

The Acts of the Apostles II
The Sending of Paul to Caesarea
Acts 23:1-35

- I. TRIED BEFORE THE COUNCIL (Acts 23:1-10)
 - A. Confronting the High Priest (Acts 23:1-5)
 - i. The good conscience of Paul (Acts 23:1)
 1. The conscience defined (Romans 2:14-15) – that which bears inward witness either accusing or excusing our actions.
 2. The defiled conscience (Titus 1:15; 1 Timothy 4:2)
 3. The weak conscience (1 Corinthians 8:6-13)
 4. The pure conscience (Acts 24:16; 2 Corinthians 1:12)
 - ii. The High Priest (Acts 23:2; Acts 24:1)
 - iii. The unlawful action of the High Priest (Acts 23:2; Deuteronomy 25:1-3)
 1. Similar treatment to God’s spokesmen (prophets) – Micaiah (1 Kings 22:24); Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:2)
 2. Christ’s prophecy that this would happen (John 15:20)
 - iv. The unlawful reaction of Paul (Acts 23:3)
 1. Paul unlawfully spoke evil of the high priest (Acts 23:3; Acts 23:5; Exodus 22:28)
 2. Considering Paul’s familiarity with the council and the priesthood, it is hard to believe that he really didn’t know the high priest.
 3. Perhaps Paul did not know that he was the high priest.
 - a) Either because of eye sight issues.
 - b) Where the high priest was sitting or standing.
 - c) Perhaps what the high priest was wearing at the time.
 - d) Some historians have pointed out from history that there had been an upheaval or change at this point in time of who was to hold the office of high priest
 4. Perhaps Paul only accepted one High Priest—the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4:1-15)

- v. The quick apology of Paul (Acts 23:4-5)
- B. Confounding the Jewish Parties (Acts 23:6-10)
 - i. Paul's appeal to the Pharisees (Acts 23:6)
 - ii. Doctrinal dissension among the council (Acts 23:7-9)
 - 1. The doctrine of the Saducees (Matthew 22:23, 29)
 - 2. The doctrine of the Pharisees (Matthew 23:1-3)
 - iii. Forceable rescue by the Roman soldiers (Acts 23:10)
- II. TOLD OF A CONSPIRACY (Acts 23:11-22)
 - A. The Appearance of the Lord (Acts 23:11)
 - i. One of many appearances (Acts 18:9; Acts 26:16; Acts 27:22-24)
 - ii. Bearing promise of a trip to Rome (Acts 19:21; Romans 15:24)
 - iii. A great comfort to him (John 14:18), strengthening his faith (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)
 - B. The Vow of the Jewish Band (Acts 23:12-15)
 - i. To neither eat nor drink anything (Acts 23:12)
 - ii. More than forty men (Acts 23:13)
 - iii. Until they had slain Paul (Acts 23:14)
 - iv. The plan (Acts 23:15)
 - 1. To make it seem that they wanted clearer understanding from Paul (Acts 23:15)
 - 2. To take advantage of the time to kill Paul (Acts 23:15)
 - C. News from Paul's Nephew (Acts 23:16-17)
 - i. The plot exposed (Acts 23:16)
 - ii. To be told to the chief captain (Acts 26:17)

- D. The Informing of the Chief Captain (Acts 23:18-22)
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- III. TAKEN TO CAESAREA (Acts 23:23-35)
 - A. Preparation of Military Protection (Acts 23:23-24)
 - B. Letter to Governor Felix (Acts 23:25-30)
 - C. Presentation to Governor Felix (Acts 23:31-34)
 - i. Along with the epistle from Claudius Lysias the chief captain (Acts 23:33; Acts 23:36)
 - ii. The definition of an epistle
 1. That which would be read (Acts 15:30)
 2. That which would be written (2 Corinthians 3:3)
 3. That which would also be known as a letter (Acts 23:25, 34)
 - D. Promise of a Future Hearing (Acts 23:34-35)
 - i. Waiting for Paul's accusers (Acts 23:34-35; Acts 24:1)
 - ii. Kept in Herod's judgment hall (Acts 23:35)