



Sunday School Lesson

November 6, 2022

Paul Before King Agrippa II

Acts 26:19-32

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Question for Us Today

How do you respond when someone challenges your faith?

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Sunday School Lesson Objective

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To understand why and how the Apostle Paul offered his defense in front of a king.

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 1

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1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Paul

4 3. Points of Information: King Agrippa
II

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

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4. Lesson Context

5. Lesson Text

6. Consider This

Points of Information – Paul

The Apostle Paul was originally known as Saul of Tarsus. Tarsus was then (and still is) a large Mediterranean city in Turkey. Saul of Tarsus is *not* to be confused with King Saul (of Israel) in the Old Testament. However, both men (with this name) descended from the Hebrew Tribe of Benjamin. 1 Samuel 9:1-2; Romans 11:1.

Paul was a Jew and a Roman citizen by birth. He studied under a well-known professor, Gamaliel. Acts 22:3. Like his teacher and his father, Saul/Paul was a Pharisee. Acts 23:6.

Points of Information – Paul

Before his conversion on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:3-19), Saul/Paul was a zealous believer in God who felt wholly justified in his brutal persecution of Christian men and women. Acts 9:1-2; Galatians 1:13.

A young Saul stood by, guarding the clothes of those who stoned Stephen (the first Christian martyr) to death and approving this murder. Acts 7:58—8:1a.

Points of Information – Paul

The Apostle Paul was a tentmaker by trade. Acts 18:3. This vocation enabled him to support himself and to have a transportable means of making a living during his extensive travels.

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In addition to being a prolific writer, Paul was a powerful preacher who traveled great distances (in three missionary journeys, by land and water) to spread the Gospel of Christ Jesus and to establish numerous churches. He called himself “an apostle to the Gentiles.” Romans 11:13.

Points of Information – Paul

Paul co-ministered with a number of others, including: Luke, Silas, (John) Mark, Barnabas, Timothy, Titus, Apollos, Epaphras, Priscilla and Aquila.

Points of Information – Paul

Paul was *not* one of the original Twelve Disciples who became Apostles. Paul's position as an Apostle was based on the fact that he had a direct and personal encounter on the road to Damascus with the Resurrected Christ Jesus. Acts 9:3-6.

Following his conversion, Saul was anointed by the Holy Spirit and baptized. Acts 9:17-18.

Points of Information – King Agrippa II

King Agrippa II (also known as Herod Agrippa), son of Agrippa I and great-grandson of Herod the Great, was the last ruler in the Herodian dynasty.

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King Agrippa II was in an incestuous relationship with his sister, Bernice (Berenice).

Paul Before King Agrippa II

Lesson Context

Luke and others had pleaded with Paul not to go to Jerusalem. A prophet named Agabus even predicted the shackling and imprisonment of Paul.

Acts 21:4, 10-12

Paul was determined to go to Jerusalem regardless. Acts 21:13

Paul Before King Agrippa II

Lesson Context

After his arrival in Jerusalem and initially positive meetings with Jewish leaders (including James, the half brother of Jesus), Paul was falsely accused and arrested. He was nearly beaten to death by a mob until Roman soldiers rescued him. Then, he was allowed to give a major speech to the crowd.

Acts 21:37—22:21

Paul Before King Agrippa II

Lesson Context

The Roman soldiers were about to severely beat Paul until they realized that he was a Roman citizen.

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Acts 22:24-29

Next, the Roman commander freed Paul from his chains and put him before the Jewish High Council – the Sanhedrin.

Acts 22:30

Paul Before King Agrippa II

Lesson Context

Following an upheaval in the Council, mainly between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, the soldiers took Paul back to their barracks. There, Jesus appeared to Paul with encouragement, telling him that he (Paul) would go to Rome and preach.

Acts 23:11

Paul Before King Agrippa II

Lesson Context

Subsequently, since a group of Jews were now plotting to kill Paul, he was moved (by the soldiers) to Caesarea: where he would be tried successively by Felix (a Roman Governor), Festus (another Roman Governor) and then King Agrippa II.

Acts 24—26

Paul Before King Agrippa II

Lesson Context

Beginning in Acts 25:13, King Agrippa II (with his sister, Bernice), arrived in Caesarea and was briefed by Felix regarding the situation with Paul.

Paul Before King Agrippa II

Lesson Context

The Apostle Paul pleaded his case before the King. He told of his (Paul's) past persecutions of Christians on behalf of the Jews. He even told of his Damascus Road experience with the Risen Christ Jesus.

Paul Before King Agrippa II

Text – UMI Outline #1

19

Acts 26:19-23

Paul Declares His Apostleship

Acts 26:19-20 (NLT)

“And so, King Agrippa, I obeyed that vision from Heaven.

I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God – and prove they have changed by the good things they do.

Acts 26:21

Some Jews arrested me in the Temple for preaching this, and they tried to kill me.

Acts 26:22-23

But God has protected me right up to this present time so I can testify to everyone, from the least to the greatest. I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen –

that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God's light to Jews and Gentiles alike."

Paul Before King Agrippa II

Text – UMI Outline #2

23

Acts 26:24-29

Paul Declares The Truth

Acts 26:24-25

Suddenly, Festus shouted, “Paul, you are insane. Too much study has made you crazy!”

But Paul replied, “I am not insane, Most Excellent Festus. What I am saying is the sober truth.

Acts 26:26-27

And King Agrippa knows about these things. I speak boldly, for I am sure these events are all familiar to him, for they were not done in a corner!

King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do –”

Acts 26:28-29

Agrippa interrupted him. “Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?”

Paul replied, “Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains.”

Paul Before King Agrippa II

Text – UMI Outline #3

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Acts 26:30-32

Paul Declared Innocent

Acts 26:30-31

Then the king, the governor, Bernice, and all the others stood and left.

As they went out, they talked it over and agreed, “This man hasn’t done anything to deserve death or imprisonment.”

Acts 26:32

And Agrippa said to Festus, “He could have been set free if he hadn’t appealed to Caesar.”

Consider this:

We may well be challenged in our faith. We should think about how we would deal with such a situation.

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