

Acts 22

King James Version (KJV)

22 Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you. (He's speaking Hebrew, because the audience is a mob of Jewish "legalists", trying to condemn Paul using the Torah)

²(And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)

³I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day. (He studied in the Temple in Jerusalem, with Gamaliel. At one time he was as zealous as these guys)

⁴And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. (He was just like these people – a legalist. Paul and these people missed the coming of Messiah and the New Covenant)

⁵As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished. (The high priest will attest to Paul's loyalty to the Sanhedrin. He terrorized Christians)

⁶And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me.

⁷And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? (Jesus gave Paul a new perspective – an attitude adjustment)

⁸And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. (That got Paul's attention quickly)

⁹And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. Acts-9:7 (They heard the sound, but didn't understand the words)

¹⁰ And I said, What shall I do, LORD? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. (Paul asked for wisdom, so God gave it to him)

¹¹ And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.

¹² And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, (He was well thought of)

¹³ Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. (God restored Paul's sight)

¹⁴ And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. (God chose Paul in the First Age. Paul was one of the Elect)

¹⁵ For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. (Paul was already very knowledgeable of the Old Testament. Now he needs to also teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ)

¹⁶ And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. (He became a Christian. He regretted having persecuted Christians. He lived with that guilt his whole life)

¹⁷ And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance; (God gave Paul new instructions)

¹⁸ And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me. (They had murdered Jesus about 30 years before. Paul had been working with them to persecute Christians. They were not going to let Paul teach the Gospel. Even if they did, the people knew what Paul had been doing previously so they would not accept him)

¹⁹ And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: (Paul had a bad reputation)

²⁰ And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him. (Paul held the coats while the murderers stoned Steven to death)

²¹ And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles. (God sent Paul where he wasn't known)

²² And they gave him audience unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live. (They didn't want Gentiles saved. Great "holy" people, ready to kill anyone who disagrees with them) (Today, the muslims are the "holy" murderers)

²³ And as they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air, (A sign of degradation towards Paul)

²⁴ The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him. (The Romans are protecting Paul from the mob of Jews, but they were going to whip him to find out why he was so hated)

²⁵ And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned? (Paul declared his Roman citizenship)

²⁶ When the centurion heard that, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman. (It was illegal to beat a Roman who was not convicted of any crime)

²⁷ Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea.

²⁸ And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born. (His father was a Roman citizen. Being freeborn as Paul was, was even more influential than having purchased one's freedom, as the captain had done)

²⁹ Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him. (Punishing Paul, not having been convicted, was against Roman law. God is using Roman law to protect Paul from the Jews)

³⁰ On the morrow, because he would have known the certainty wherefore he was accused of the Jews, he loosed him from his bands, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down, and set him before them. (The Romans considered Judaism to be nothing more than a superstition. The Roman is going to get these Jews together to see if they can work something out with Paul)