

1. The new characters we meet in Acts 23 and 24:

a. Ananias the High Priest

1) He had a doubtful reputation.

2) Paul submits to his authority because he respects the office of High Priest.

b. Paul's nephew

c. Marcus Antonius Felix

1) He was a freed man who had once been a slave in the household of the daughter of Mark Anthony and Octavia, the sister-in-law of Tiberias Caesar.

2) His brother Pallas was a high official under the emperor Claudius.

3) His wife was the youngest daughter of Herod Agrippa, through whom he gained a "rather accurate knowledge of 'The Way'"

4) He had the unrest between the Gentiles and Jews in Caesarea Philippi to manage.

5) He kept Paul under guard for 2 years and did nothing to resolve the case.

d. Porcius Festus

2. The Significant differences between the Pharisees and the Sadducees:

a. The belief in the resurrection of the dead angels, demons and immortality – the Pharisees believed in these things; the Sadducees did not.

b. The commitment to the law and religious rituals – the Pharisees were fanatical about keeping the Law and all the rituals and the Sadducees were not.

c. The way the people viewed them – the Pharisees were respected; the Sadducees were hated.

3. “The Way”

a. Christianity is not a set of doctrines that you intellectually assent to

b. Christianity is a way of living.

1. Felix is recalled to Rome and replaced by Festus.
 - a. He had no knowledge of the Christian belief system.
 - b. He wanted to ingratiate himself with the Jews he was now governing.
 - c. Paul appeals to Caesar.
 - d. Herod Agrippa II and his sister Bernice are interested in hearing about Paul's case.
 - 1) His opinion was that Paul could have been released had he not appealed to Caesar.
 - 2) Paul would have the opportunity to preach Christ in Rome.
 - 3) Paul tried to induce Agrippa to personally respond to the Gospel.
 - 4) Paul's statement, "I put many saints in prison and when they were put to death I cast my vote against them." Two possible meanings:
 - a) Paul agreed with the death penalty.
 - b) Paul was a former member of the Sanhedrin.
2. The clarity of Pauls' call from God and the role it played in his life:
 - a. Paul displayed tremendous perseverance.
 - b. God still calls individuals to specific tasks and specific places.

1. Luke does not tell us the outcome of Paul's appeal to Caesar.

2. The voyage from Caesarea to Rome was eventful:
 - a. Luke and Aristarchus elect to go with Paul to Rome.

 - b. The Roman centurion, Julius, and Paul quickly develop a relationship of friendship and respect.

 - c. Paul was asked to play a part in the decision's made aboard ship.

 - d. The story of the storm is like the story of Jonah in reverse.

 - e. The presence of an obedient servant of God in the midst of unbelievers is often a great blessing to them.

 - f. The snake that bit Paul on Malta was a "sign" – "... (they) will pick up snakes with their hands and when they drink deadly poison it will not hurt them at all."

 - g. "The First Man of Malta" is an actual title verified by archaeology.

3. When Paul arrives in Rome, he follows the same strategy as a prisoner that he did as a free man.

1. Joshua wrote most of the Book of Joshua.

2. God chose Joshua to be Israel's next leader.

3. God prepared Joshua to be the next leader of the nation of Israel.

4. Joshua's name was originally "Hoshea" meaning "salvation". Joshua means "The Lord saves."

5. The Book of Exodus records the story of how God brought Israel "out of" Egypt. The Book of Joshua (its bookend) records the story of how God brought Israel "into" the Promised Land.

1. Israel had to camp before the Jordan River for 3 days before getting any specific instructions from God.

2. The miracle of the drying up of the Jordan River is significant. Why did God do it?

a. God did it for Joshua.

b. God did it for the nation of Israel.

c. God did it to impact the heathen nations in Canaan.

3. The Memorial Stones:

a. They were simple, but powerful, reminders of what God had done for them.

b. It is important to remember.

4. The whole army was circumcised before going into battle.

a. It was the mark of the covenant of God.

b. It is analogous to baptism.

c. Colossians 2:11-12

d. Both circumcision and baptism mark a person out as bearing the covenant sign of God upon them – “This person is part of the family of God.’

5. It is important to feed oneself from the Word of God, to study it, to be lead and guided by the Holy Spirit, and from that to be able to say, “This is what I believe and this is why I believe it.”