

³³ Coming into Caesarea and giving the letter to Governor Felix, the soldiers stood Paul beside Felix. ³⁴ After reading it, asking what leader was over Paul, and inquiring whether Paul was from the province of Cilicia, ³⁵ the Governor enlightened,

“I will listen thoroughly when those working against you have also come forth.”

Then the Governor instructed Paul to be guarded in the palace of Marcus Agrippa. ^{24.1} After five days, the leader of the temple-caretakers, Ananias, went down to Caesarea with some elders and Tertullus, a speaker, and they communicated to the Governor against Paul. ² Being called forward, Tertullus began to work against Paul, saying,

“We have obtained much harmony through you and upright things are happening to this nation through your forethought. ³ We are welcoming this everywhere and in every manner, mighty Felix, with all thanksgiving! ⁴ So I will not cut in on you too much, I am exhorting you so you might listen to us briefly with your fairness.

⁵ After finding this man to be a plague, to be causing standoffs among all the Judeans throughout civilization, to be a first-stander of the group of those from Nazareth, ⁶ and to be one who tried to debase the temple-complex, we restrained him. ⁸ After judging him about all these things, you will be able to recognize why we ourselves are working against him.”

⁹ The Judeans also joined together affirming these things to be true. ¹⁰ After the Governor nodded at him to speak, Paul answered,

“Being aware that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I am passionately explaining myself. ¹¹ You are able to recognize for yourself that not more than twelve days ago I went up into Jerusalem to bow down. ¹² There, no one found me in the temple-complex addressing anyone or making a standoff among the crowd, the synagogues, or throughout the city. ¹³ They are not able to verify to you the things they are now working against me.

¹⁴ Before you I am declaring loyalty to this. According to the Way, which they are saying is a group, I am giving allegiance to the Creator Father by trusting all the things that have been written throughout the Torah and in the prophets. ¹⁵ I have a hope in the Creator, which these same ones are also waiting for, that there is about to be a resurrection of the just and the unjust. ¹⁶ With this hope I myself am striving to have an unblemished conscience before the Creator and humanity in all things.

¹⁷ After many years, I came forth giving gifts-of- compassion and offerings for my nation. ¹⁸ During this, they found me, having been cleansed in the temple-complex, with no crowd and no disturbance. ¹⁹ As such, it is necessary for some Judeans from the province of Asia to be present before you and to work against me, if they have anything. ²⁰ Or these same ones here should speak before the Sanhedrin Council about what injustice they found me standing in. ²¹ This one thing I shouted when I stood among them, ‘I am being judged by you about the resurrection of the dead!’”

²² Having discerned the Way accurately, Felix put all of them off, saying,

“When Lysias the thousand-leader has come down, I will decide about you.”

²³ Then he ordered the hundred-leader to keep Paul, but to be relaxed and to not prevent his own from attending to him.

²⁴ After some days, Felix came forth with Drusilla, his woman who was a Judean, and summoned Paul and listened to him about trust in Jesus the Anointed. ²⁵ While Paul was addressing him about justice, self-control, and the judgment about to be, Felix became afraid and answered,

“You have to go now! But after sharing in a season apart, I will call for you.”

²⁶ At the same time, Felix was also hoping that he would be given riches because of Paul and, therefore, he was

frequently summoning him to talk. ²⁷ But after two years, Felix took a successor, Porcius Festus, and, wanting to be generous to the Judeans, Felix left Paul behind in bondage.

^{25.1} Three days after taking up his rule, Festus went up into Jerusalem from Caesarea. ² The leaders of the temple-caretakers and the first-rank Judeans communicated to Festus against Paul. They began exhorting Festus ³ so he might be generous to them against Paul—wanting him to summon Paul into Jerusalem so they could ambush him and execute him for the Way. ⁴ Festus replied that Paul was being kept in Caesarea and he himself was about to go there with haste. ⁵ Then he enlightened,

“The powerful among you, after going down with me, may work against him if there is anything out of place in the man.”

⁶ After staying among them no more than eight or ten days, Festus went down into Caesarea, sat upon the judgment seat the next day, and instructed Paul to be brought to him.

⁷ Many Judeans, having come down from Jerusalem, came forth and stood around Paul while burdensome reasons, which were not strong enough to show anything, were brought down upon him. ⁸ Paul began explaining,

“I have not rebelled against the Torah of the Judeans, against the temple-complex, or against the Emperor.”

⁹ Wanting to be generous to the Judeans, Festus answered and said to Paul,

“Are you wanting to go up into Jerusalem to be judged by me there about these things?”

¹⁰ Paul said,

“I have been standing before the judgment seat of the Emperor where it is necessary to judge me. I did no injustice to the Judeans, as you yourself are beautifully recognizing. ¹¹ Therefore, if I am being unjust and have done something worthy of death, then I am not excused from death! But if there is nothing to these things they are working against me, then no one is able to give me to them as an act of generosity! I call upon the Emperor!”

¹² Then Festus, after speaking with his council, answered,

“You have called upon the Emperor, to the Emperor you will go!”