### Acts

## Chapter 22

1‘Men, brothers, and fathers!  
  
 ‘Allow me to say something in my own defense now.’  
  
2Well when they heard him addressing them in Hebrew [possibly meaning the common the language of the Hebrews, which was Aramaic], things did get quieter.  
  
And he said:  
  
 3‘I’m a Jew who was born in ‘I’m a Jew who was born in <span class="placename">Tarsus‘I’m a Jew who was born in <span class="placename">Tarsus</span> of ‘I’m a Jew who was born in <span class="placename">Tarsus</span> of <span class="placename">Kilikia‘I’m a Jew who was born in <span class="placename">Tarsus</span> of <span class="placename">Kilikia</span>. I went to school right here in this city, and I received my instruction at the feet of GamaliEl, who taught me to obey the Law of our fathers strictly and to show the same zeal for God that you’re showing today.  
  
 4‘I personally persecuted this ‘Way,’ by arresting and delivering their men and women to prisons for execution.  
  
 5‘The High Priest and the entire assembly of elders can corroborate this, because I obtained letters from them to our brothers in ‘The High Priest and the entire assembly of elders can corroborate this, because I obtained letters from them to our brothers in <span class="placename">Damascus‘The High Priest and the entire assembly of elders can corroborate this, because I obtained letters from them to our brothers in <span class="placename">Damascus</span>, where I went to bring everybody they had in prison back to ‘The High Priest and the entire assembly of elders can corroborate this, because I obtained letters from them to our brothers in <span class="placename">Damascus</span>, where I went to bring everybody they had in prison back to <span class="placename">JeruSalem‘The High Priest and the entire assembly of elders can corroborate this, because I obtained letters from them to our brothers in <span class="placename">Damascus</span>, where I went to bring everybody they had in prison back to <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span> for punishment.  
  
 6‘But as I was on my way and getting close to ‘But as I was on my way and getting close to <span class="placename">Damascus‘But as I was on my way and getting close to <span class="placename">Damascus</span>, at about noon, a bright light in the sky flashed all around me!  
  
 7‘Then I fell to the ground and I heard a voice say to me:  
  
 ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’  
  
 8‘So I asked:  
  
 ‘Who are you, Lord?’  
  
 ‘And he replied:  
  
 ‘I’m Jesus the Nazarene, the one you’re persecuting!’  
  
 9‘Well, the men who were with me also saw the light, but they didn’t hear the voice of the person speaking to me.  
  
 10‘Then I asked:  
  
 ‘What must I do, Lord?’  
  
 ‘And the Lord said to me:  
  
 ‘Get up and go to Damascus. There you’ll be told all about what you’ve been assigned to do.’  
  
 11‘However, since I couldn’t see anymore because of the brilliance of that light, those who were [traveling] with me had to lead me into ‘However, since I couldn’t see anymore because of the brilliance of that light, those who were [traveling] with me had to lead me into <span class="placename">Damascus‘However, since I couldn’t see anymore because of the brilliance of that light, those who were [traveling] with me had to lead me into <span class="placename">Damascus</span> by the hand.  
  
 12‘Now, AnaNias (a man who devoutly obeyed the Law and that was well spoken of by all the ‘Now, AnaNias (a man who devoutly obeyed the Law and that was well spoken of by all the <span class="placename">Judeans‘Now, AnaNias (a man who devoutly obeyed the Law and that was well spoken of by all the <span class="placename">Judeans</span> that live there) 13came and stood next to me.  
  
 ‘Then he said:  
  
 ‘Saul… Brother… See again!’  
  
 ‘And I could immediately see him!  
  
 14‘Then he said:  
  
 ‘The God of our fathers has selected you to learn about His Will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the voice from his mouth, 15because you are to be his witness to everything that you’ve seen and heard.  
  
 16‘So now, why are you wasting time? Get up, get immersed [in water], and ‘wash your sins away’ by calling on his name!’  
  
 17‘Then after I got back to ‘Then after I got back to <span class="placename">JeruSalem‘Then after I got back to <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>... And while I was praying in the Temple, I fell into a trance where I saw [Jesus]!  
  
 18‘And he said to me:  
  
 ‘Hurry! You must leave ‘Hurry! You must leave <span class="placename">JeruSalem‘Hurry! You must leave <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span> right away, because the [people here] don’t want to listen to your testimony about me!’  
  
 19‘But I said:  
  
 ‘Lord, they all know very well that in one synagogue after another I once had everyone who believes in you arrested and whipped!  
  
 20‘And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being spilled, I stood there and approved of it… In fact, I guarded the robes of those who killed him!’  
  
 21‘Well at that, he just told me:  
  
 ‘Leave, because I’m sending you to far-away nations.’  
  
22Now, they had been listening to him until he said that, but then they started shouting:  
  
 ‘Kill this man, for he isn’t fit to live!’  
  
23And because they were shouting, throwing their clothes around and tossing dirt in the air, 24the commander ordered that Paul should be taken inside their garrison. There he gave orders to scourge him with a whip so as to force him to explain why everyone was shouting about him that way.  
  
25But when they stretched him out to be whipped, Paul asked the centurion who was standing there:  
  
 ‘Is it legal for you to whip a man who’s a ‘Is it legal for you to whip a man who’s a <span class="placename">Roman ‘Is it legal for you to whip a man who’s a <span class="placename">Roman</span> and hasn’t been charged with a crime?’  
  
26Well when the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and said:  
  
 ‘Just look at what you were about to do! This man is a ‘Just look at what you were about to do! This man is a <span class="placename">Roman ‘Just look at what you were about to do! This man is a <span class="placename">Roman</span>!’  
  
27So the commander came to [Paul] and asked:  
  
 ‘Tell me, are you a ‘Tell me, are you a <span class="placename">Roman ‘Tell me, are you a <span class="placename">Roman</span>?’  
  
And he answered:  
  
 ‘Yes.’  
  
28Then the commander said:  
  
 ‘I paid a lot to obtain my citizenship.’  
  
And Paul said:  
  
 ‘Well, I was born [a citizen]!’  
  
29Well at that, the men who were about to torture him left immediately. And on learning that he’d arrested a Well at that, the men who were about to torture him left immediately. And on learning that he’d arrested a <span class="placename">RomanWell at that, the men who were about to torture him left immediately. And on learning that he’d arrested a <span class="placename">Roman</span> [citizen], the military commander was frightened.  
  
30So the next day, because he wanted to know for sure just what the So the next day, because he wanted to know for sure just what the <span class="placename">JewsSo the next day, because he wanted to know for sure just what the <span class="placename">Jews</span> were accusing him of, he [unshackled] him and commanded the Chief Priests and the entire Jewish Court to assemble.  
  
Then he brought Paul down and stood him before them.