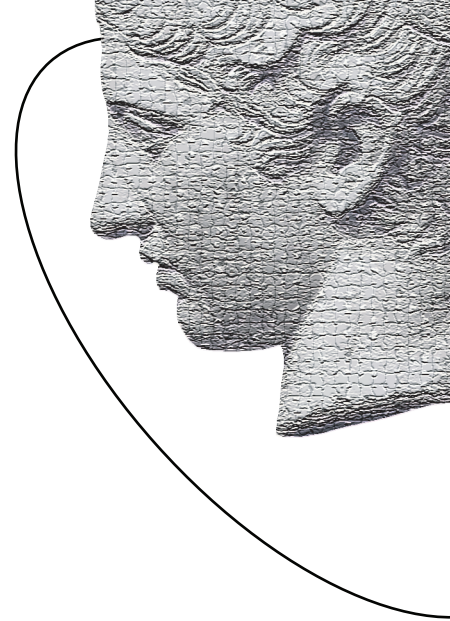




acts.

26



when.

- The events of Acts 26 occurred around 59 A.D.

characters.

- **Paul (Saul)** – Paul was an Apostle who planted churches in the Mediterranean region.
- **Porcius Festus** – The 5th Roman Procurator (governor) of Judea. He replaced Felix.
- **Herod Agrippa II** – Last king of the Herodian Dynasty. He ruled as a client king of Rome over several territories outside of Judea.
- **Berenice** – Sister of Herod Agrippa II. She was the daughter of Herod Agrippa I who God killed in Acts 12.

where.

- Paul spoke before Agrippa and Festus in Caesarea.



acts.

outline.

- PAUL'S DEFENSE BEFORE AGRIPPA AND BERENICE (26:1-23):
 - + Chapter 26 picks up where 25 left off. Paul was standing before Festus, Agrippa, and Berenice and was about to defend himself against his Jewish accusers.
 - + Paul expressed his joy that he had the chance to defend himself before Agrippa, because Agrippa was familiar with the customs of the Jews.
 - + He recounted his upbringing, how from his youth he had been in adherence to the strictest party of the Jewish faith and had lived as a Pharisee.
 - + He told Agrippa about his past life, how he had punished, imprisoned, and killed Christians.
 - + Paul described his zeal for persecuting Christians as a "raging fury."
 - + But everything changed when his zeal took him to Damascus.
 - + He told how Jesus spoke to him in a "light from heaven, brighter than the sun."
 - + Paul was convinced he was doing the right thing by persecuting Christians, but Jesus showed him he had been misled.
 - + Jesus told Paul he was to be God's "servant and witness" to turn people from "darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God."
 - + Paul was obedient to God's call, and began immediately to preach in Damascus, then in Jerusalem, and in all the region of Judea.
 - + It was on account of Paul's conversion and redirected zeal that the Jews hated him and tried to kill him in the Temple.
 - + Paul preached only what "the prophets and Moses said would come to pass," that Jesus would die, resurrect, and would be a light to Jews and Gentiles.
- FESTUS AND AGRIPPA'S RESPONSE (26:24-32):
 - + Festus spoke up and told Paul his learning had made him crazy.
 - + Paul told him he wasn't crazy, rather everything he believed was rational and provable.
 - + Paul knew Agrippa was familiar with the Jewish prophets and some of the facts about Jesus, so he asked him if he believed.
 - + Agrippa responded, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"
 - + When Agrippa, Berenice, and Festus had exited the audience hall, they all agreed that Paul could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.

application.

- Bible knowledge without a humble heart is dangerous.
- As a Pharisee, Paul would have been very familiar with the Old Testament scriptures, yet his biased reading of them led him to miss how they all pointed to Jesus.
- We can know a lot of facts about the Bible, have parts of it memorized, and even teach it to others while living a misguided life.
- In Paul's case, God knew his heart was honest and all he needed was a bit of correction.
- We need to make sure our hearts are open to correction so God can lead us to truth.
- Unfortunately, many who know the Bible well think they are beyond correction.

