

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**ACTS 25****Acts 25**

The last chapter closed with these words concerning the Apostle Paul, ***But some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time, will summon you." At the same time too, he was hoping that money would be given to him by Paul; he therefore, also used to send for him quite often and converse with him. But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned.*** (Acts 24:24-27)

Paul witnessed to Felix, who knew about followers of Jesus, who were called the sect of ***"the Way."*** Paul told him of how a man was made right with God and how righteousness is obtained through Jesus, the Messiah. He also spoke to Felix and Drusilla about how the "Way" of Jesus changed a man's temper and lifestyle and about the accountability that is coming for all men at the Judgment. Felix was looking for a bribe or a payoff to give Paul his freedom, but Paul would have none of it.

The Jews despised Felix and made many complaints to Rome about his cruel treatment of them. Rome, wanting to keep peace in the provinces of the area, sent

Porcius Festus to take his place. The emperor and those around him surely advised Festus of the critical nature of his assignment because one of the first things he did when arriving at Caesarea was to visit Jerusalem almost immediately. Paul stayed in the city of Caesarea for two years and no doubt shared with many about the Lord Jesus and his story of meeting Him on the road to Damascus.

While there, the Jews brought up the case of Paul, asking that he be brought to Jerusalem. This was another way they could plan an ambush to kill him. He was their number one target since he was an insider, a Pharisee who had become, in their eyes, a traitor and heretic. Festus did not acquiesce and said, "he will remain in Caesarea." Festus stayed in Jerusalem for ten days, then went back to Caesarea. The matter of Paul was so pressing that Festus brought Jewish leaders there and brought Paul out to hear their accusations against him and give him an opportunity as a Roman to give his defense. Paul did so, and after hearing the case briefly and realizing that it was a matter of Jewish law, he asked Paul to go to Jerusalem and stand before the council for judgment. Paul, knowing that was certain death, appealed as a Roman citizen to Caesar's court. The appeal was granted, and the stage was set. Paul would be granted a hearing in Rome in the highest court in the Empire before Caesar's throne.

Prayer and Action Steps

The Apostle Paul did not know what the future held for him, but he knew who held the future in His hands and trusted the heart of a loving, faithful God. We can live that way and trust our Father, the Father of the Lord Jesus, the Father of the Apostle Paul, and our Father, if we have committed our lives completely to Jesus the Messiah.