### Acts

## Chapter 24

1Well five days later, High Priest AnaNias arrived with some elders and an orator named Tertullus, and they explained their accusations against Paul to the governor.  
  
2Then when he was called forward, Tertullus said this:  
  
 ‘You’ve brought about so much peace, and we welcome the well-thought-out reforms that you’ve brought to our nation 3in every way and everywhere with the greatest thankfulness, O mighty Felix.  
  
 4‘But, so that I don’t waste any of your time, I beg you to hear us briefly, in your kindness...  
  
 5‘We found this man –this plague– stirring up rebellions among the ‘We found this man –this plague– stirring up rebellions among the <span class="placename">Judeans‘We found this man –this plague– stirring up rebellions among the <span class="placename">Judeans</span> throughout the whole inhabited earth, for he’s the leader of the sect of the Nazarenes. 6And when he tried to profane our Temple, we arrested him. and would have judged according to our law. 7But the chief captain, Lysias, came upon us, and with great violence took him away out of our hands, 8commanding his accusers to come to you, [spurious words] You can examine him yourself to learn more about all these things that we’re saying against him.’  
  
9And at that, the Judeans also joined in the attack, affirming that the things [Tertullus] was saying were true.  
  
10Thereafter, the governor nodded for Paul to speak.  
  
And Paul said:  
  
 ‘I know very well that you’ve been the judge of our nation for many years.  
  
 ‘So I’m happy to speak in my own defense about these things that I’ve been accused of, 11since you’re in a good position to understand them.  
  
 ‘It hasn’t been more than 12 days since I went to worship in ‘It hasn’t been more than 12 days since I went to worship in <span class="placename">JeruSalem ‘It hasn’t been more than 12 days since I went to worship in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>, 12and they didn’t find me in the Temple arguing with anyone, nor did they find me inciting a riot in the synagogues… Or anywhere else in the city for that matter!  
  
 13‘So right now, they can’t prove any of the things they’re accusing me of before you.  
  
 14‘But I do admit to this:  
  
 ‘That which they’re calling a sect, is nothing more than the way that I’ve always worshipped the God of my fathers.  
  
 ‘For I believe everything that’s written in the Law and in the Prophets, 15and I have this hope in God – which they also accept – that there’s going to be a resurrection of the righteous and the unrighteous.  
  
 16‘This is why I’m constantly on the alert so that I don’t offend my conscience by doing anything against God or men. 17And this is also why, after [being gone for] several years, I returned [to And this is also why, after [being gone for] several years, I returned [to <span class="placename">JeruSalemAnd this is also why, after [being gone for] several years, I returned [to <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>]… To bring gifts to the poor in my nation and to present my offerings [before God].  
  
 18‘But it was while I was doing this that they found me in the Temple   
– ceremonially cleansed, by the way – and I wasn’t there with a mob, nor did I start a riot!  
  
 ‘Actually, some Jews from ‘Actually, some Jews from <span class="placename">the [province of] Asia ‘Actually, some Jews from <span class="placename">the [province of] Asia</span> 19should be here before you to accuse me… That is, if they could actually find anything against me.  
  
 20‘Just ask these who are here to tell you what bad things they found me doing as I stood before their High Court… 21There was only what I shouted while I was standing among them, when I said:  
  
 ‘I’m being judged before you today over the resurrection of the dead!’  
  
  
22Well, although Felix knew a lot about things that have to do with the ‘Way,’ he just put them all off, saying:  
  
 ‘When Commander Lysias gets here, I’ll make a decision on this matter that you’re so concerned about.’  
  
23And thereafter, [Felix] ordered the centurion not to kill [Paul], but to allow him some liberty, and not to prevent his people from serving his needs.  
  
  
  
24It was several days later that Felix arrived with his woman Drousille. And since she was a Jew, he sent for Paul and they listened to him talk about his belief in the Anointed Jesus.  
  
25However, Felix became frightened when Paul started talking about righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment! So he said:  
  
 ‘That’s enough for now!  
  
 ‘Go on back, and when I have more time, I’ll send for you again.’  
  
26However, he was actually hoping that Paul would try to bribe him... So, he sent for him and talked to him frequently!  
  
27Well after two years, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And because Felix wanted to be liked by the Well after two years, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And because Felix wanted to be liked by the <span class="placename">JewsWell after two years, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And because Felix wanted to be liked by the <span class="placename">Jews</span>, he also kept Paul locked up.