

ACTS CH 26 — PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA II

26:1-3

- “The gesture spoken of here is a customary form of dignified oratory, designed to show the earnestness of the speaker. The orator stretched forth the right hand, with the two lowest fingers shut in on the palm of the hand and the other fingers extended.”
- IVP Bible Background Commentary: NT, “Standard defense speeches varied somewhat in form but had general consistency: the address to the judge (26:2-3), the narration (narration of events – 26:4-18) and finally the argumentio (proof of the case – 26:19-23).”

26:4-8

- Paul is pointing out the irony of the situation, based on the fact that the Jews, who believe in the resurrection, and handing him over for preaching the resurrection.
- V8 – Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?
 - Paul is insisting that “It is not in spite of his Jewish heritage but because of it...that he believed and proclaimed what he did.”

OT Passages regarding the Resurrection

- Daniel 12:2, Isaiah 26:19, Hosea 13:14 (1 Cor 15:54-55)

26:9-11 – Paul’s rap sheet

- Locked up saints in prison; voted against them for death; punished them in synagogues; bullied them in an attempt to make them blaspheme; searched them out in foreign cities in abundant rage

26:12-18 - Paul’s conversion and calling

- “kicking against the goads” was a Greek proverb about fighting a god.^{1v} It paints the image of “a stubborn animal attempting to fight the sticks used as prods,¹ “likely it indicated that Paul should not resist the divine force moving him in another direction.^{1v}”

- Isaiah 9:2, 42:7, 16; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 24, 15:56-57; Romans 1:16, 15:13; Isaiah 53:5-6, 12; Daniel 7:18; Romans 6:22; Colossians 1:10-14

26:19-21

- V20 – “repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.”
 - John the Baptist - Matthew 3:8. “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”
 - Fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23
- “For this reason”
 - That is, due to his calling others to repentance and faith in Christ
 - 1 Corinthians 1:23, “but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles.”

26:22-23 - “saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass”.

- “Paul begins marshalling evidence at this point that the faith he represents is in continuity with the Old Testament religion tolerated by the Romans as an ancient and ethnic religion.^{1v}”

26:24-28 –Paul’s boldness

- Are there areas in your life where you have you rejected the claims of Christ or the Bible due to your unwillingness to search out its meaning or conform yourself to its truth? Are you making yourself out to be judge over and above God and his holiness? Are you falling victim to the lie gave by Satan in the Garden when he posed to Eve the question, “Did God really say?”

Submitting to God

- Romans 14:10-12, Matthew 9:6, 28:18
- Question: Do you have the authority to forgive sins? Are you in yourself able to make others guiltless before God? Can you imbue your own righteousness upon another person? Are people baptized in your name?
- What is your life mission – To what end are you striving for? What are you sold out for? Hebrews 12:1-3, Matthew 25:21