

Acts 24 Paul on trial before Felix.

Time period: A.D. 57

Who was Antonius Felix, governor of Judea? What was he like?Prosecuting attorney Tertullus, “We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, ... “ *Nice.**What History shows**Personal life:* After 16-year-old Drusilla married King Aziz of Emesa, Felix wanted the beautiful Drusilla, and so enticed her to leave her husband and marry him. (Felix already had two wives.)

Felix’s administration:

Under Felix’s rule, has Judea become a safe and secure place to live?*How many soldiers are needed to bring one political prisoner from Jerusalem to Caesarea?* Calculate (from Acts23:23)

____Centurians + ____Infantry + ____Calvary (on horses) + ____Spearmen = ____

Now conclude—if it takes ____ soldiers to keep one prisoner safe, how safe is the journey from Jerusalem to Caesarea? How safe is Judea under Felix rule?

<i>Felix kept order....?</i>	<i>Or created disorder, unrest, maintained injustice?</i>
Everyday, Felix caught and crucified the brigands—bandits that hid in the forest and came out to rob travelers. ,	<i>Sicarii (assassins who hide curved daggers under their clothes, and murder political opponents.)</i> After Jonathan the temple high priest criticized Felix for his cruel rule, and wanted to report Felix to the Roman emperor, In 56A.D., Felix got Jonathan’s close friend Dorus to betray Jonathan for money. Dorus got the sicarii to stab Jonathan—a cold-blooded murder done in broad daylight at the temple. After this, panic spread because anyone could be the next victim. Murders continued, but Felix did not come down hard on the sicarii.

Source: https://lexundria.com/j_aj/20.162-179/wsthttps://www.loebclassics.com/display/josephus-jewish_war/1927/pb_LCL203.423.xml?print=&readMode=recto

“Trigger points” that Tertullus presses:	Links Paul with the recent Egyptian Jew
5...a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. ringleader of the Nazarene sect 6 and even tried to desecrate the temple;	A false messiah who led a violent revolt. <i>Commander Claudius Lysias, (Acts21)</i> <i>“Aren’t you the Egyptian who started a revolt and led four thousand terrorists out into the wilderness some time ago?”</i>

Emotional triggers, personal attacks...how do we respond? *Defensive? Angry?*How did Paul respond? How many details, “**verifiable facts**” (v11) did he present?

1. When, where: Time period and location (v11)
2. **Refute:** (v12,13) what did NOT happen_____
3. **Wha’s the crux?** “15 and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be **a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.** “
4. What actually happened; evidence for innocence: (v17, 18)

- a. Jews from the province of Asia”
- b. Jews from Jerusalem: 20 ...should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin— 21 unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: ‘It is **concerning the resurrection of the dead** that I am on trial before you today.’”

Paul focused the issue on “the resurrection of the dead” (repeated twice). Why?

Take a challenge! Choose one. Can you explain 5 to 10 “verifiable facts” for each?

“Why should I believe in God?” OR, “Is the bible reliable?”

- Did the resurrection happen? Why *Jesus*?

v22 “Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings”

Felix didn’t get triggered. He abruptly ends the proceedings. Why?

He knows what’s going on. he is familiar with “the Way”. **How?**

“Jews in Asia”: Felix knew of Lystra riot and stoning? (Acts13,14 A.D. 47), Ephesus riot (Acts19) A.D.57?

Caesarea. who was there? (Philip. acts8, 19. Since when? around A.D. 31-35 shortly after Jesus) 26years?

Singapore. What does our government and community know about the people /practices of “the Way”?

Felix said he would decide the case when commander Lysias arrived. How long does it take to travel from Jerusalem to Caesarea? (See Acts23:31-33, or google the distance and walking speed)

How long was Paul in prison under Felix? _____years, no trial. Why so long?

God had sent an angel to Peter (Acts12); an earthquake for Paul and Silas (Acts16). Why didn’t God rescue Paul now?? As Paul spoke, was God doing *anything*? What was the Holy Spirit doing?

The gospel	Consists of:25)	effect
“Faith in Jesus” (b24) What’s faith? (Genesis 12-22) Who is Jesus? (Which Jesus?) Why did he come?	“Righteousness” - Who is God? What is his character? God as the ultimate “Good”, God’s goodness versus human standards of “good “Self-control” Humans are made in God’s image, with a mind to know God, emotions to love God, and a will to choose to seek and love and honor God. What is “sin”? How does sin begin? Genesis 3. Every action and decision I have made demonstrates where I am in my relationship with God. “Judgement to come” All that my heart seeks, that my mind attends to, are under God’s scrutiny. Humans are accountable to God. A forever debt must be paid for the lust of my eyes, unfaithfulness, betrayal and murder, coveting. (10 commandments) Death: eternal separation from God, from all that is good.	“fear-becoming” Conviction, fear, dread gripped him. <u>The Holy spirit convicted Felix.</u> But what was Felix’s response? Why?

Are you “in prison”—a difficult person or place you can’t escape from anytime soon...?

While you ask God for help, consider also: Will you seek God’s purposes in this place? Will you live out, and speak of His resurrection here and now, as the Holy Spirit works the impossible through you?

Note: You want a just society. On what basis do you call evil, evil?

If it’s simply what *you* don’t like, *who cares*? If based on “Jesus loves”, *which Jesus*? The Jesus *who* quoted the Old Testament? **Paul’s basis:** “

I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets” (v14)