:4-6; Psa. 71:5, 17; Eccl. 12:1; 2 Tim. 3:15).

Acts 26

Lessons for Today

3. Our hope is to one day be resurrected with the just after we die (26:6-8; Lk. 14:14).
4. We need to preach the gospel to people so they can turn from the “darkness” of sin and error, to the “light” of righteousness and truth (26:18, 23; Jn. 8:12; 12:35; 2 Cor. 4:4-6).

Acts 26

Lessons for Today

5. Faith in Christ makes us sanctified (26:18; Jn. 4:10, 14; 7:38-39; Rom. 5:1-2; Gal. 2:20).
6. Let us never be disobedient to the commands and commissions of Jesus (26:19; Ezek. 2:7-8; 3:14; Gal. 1:16-17).

Acts 26

Lessons for Today

7. True repentance will show itself in works (26:20; Mt. 3:8).
8. God will help us (26:22; 2 Cor. 1:8-10; 2 Tim. 3:11; 4:17-18).

Acts 26

Lessons for Today

9. Faithful Christians have nothing to hide. Truth, soberness, and openness should always be their practice and it also provides a good defense when falsely accused (26:25-26; 2 Cor. 4:2; Tit. 2:7-8).

Acts 26

Lessons for Today

10. Don't be almost persuaded to become a Christian. Be all together persuaded and do it before it is too late (26:28; Mk. 6:20; 10:17-22).
11. Are we living the faithful Christian life that we can say to others, like Paul, "become such as I am" (26:29; 1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 4:9)?