

Acts 26

King James Version (KJV)

26 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself: (Paul stretched forth his hand to show that he is in chains)

²I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews:

³Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently. (King Agrippa knew the Jewish religion and traditions; as well as Roman law)

⁴My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; (Paul had studied in the temple at Jerusalem, with all of these same Jews)

⁵Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. (Paul was a zealous Pharisee. He persecuted Christians, before Jesus straightened him out)

⁶And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God, unto our fathers: Isaiah-7:14 (A virgin shall conceive and you shall call the child Immanuel – God with us)

(Agrippa knew the scriptures. He knows what Paul is referring to)

⁷Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. (He is accused by the Sadducees - because he is preaching life after death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ)

⁸Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead? (If it was a crime, they would have to prosecute the entire sect of the Pharisees. None of this was against Roman law)

⁹I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. (Paul persecuted Christians)

¹⁰ Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. (Paul admits that he did the same thing to Christians that these Kenites now want to do to him)

(Although he never killed any of them, he spoke against them in favor of the murderers. Paul carried this guilt within himself his whole life)

NOTE: (This is typical behavior for an evil cult. When one of them changes to the good side, the rest of them turn against him in order to destroy him. We see the same behavior today, with the Muslims. When one of them converts to Christianity, the others kill him)

¹¹ And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities. (Paul had used the same crooked tactics against Christians that these Kenites are now using against him)

¹² Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, (These same false priests sent him to arrest Christians in Damascus)

¹³ At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. (This was Paul's conversion to Christianity. Jesus gave him an attitude adjustment)

¹⁴ And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. (The prick is a cattle prod or a goad. Paul is only hurting himself for kicking against the prod. No one can stop God's plan of salvation)

(On a deeper level, the prick is also the center point of a compass. If you move the point, then you cannot draw a perfect circle. The circles are symbolic for God's plan) see Job-38

¹⁵ And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. (Paul didn't know that Messiah had arrived and defeated death; although he knew the scriptures very well)

¹⁶ But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; (God called Paul to His service)

Chapter-9:15 (Paul was a chosen person by God)

NOTE: (God chose the Elect in the First Age because they remained loyal to Him when Lucifer rebelled against God < the Katabole>. Now, in the Second Age <the age of flesh> He was calling Paul to His service) see 2Peter-3

¹⁷ Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, (God chooses whosoever He will to do His work)

¹⁸ To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. (To educate people that there is salvation open to them – IF they so choose to follow it. They can't choose salvation if they don't know about it. Christianity is voluntary. We all choose our own fate)

¹⁹ Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: Ephesians-1:4, Romans-8:26-on

²⁰ But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. (Paul obeyed God. He taught the Gospel to whoever wanted to learn it)

²¹ For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me. (Paul broke no laws – Jewish or Roman)

(The Pharisees thought that he had no right to include Gentiles in God's message of salvation. The Sadducees objected to his resurrection message)

²² Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: (The prophets of the Old Testament all prophesied of the coming of God as Messiah. Agrippa knew all of this)

²³ That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles. **Psalms-22, Isaiah-7:14 (Again, this was all prophesied before the fact)**

(Jesus defeated death on the cross. Death is one of Satan's names. He will die at the end of the Millennium, for what he did to Jesus Christ)

²⁴ And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. **(Festus wasn't very bright. He was just a political animal. Festus was obviously a worshipper of the Roman gods and saw Paul's faith as a threat)**

²⁵ But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness. **(The truth is never madness)**

²⁶ For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner. **(Jesus never worked in the shadows)**

(Jesus performed many miracles in the sight of people. There were witnesses to all of His good works. King Agrippa knows all about Christianity. He's sitting right there next to Festus)

²⁷ King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

²⁸ Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. **(Agrippa was a Jew, but not a Christian. Almost, but not quite – these three will rule against Paul)**

²⁹ And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds. **(Paul wished that they all converted to Christianity, like he did)**

³⁰ And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them:

³¹ And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds. **(Paul committed no crimes)**

³² Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar. (They knew he was innocent. But having appealed to Caesar, it was out of their hands)

(But, if Paul had not appealed to Caesar, Festus would have convicted him before Agrippa showed up. God told Paul that he was going to Rome, and he was going)