

¹Five days later the high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor. ² When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented his case before Felix: "We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation. ³Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. 4 But in order not to weary you further, I would request that you be kind enough to hear us briefly.

⁵ "We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect ⁶ and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. And we would have judged him in accordance with our law. ⁷ But the commander Lysias came and took him from us with much violence, ⁸ ordering his accusers to come before you. By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him."

⁹The other Jews joined in the accusation, asserting that these things were true.

¹⁰ When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: "I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. 11 You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. 12 My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city.

¹³ And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. 14 However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, 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. ¹⁶ So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

¹⁷ "After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. ¹⁸ I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts doing this. There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance. 19 But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me. 20 Or these who are here 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.' "

Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." ²³ He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs.



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• Jesus is the Jewish Messiah

"[Jesus] said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (Luke 24v25-27)

• Jesus is the Jewish Messiah

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. ... Let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." (C.S.Lewis, Mere Christianity)

- Jesus is the Jewish Messiah
- Christianity fulfils the Jewish Law

"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin." (Romans 3v20)



- Jesus is the Jewish Messiah
- Christianity fulfils the Jewish Law

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2v8,9)

- Jesus is the Jewish Messiah
- Christianity fulfils the Jewish Law
- God has not rejected the Jewish People

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

Romans 1v16

- Jesus is the Jewish Messiah
- Christianity fulfils the Jewish Law
- God has not rejected the Jewish People
- "... Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved.

"... God's gifts and his call are irrevocable"

(Romans 11v25,29)

- Jesus is the Jewish Messiah
- Christianity fulfils the Jewish Law
- God has not rejected the Jewish People
- 1) Challenges us to see who Jesus really is
- 2) Challenges us to see that we are saved by faith, not by works
- 3) Challenges us to see that there is no place for antisemitism
- 4) Challenges us to see that God has not rejected the Jewish people

Acts 24 verses 1-23