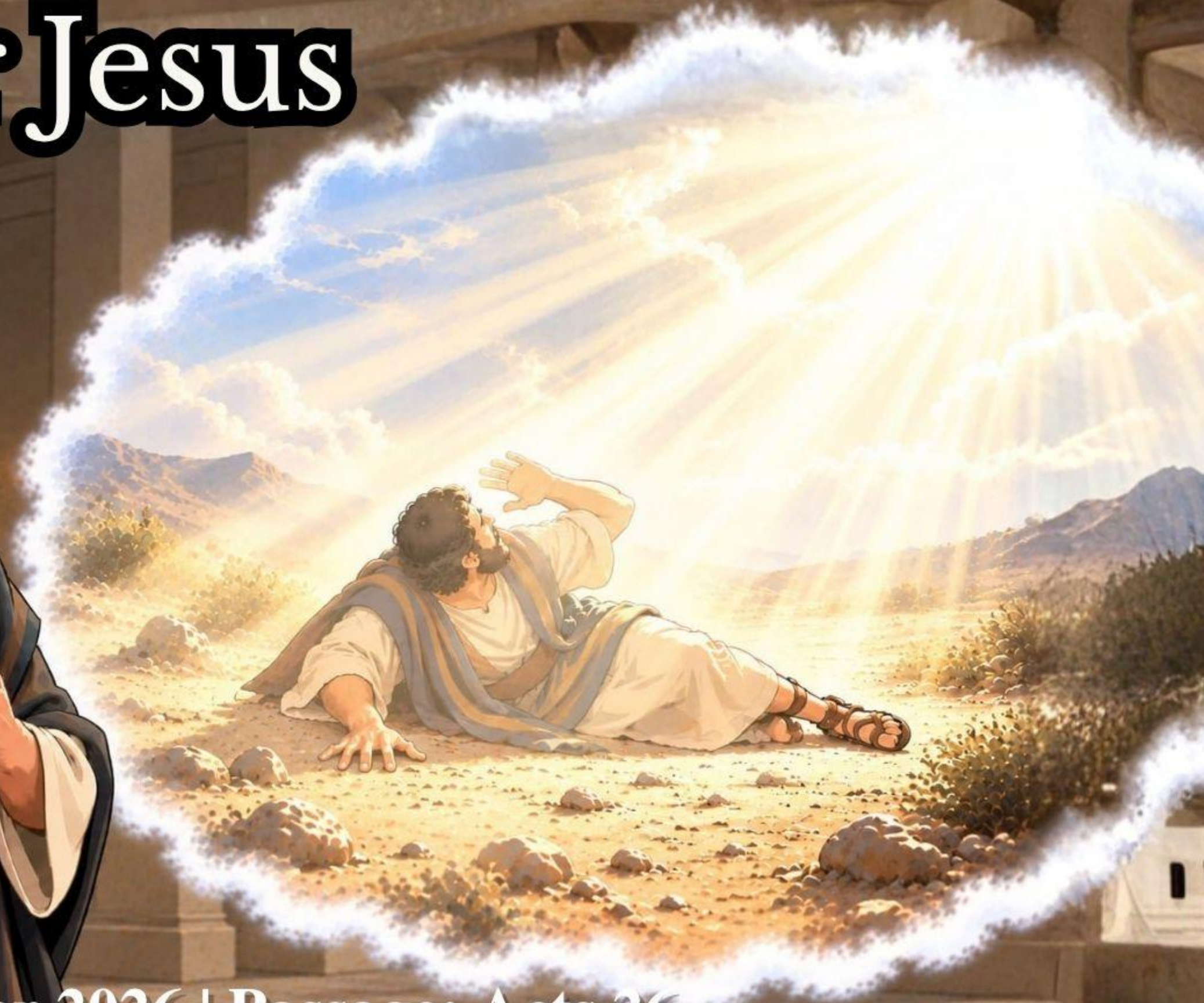
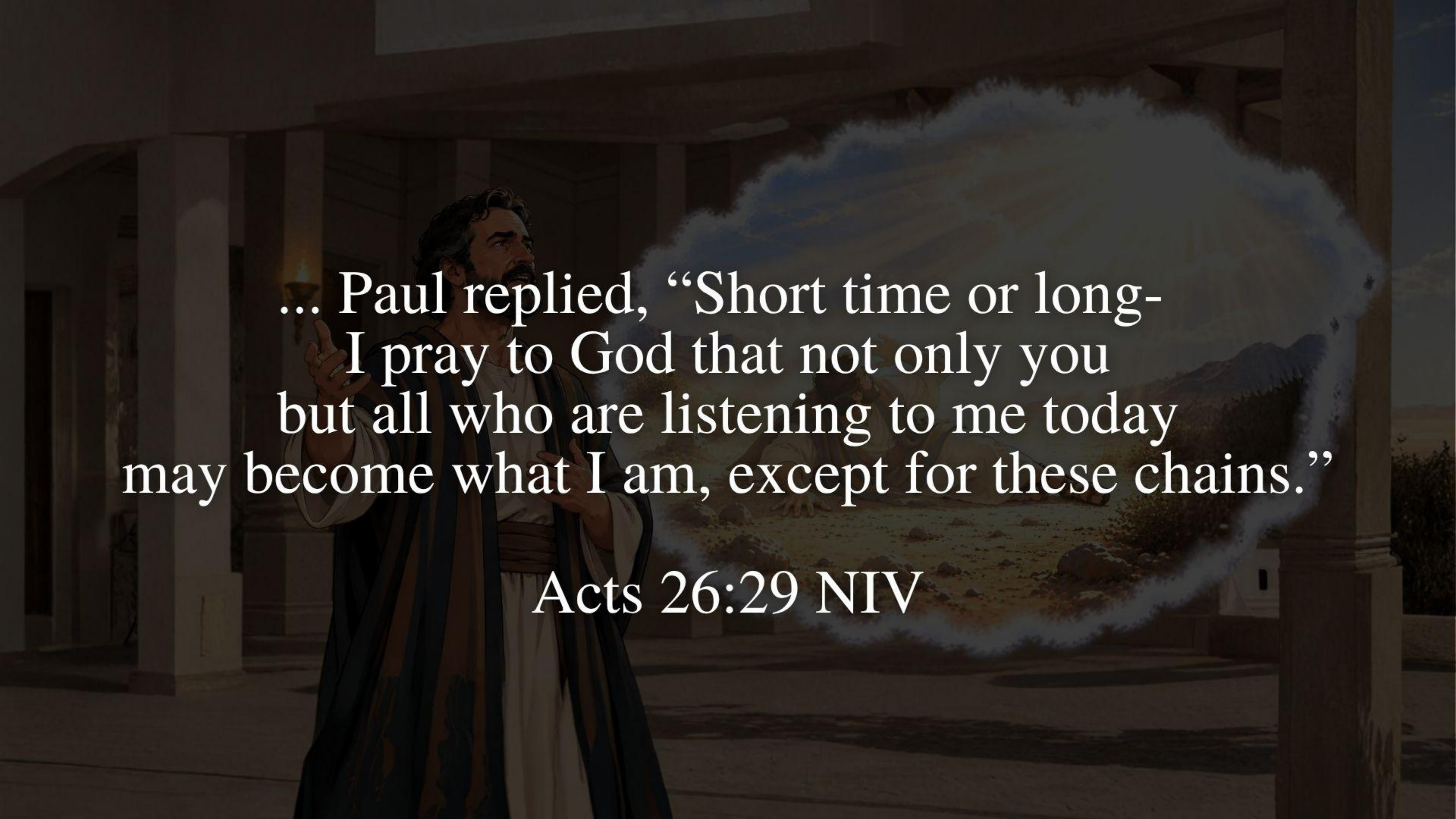


Testifying for Jesus like Paul



Date: 13 September 2026 | Passage: Acts 26
Theme: The work of the Holy Spirit in our sanctification and service

The background is a dark, atmospheric illustration. On the left, a man with a beard and curly hair, wearing a white tunic and a blue robe, stands and gestures with his right hand. He is positioned in front of a classical building with columns. To his right, a large, billowing white cloud or smoke rises, partially obscuring the background. In the distance, through the cloud, a landscape with mountains and a body of water is visible. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

... Paul replied, “Short time or long-
I pray to God that not only you
but all who are listening to me today
may become what I am, except for these chains.”

Acts 26:29 NIV

Caesarea Auditorium. AD 59

Hundreds of High ranking military officers and prominent leaders in Caesarea

Paul

Festus

Roman Governor of Judea

Herod Agrippa II

King of Galilee, North and west of Galilee

Bernice

Sister of Agrippa II

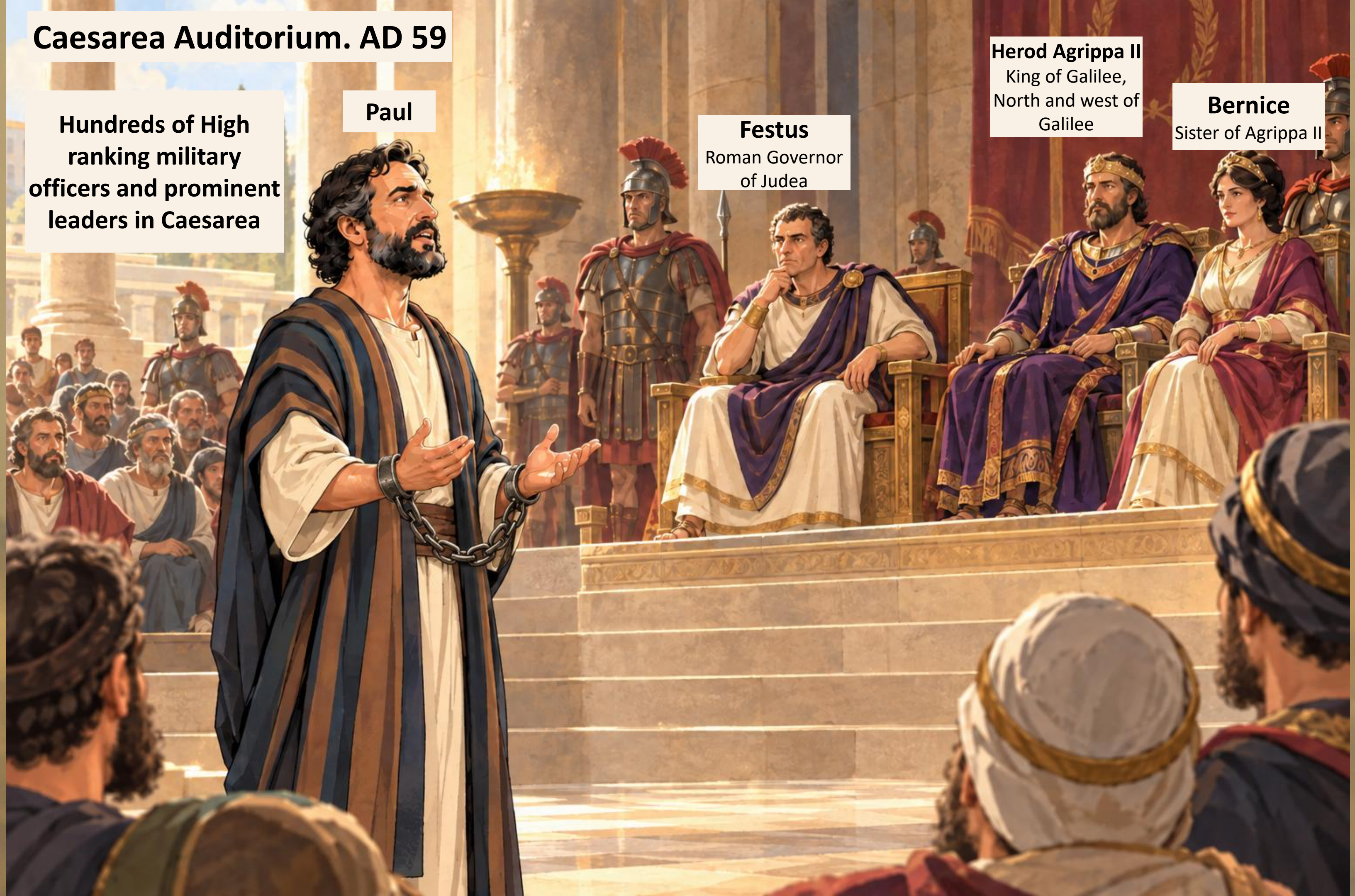
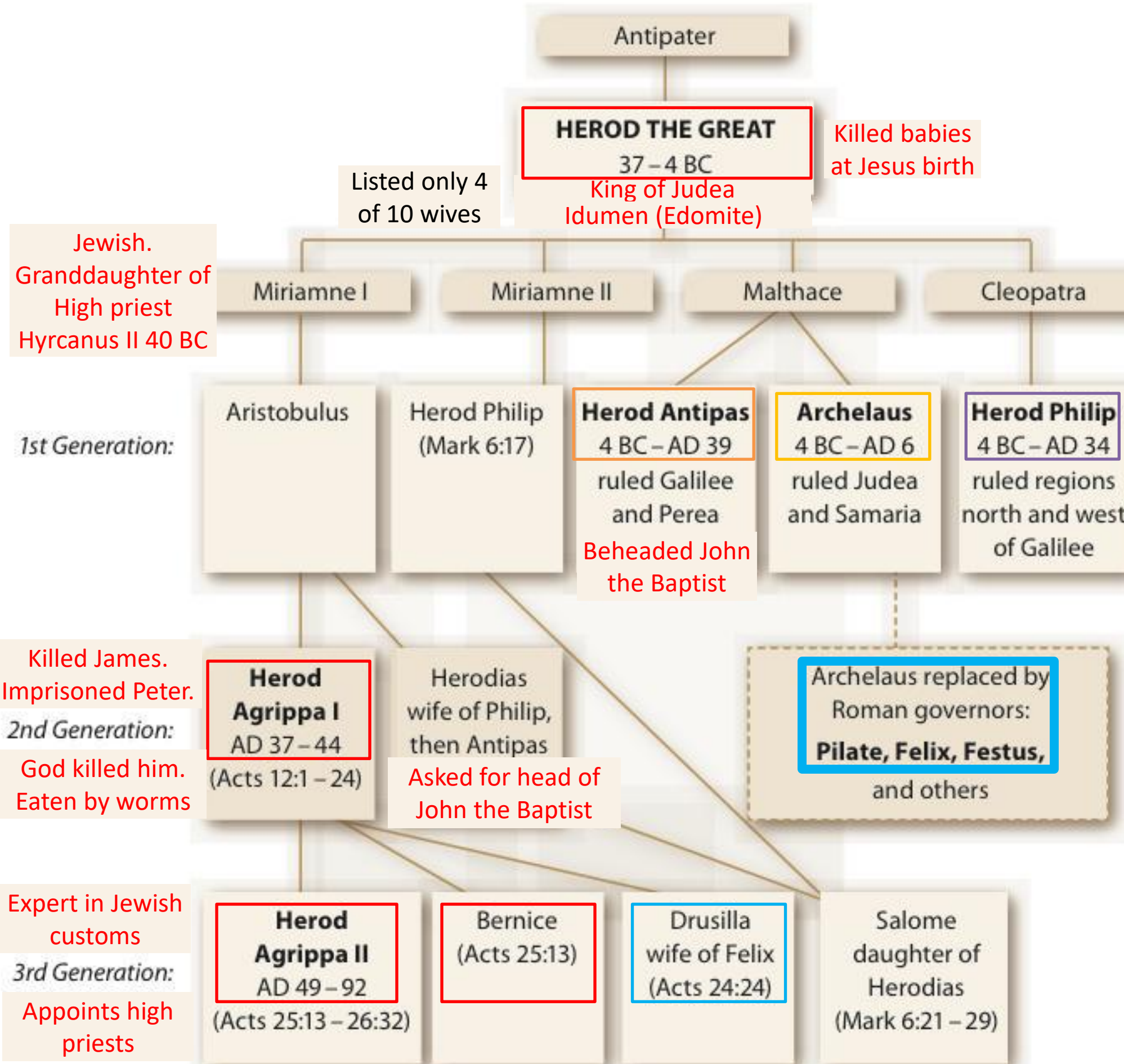


Figure 4.8—The Herodian Dynasty
Partial listing; rulers in bold type



Paul's Ministry Thus Far

- **Acts 13-14 First mission.** Focuses on Cyprus and Galatia, establishing new churches. AD47-48
- **Acts 15-17 Second mission.** Focuses on Corinth, gospel expanding into Europe. AD49-AD51
- **Acts 18-20 Third mission.** Focuses on Ephesus, strengthening churches and reaching Asia. AD52-AD-57.
 - Acts 19:21 Paul decided to **go to Jerusalem**, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. “After I have been there,” he said, “I must **visit Rome also**.”
 - Acts 20:22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the **ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.**
- **Acts 21 Paul arrived at Jerusalem.** AD57
- **Acts 22 Paul testified before the Jews**
- **Acts 23 Paul testified before Sanhedrin**
 - Acts 23:11 - The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have **testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.**”
- **Acts 24 Paul testified before Felix** at Caesarea
- **Acts 25 Paul testified before Festus** at Caesarea. AD59
- **Acts 26 Paul testified before King Agrippa**, Bernice, Fesus, high ranking military officers and prominent leaders of the city of Caesarea.

Acts 26:22 - But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and **testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— 23 that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.**”

Fulfilling Jesus' Calling to Paul

*But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to **proclaim my name** to the **Gentiles and their kings** and to the **people of Israel**."*

Acts 9:15

Also fulfilling Jesus' calling for us

*12 ...They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before **kings** and **governors**, and all on account of my name. 13 And so you will **bear testimony** to me. 14 But make up your mind **not to worry** beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.*

Luke 21:12

Revelations 12:11

*"And they overcame him (Satan the accuser)
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the **WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY**,
and they did not love their lives to the death."*

Caesarea Auditorium. AD 59

Hundreds of High ranking military officers and prominent leaders in Caesarea

Paul

Festus

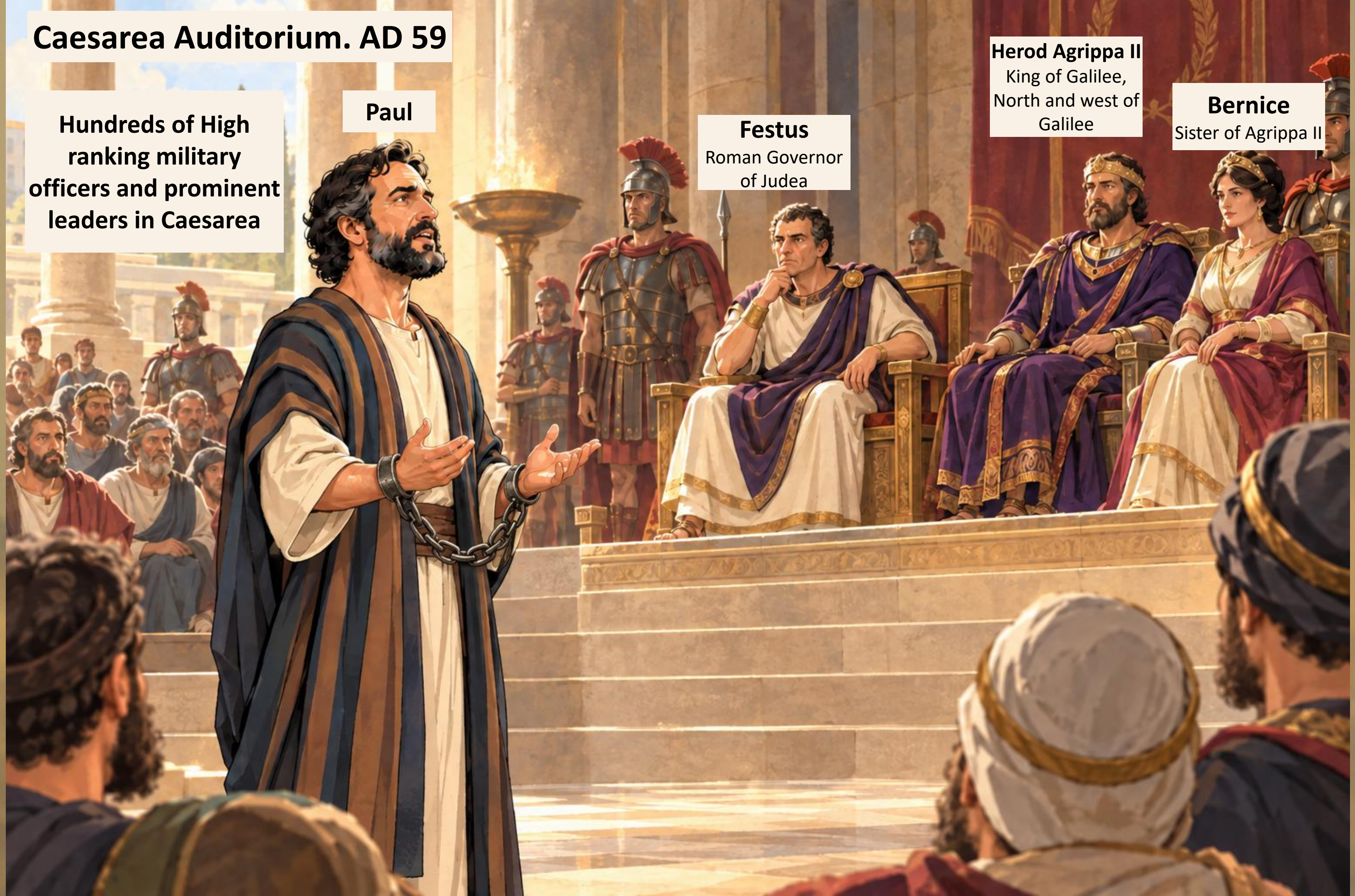
Roman Governor of Judea

Herod Agrippa II

King of Galilee, North and west of Galilee

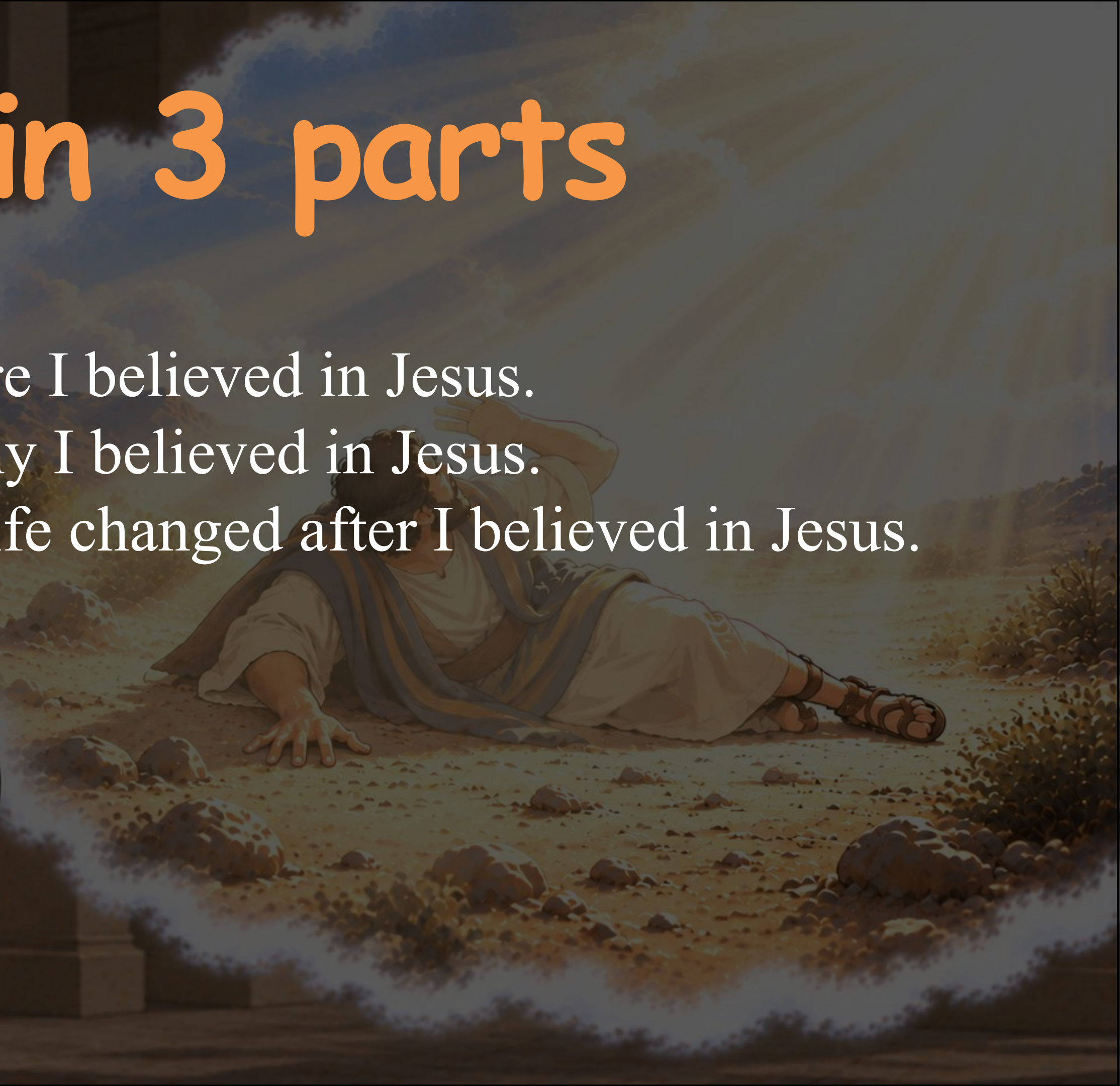
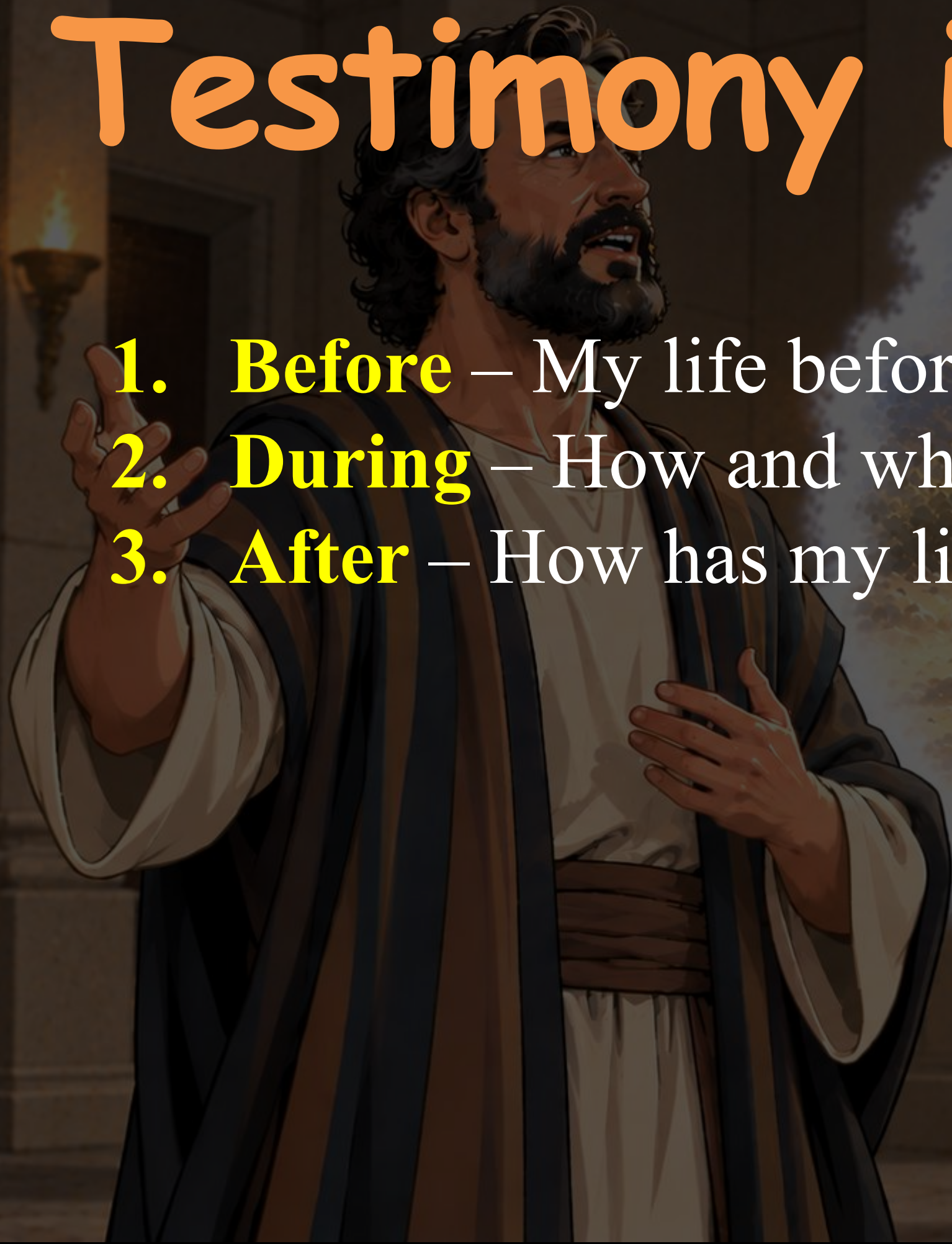
Bernice

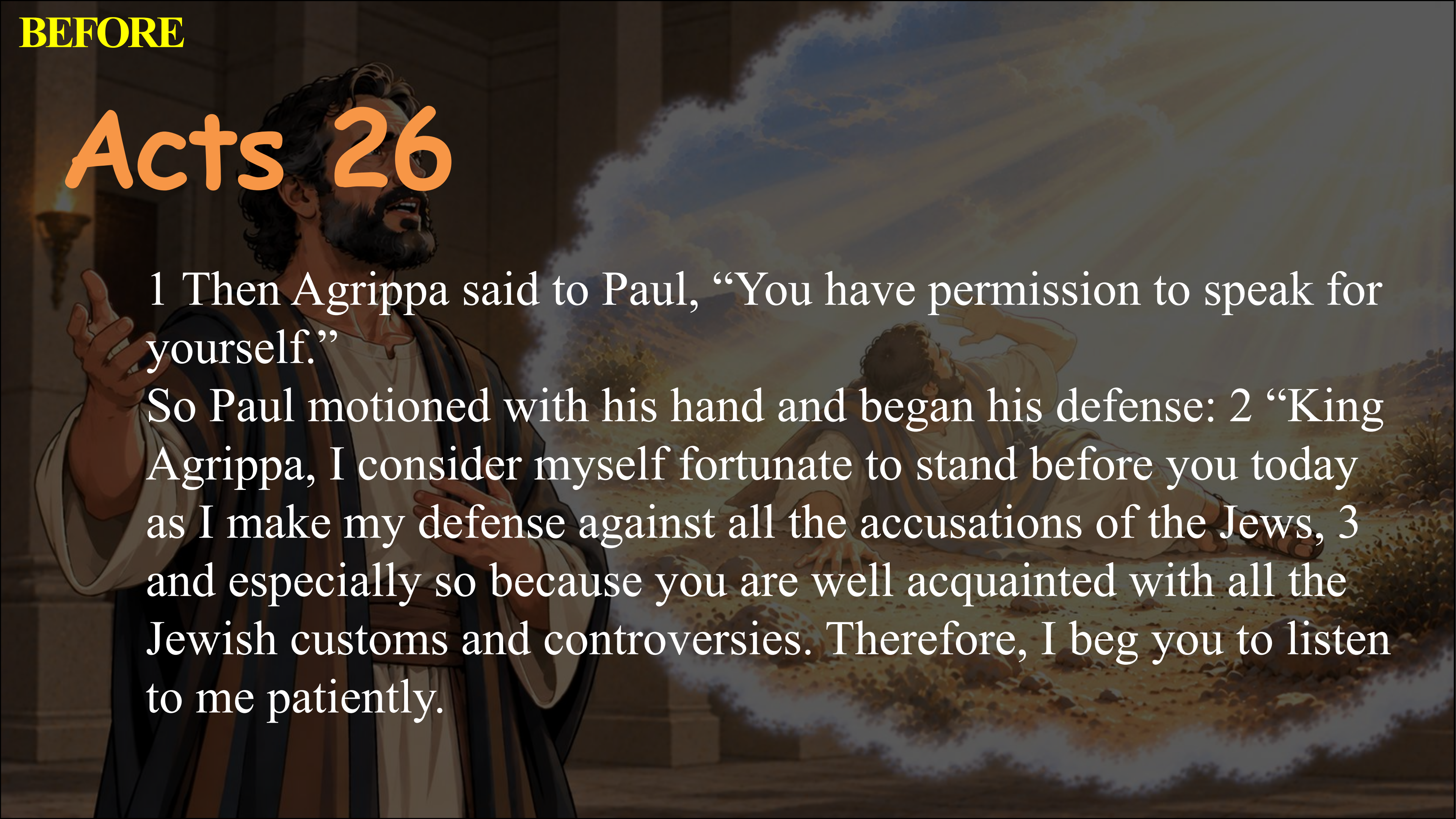
Sister of Agrippa II



Testimony in 3 parts

1. **Before** – My life before I believed in Jesus.
2. **During** – How and why I believed in Jesus.
3. **After** – How has my life changed after I believed in Jesus.



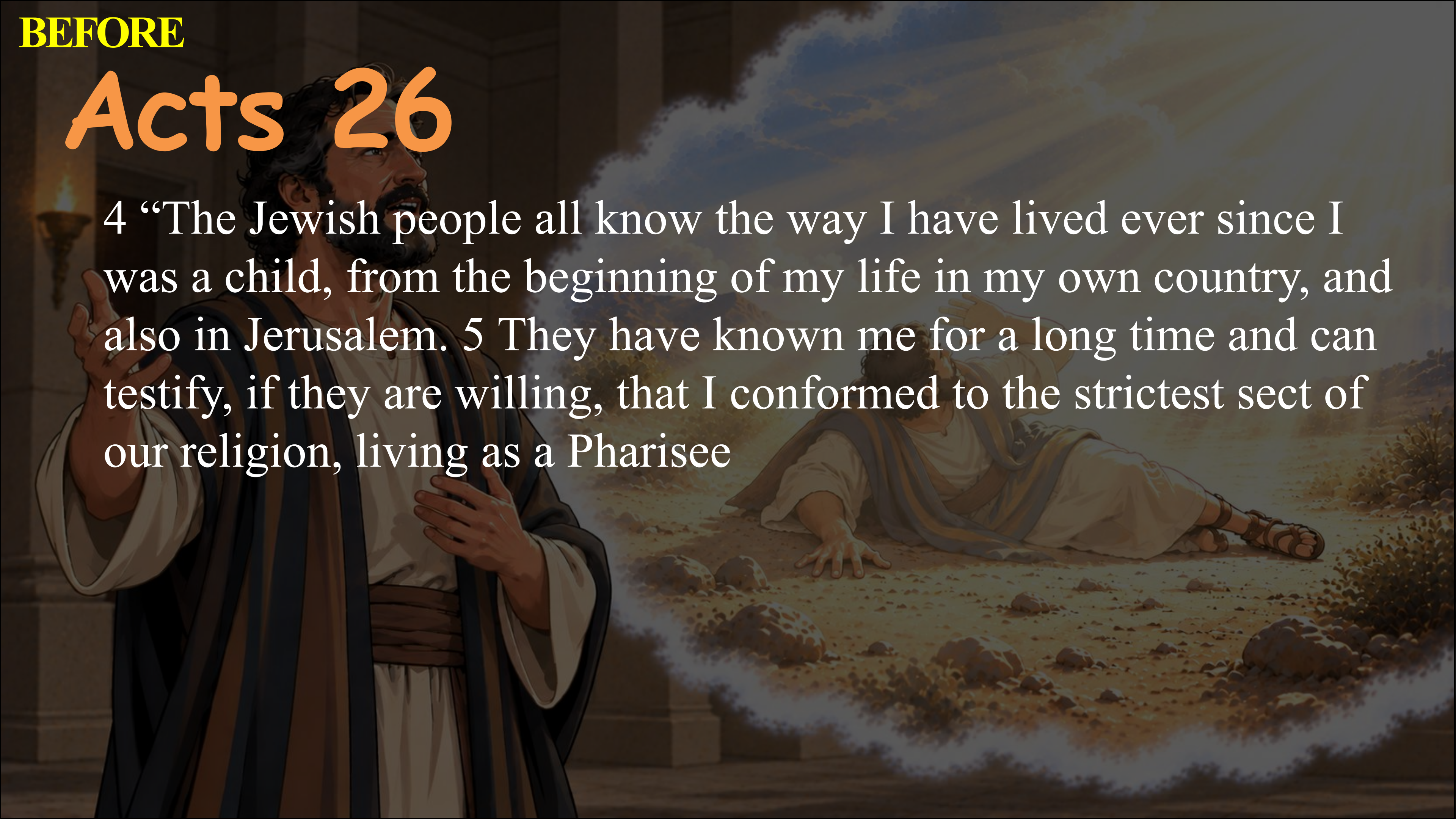


BEFORE

Acts 26

1 Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.”

So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense: 2 “King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews, 3 and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently.



BEFORE

Acts 26

4 “The Jewish people all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. 5 They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, living as a Pharisee

1. BEFORE – My life before I believed in Jesus (Acts 26:4-11)

- a. **BACKGROUND** – My family upbringing (v. 4)
 - i. Paul began with his upbringing
 - ii. How we viewed life, let people know we are just people like anyone else

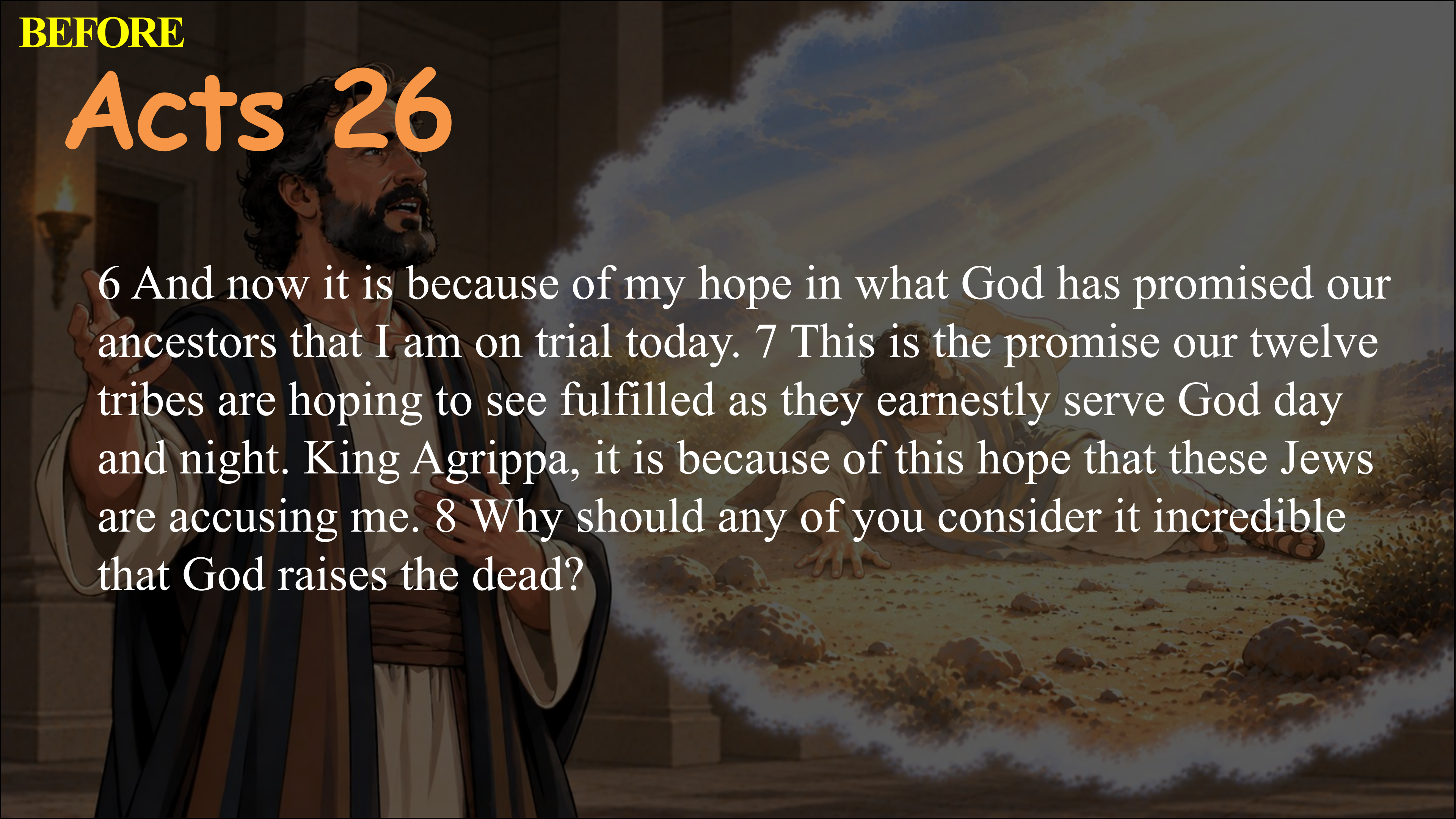


1. BEFORE – My life before I believed in Jesus (Acts 26:4-11)

b. RELIGIOUS – My religious background (v. 5)

- i. Paul shared that he came from a strict religious background
- ii. What did I believe before?
Am I religious? Why?
- iii. What was my attitude towards Jesus and Christianity? Why?





BEFORE

Acts 26

6 And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. 7 This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that these Jews are accusing me. 8 Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?

BEFORE

Acts 26

9 “I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord’s people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.

1. BEFORE – My life before I believed in Jesus
(Acts 26:4-11)

c. PROBLEMS – My past mistakes and problems faced
(that later God resolved)

- i. Paul was honest that though he was very sincere, he was sincerely wrong
- ii. May include rebellion, pride, anger or addiction; for others, sickness, poverty or emptiness



DURING

Acts 26

12 “On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. 13 About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. 14 We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

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Roman — Roman; 43-200

GOAD, OX GOAD



2. DURING – How and why I believed in Jesus (Acts 26:12-18)

- a. **How did you hear about Jesus and the gospel (v. 12-14)**
 - i. Paul was on the road to Damascus when his life was interrupted by a light from heaven
 - ii. Tell honestly what happened and how God got your attention



DURING

Acts 26

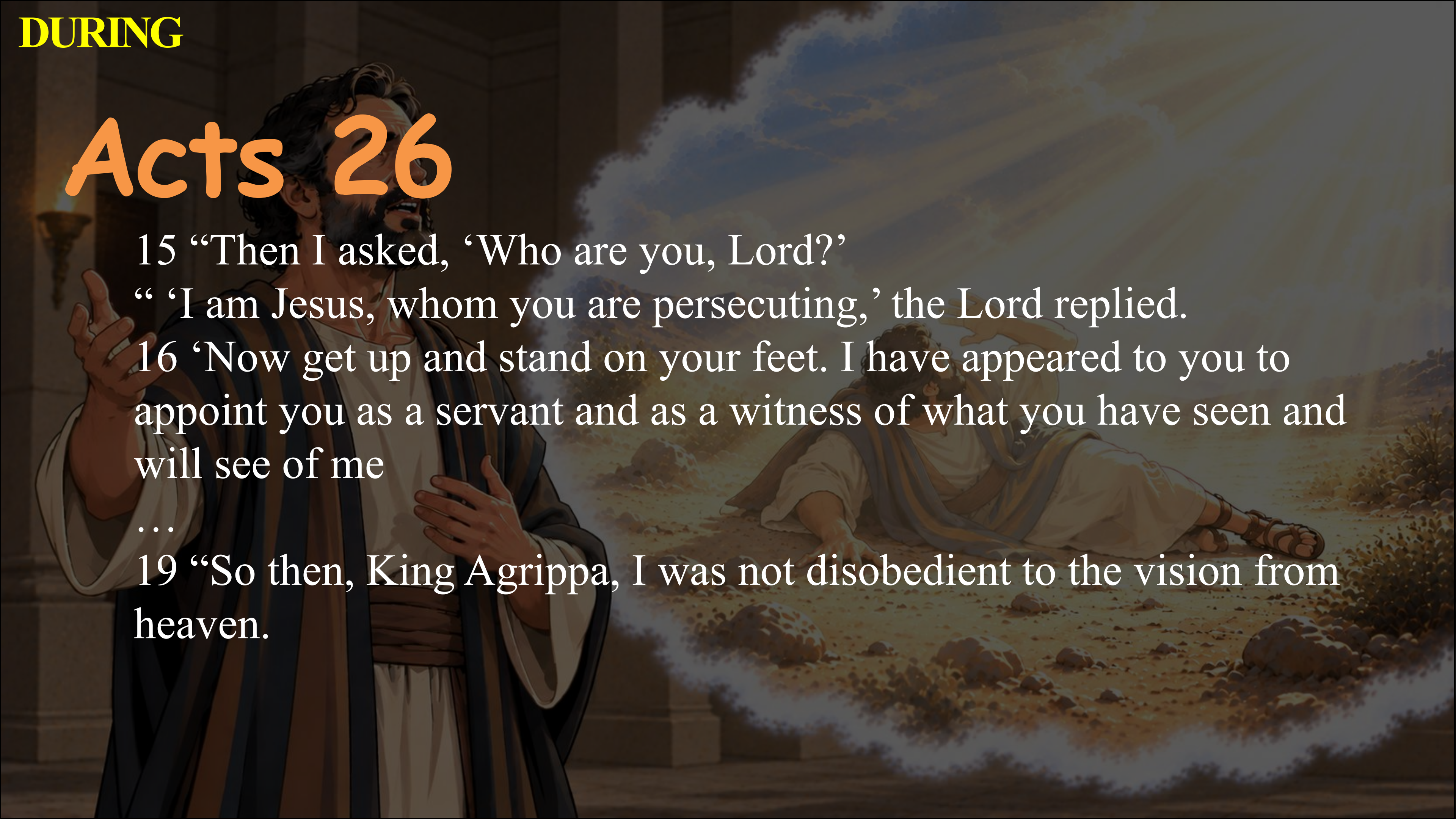
15 “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied.

16 ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me

...

19 “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.



2. DURING – How and why I believed in Jesus (Acts 26:12-18)

b. How did you respond and why you believed. (v15-19)

- i. Paul knew it was the Lord,
but he was confused.
Then Paul realised Jesus was alive
- ii. Share our doubts and challenges,
and how those were resolved
that caused us to believe.



DURING

Acts 26

17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

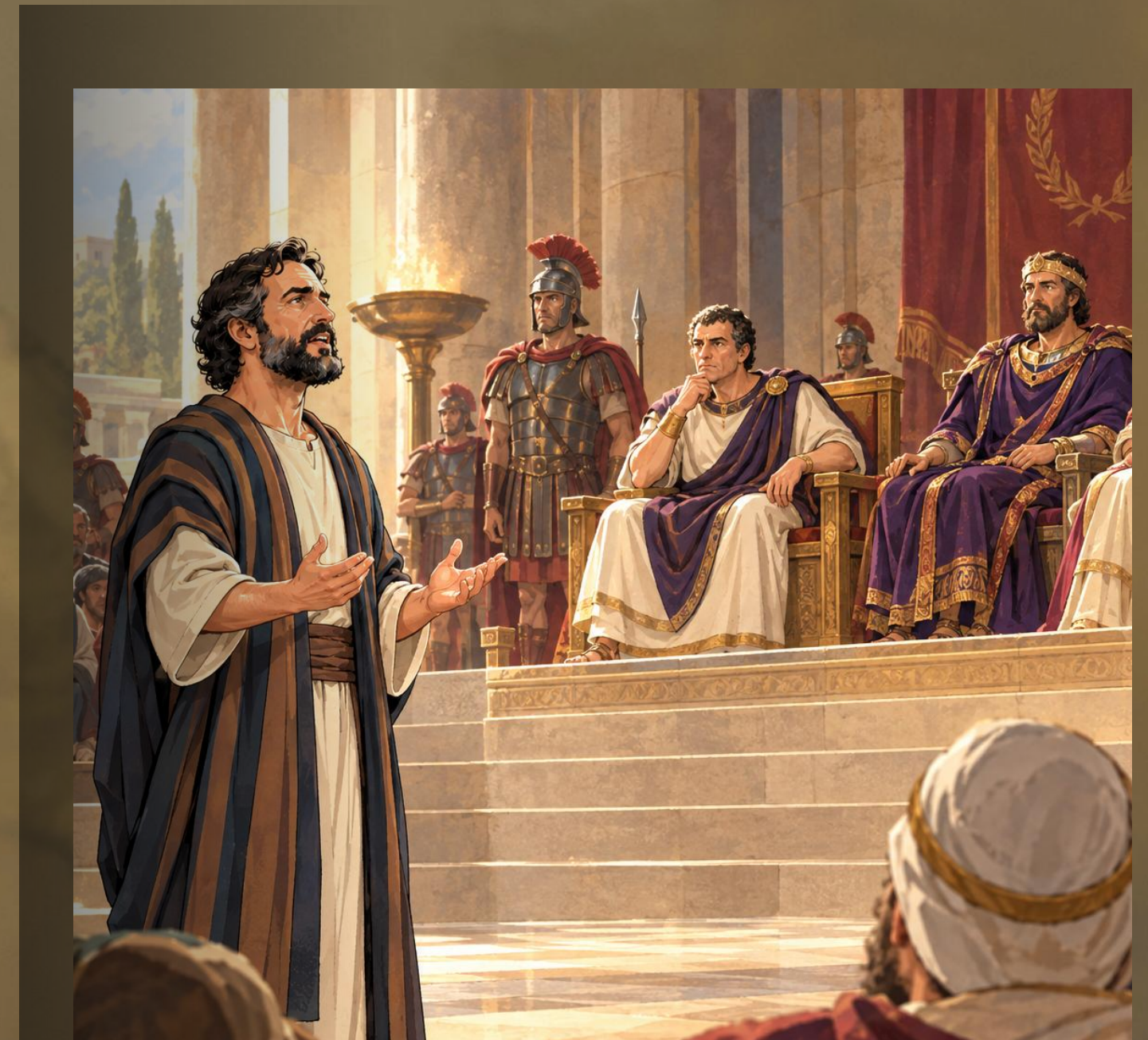
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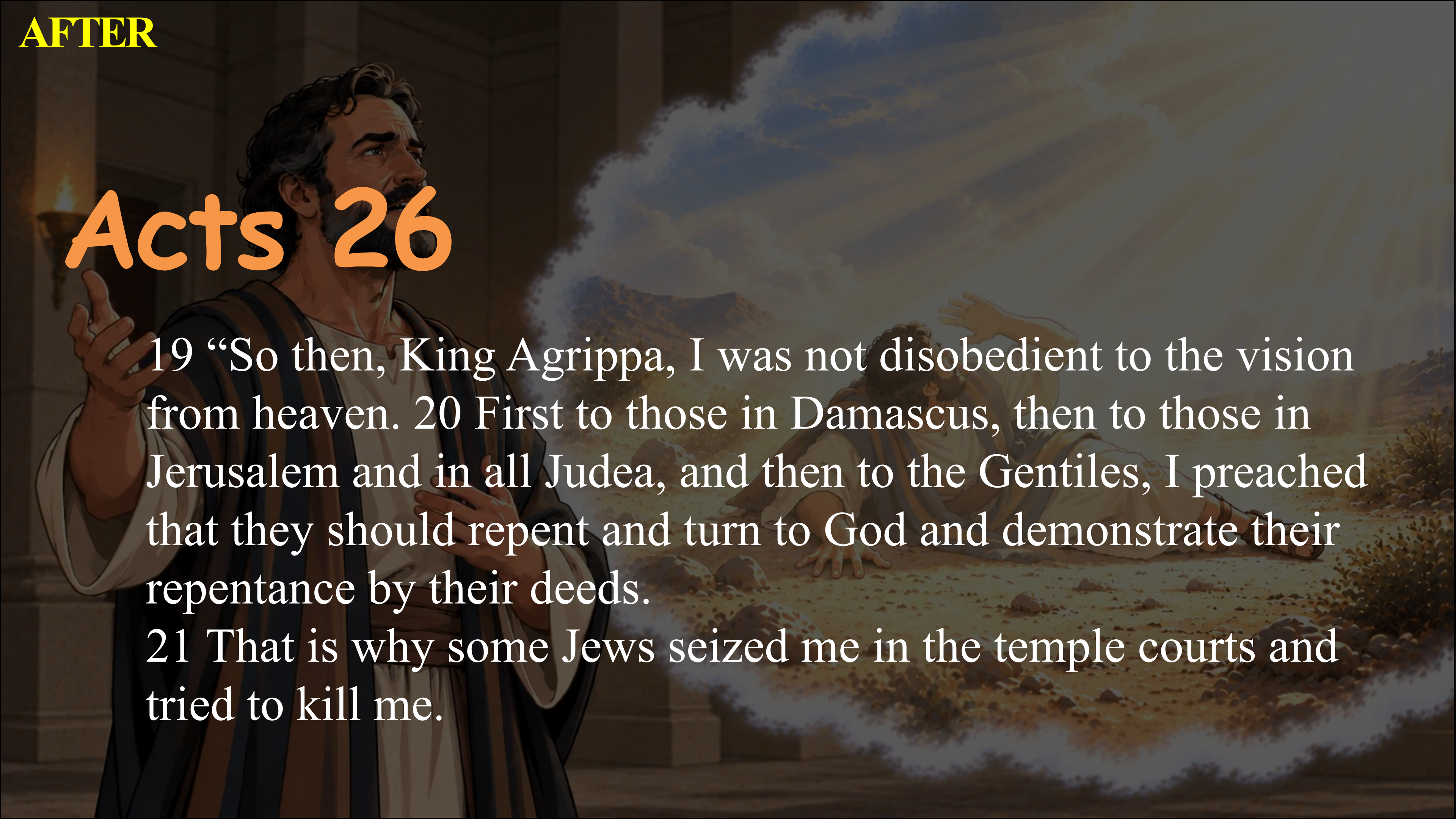
20 ... I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

2. DURING – How and why I believed in Jesus (Acts 26:12-18)

c. **Share briefly the gospel.** (v17-18)

- i. Paul shared about the gospel – the problem and the solution
- ii. Paul shared about the response
- to repent and turn to God
and live for Him.
- iii. Our testimony must surface
the gospel: I am a sinner;
I cannot save myself;
Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection
provide the only solution to sin





AFTER

Acts 26

19 “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. 20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

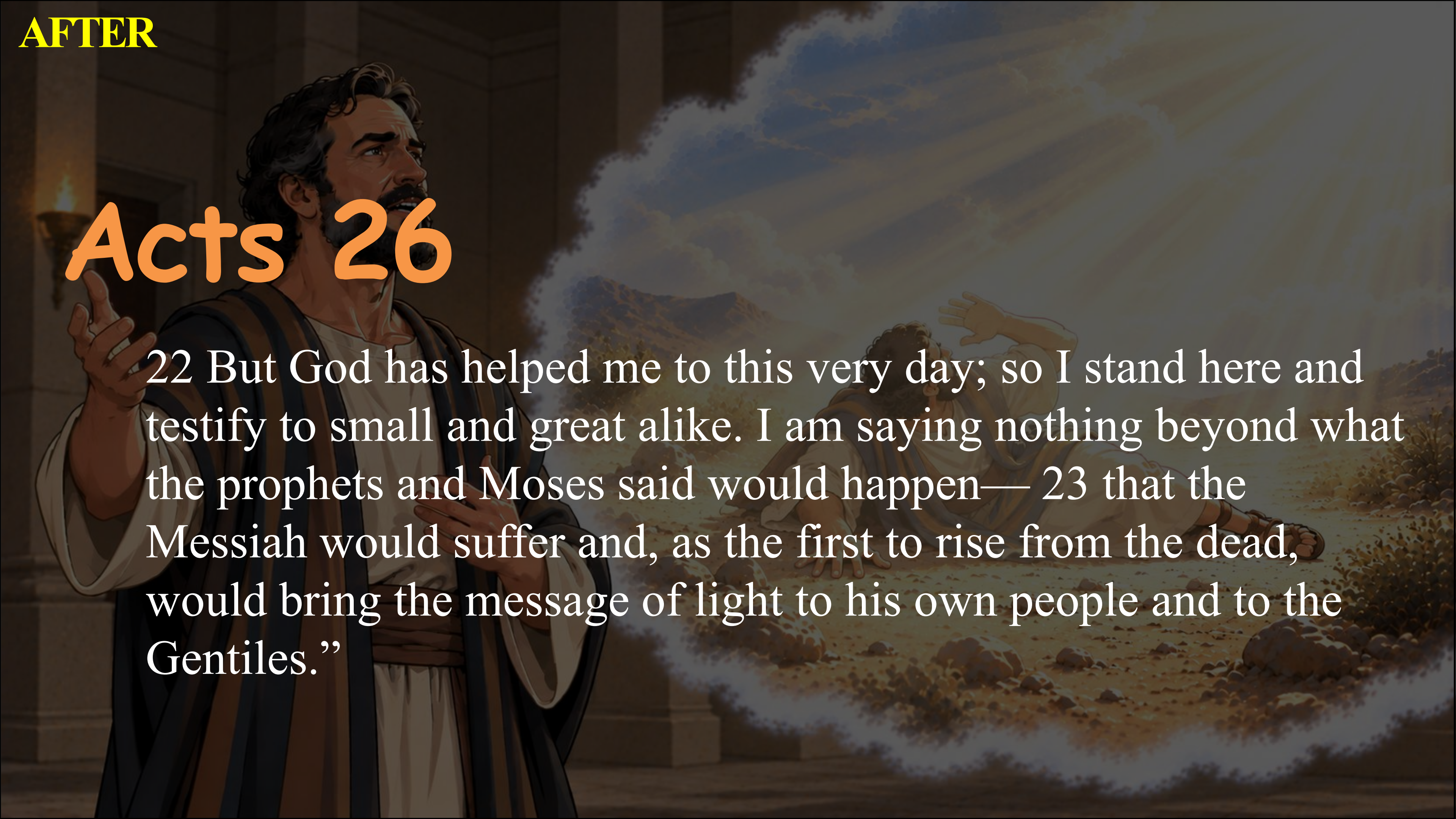
21 That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me.

3. AFTER – How my life changed after I believed (Acts 26:19-23)

a. Change from past disobedience to obedience

- i. Paul changed from being a persecutor to become a preacher
- ii. In your testimony, connect your old life to your changed life:
sins, mistakes, attitudes, fears
or problems mentioned in Point 1





AFTER

Acts 26

22 But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— 23 that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

3. AFTER – How my life changed after I believed (Acts 26:19-23)

b. Change to live out Jesus' clear mission

- i. Paul testified God, being real and powerful, helped him to carry out Jesus' mission

Share how God helped you
To do what is right



Acts 26

24 At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

25 "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. 26 The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner."

4. RESPONDING AND INVITING

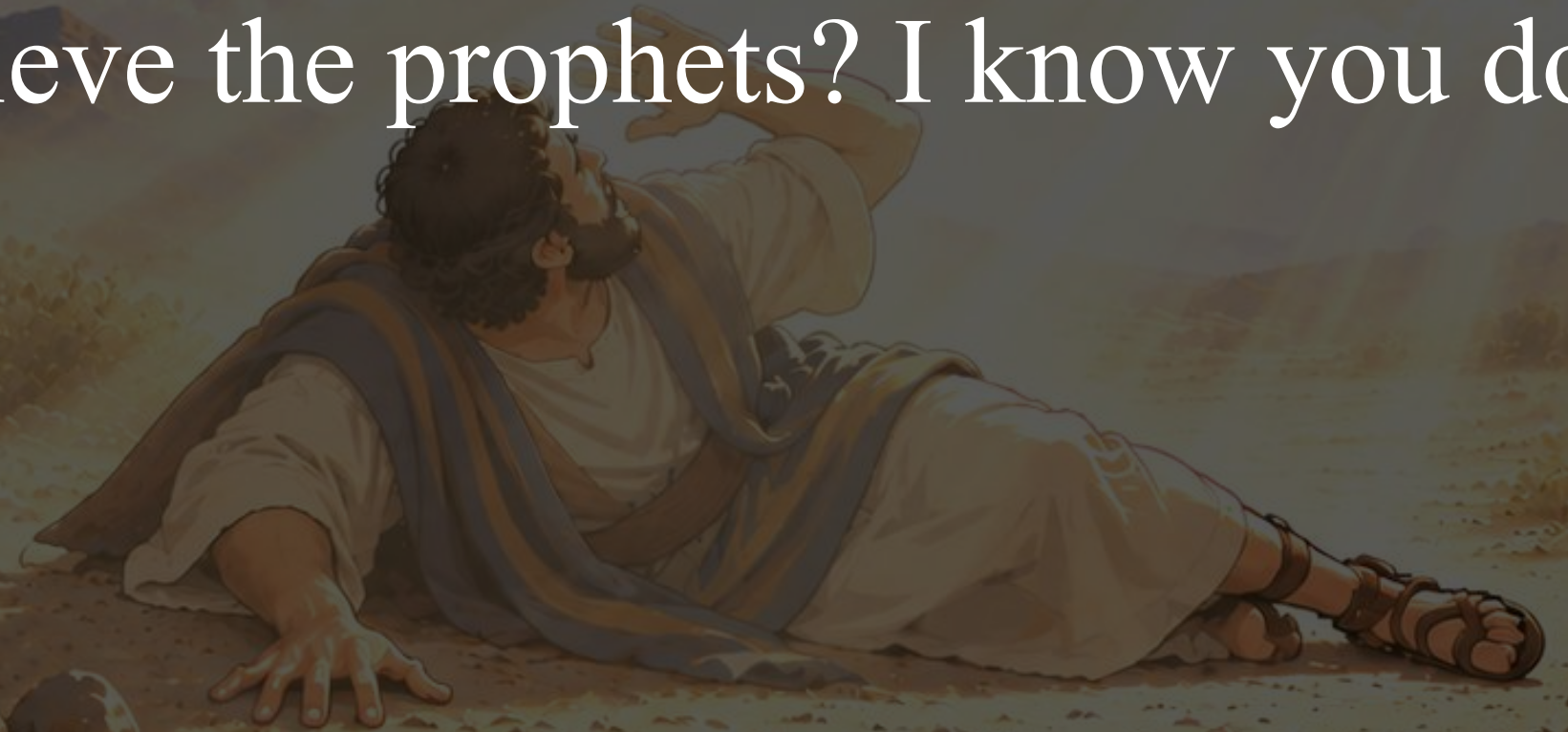
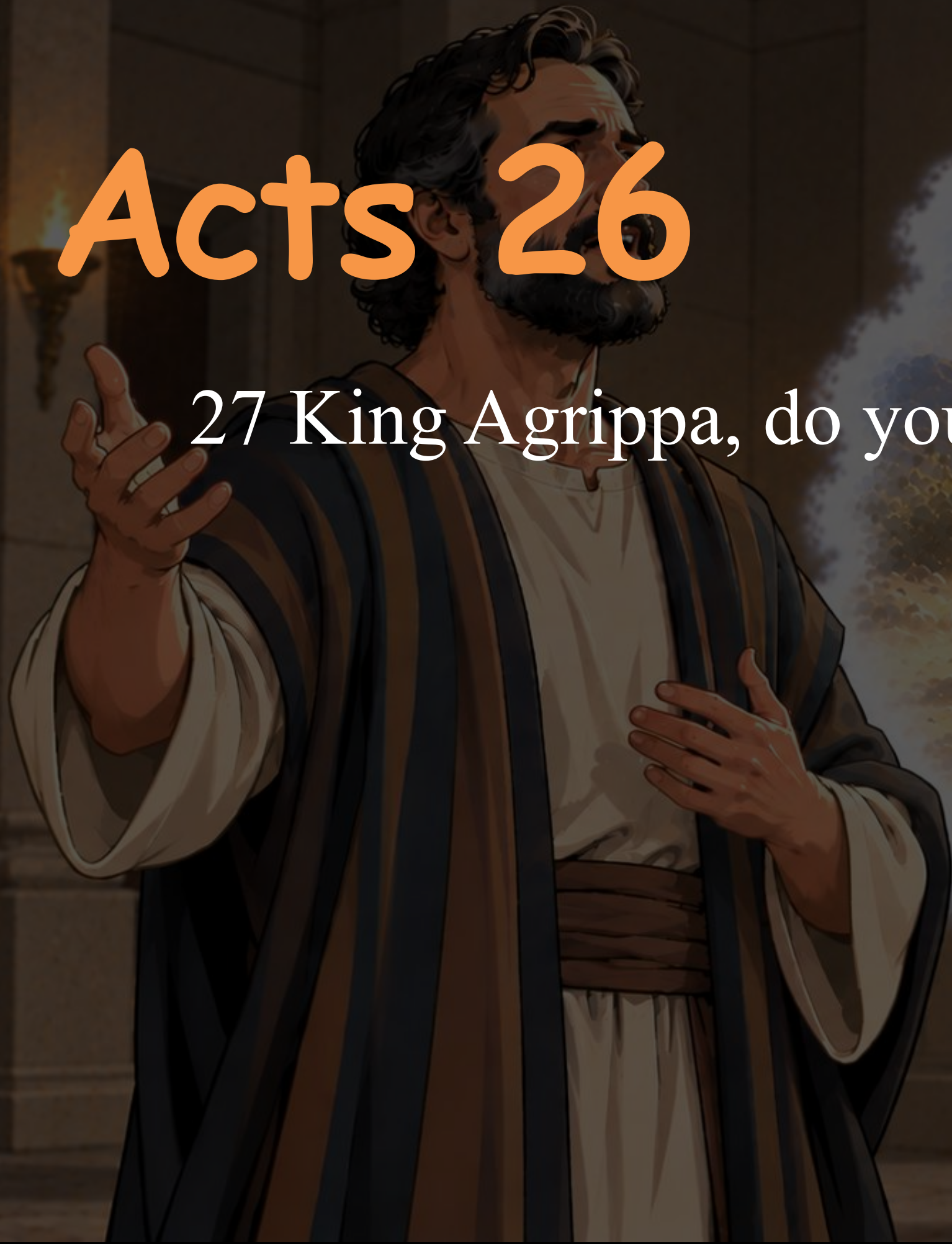
Turn the conversation toward Jesus (Acts 26:24-29)



- a. **RESPECTFUL** – Answer objections with grace
 - ii. Paul appealed to truth, reason, public events and Scripture.

Acts 26

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



4. RESPONDING AND INVITING

Turn the conversation toward Jesus (Acts 26:24-29)

b. REDIRECT – Do not lose the gospel opportunity

- i. Paul redirected the conversation from Festus to Agrippa, and asked if he believed.
- iii. Respectfully invite a response: “What do you think? Have you considered who Jesus is?”



Acts 26

28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

29 Paul replied, “Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.”

c. REACH – Desire salvation for the listener (v. 28-29)

Agrippa's response could have ended the conversation.

But Paul revealed his heart: “Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.”



A background image showing two men in a conversation. The man on the left, with light brown hair and a beard, is wearing a blue denim shirt over a white t-shirt. He is gesturing with his right hand towards the other man. The man on the right, with dark hair and a beard, is wearing a yellow and blue plaid shirt over a white t-shirt. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window or a doorway.

That is the goal of testimony—not to win an argument or merely convert someone but sincerely desiring that they receive the same hope and salvation we have received.

“Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.” Acts 26:29 NIV



APPLICATION

- A. Write or update your testimony this week using the three parts: before, during, after.
- B. Pray for one person and plan to share your testimony this week.