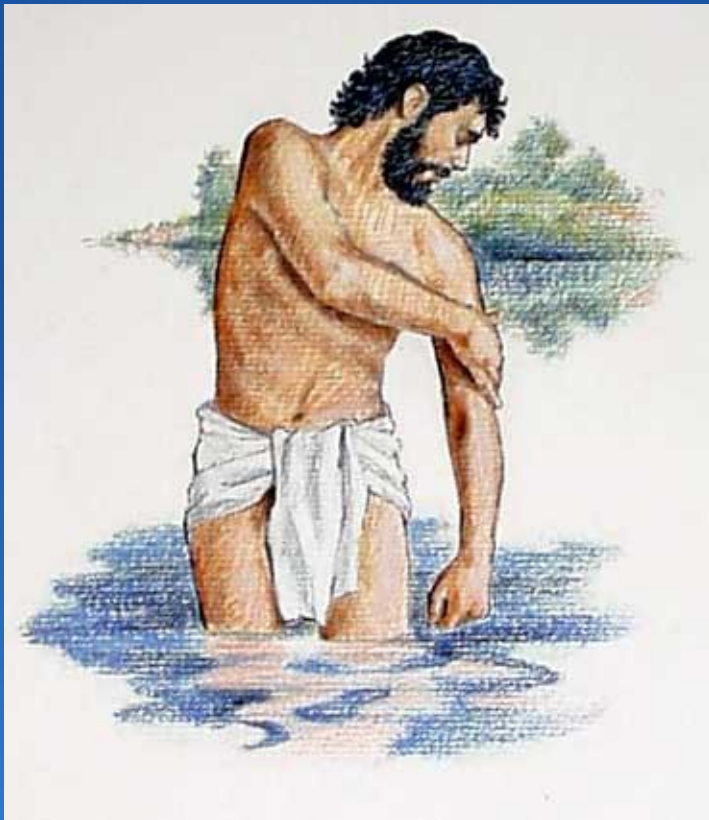


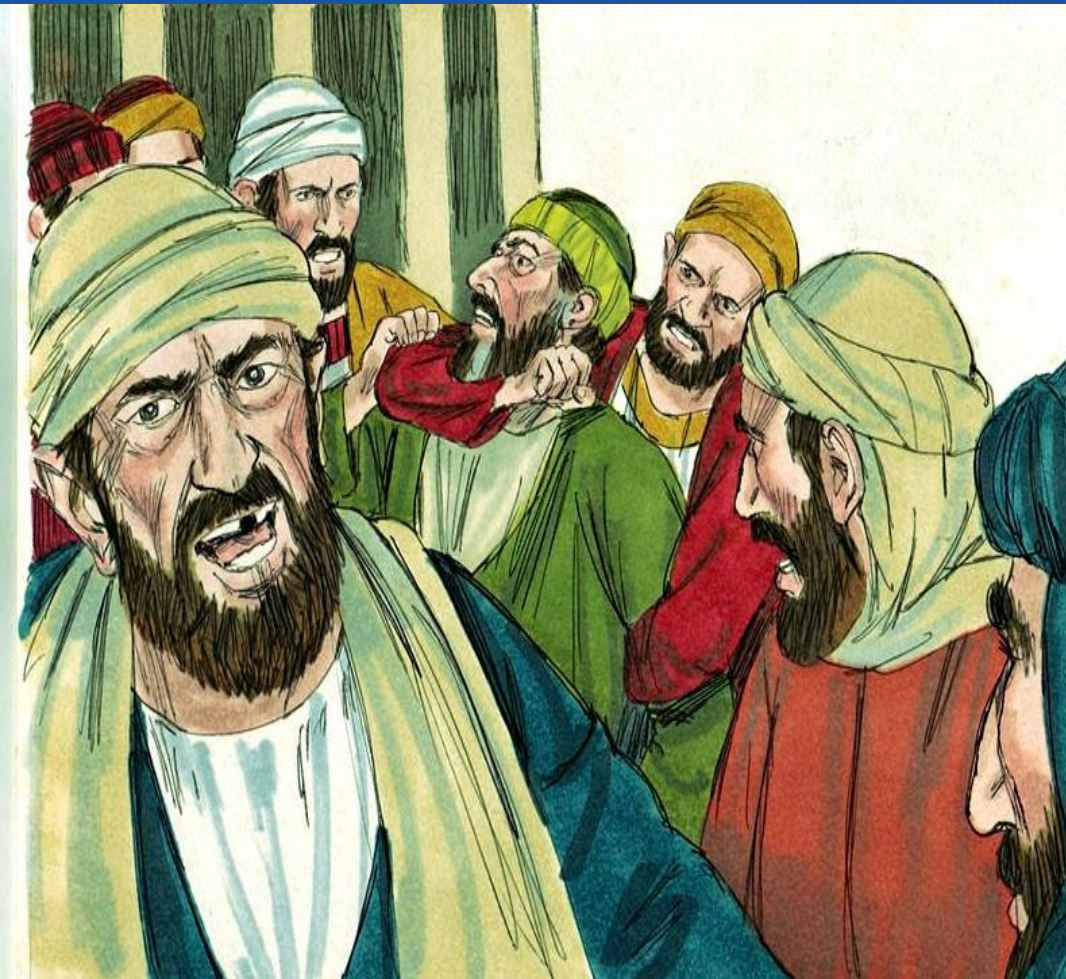
# PAUL: Real or Fake?



- Paul was in Jerusalem for Shavuot
- James told Paul to pay for the vow offerings for 4 Believing Jews
- Paul is publicly demonstrating his devotion to the Law
- Early Church Fathers said Paul only pretended to still obey the Law
- This is a Church doctrine that is often read back into the Bible



# PAUL IS ATTACKED

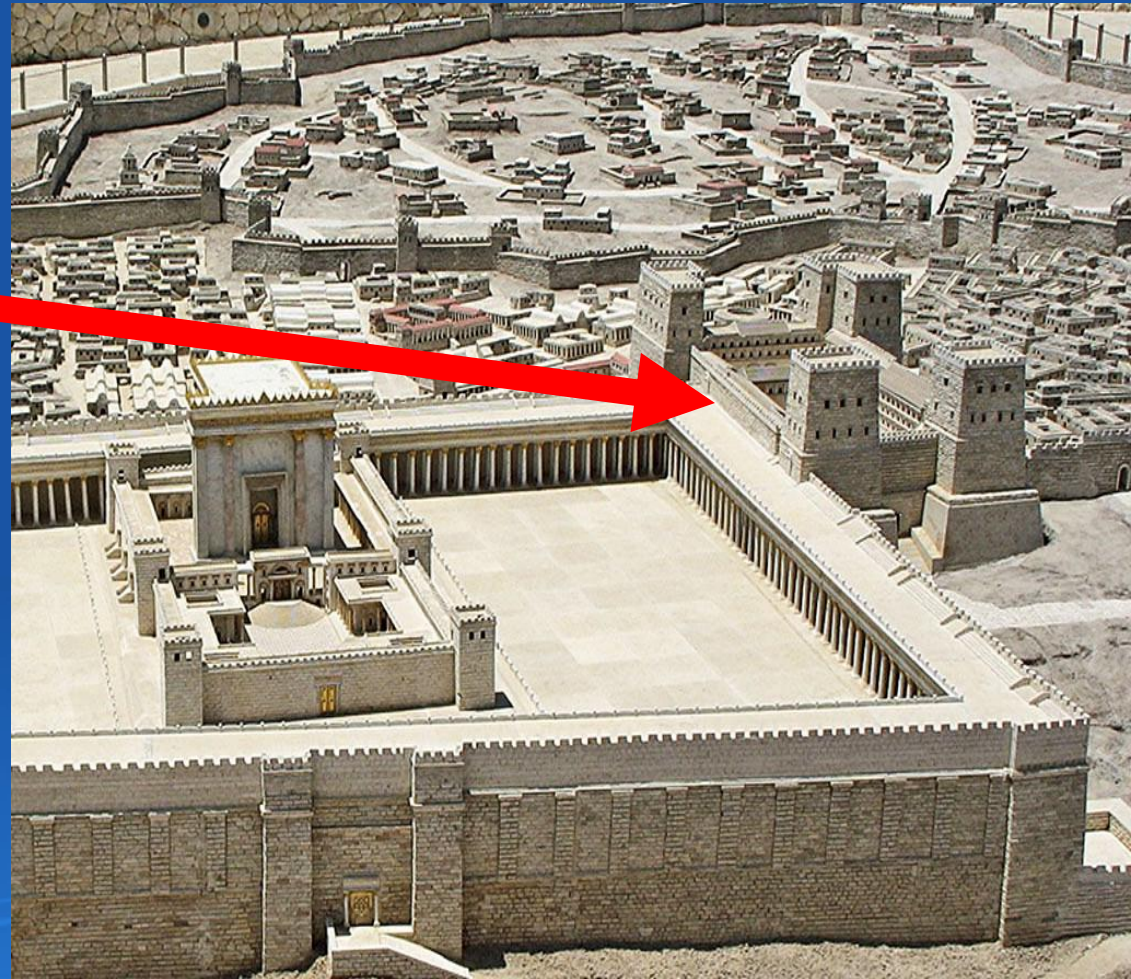


- Paul goes to an outer court of the Temple and reports to a Priest
- He is assigned 7 days of waiting after which the vow offerings can be presented
- Jews from Asia recognize Paul and attack him
- They claim he brought gentiles into the Temple, causing defilement
- Signs posted in Temple warn gentiles to stay out under pain of death



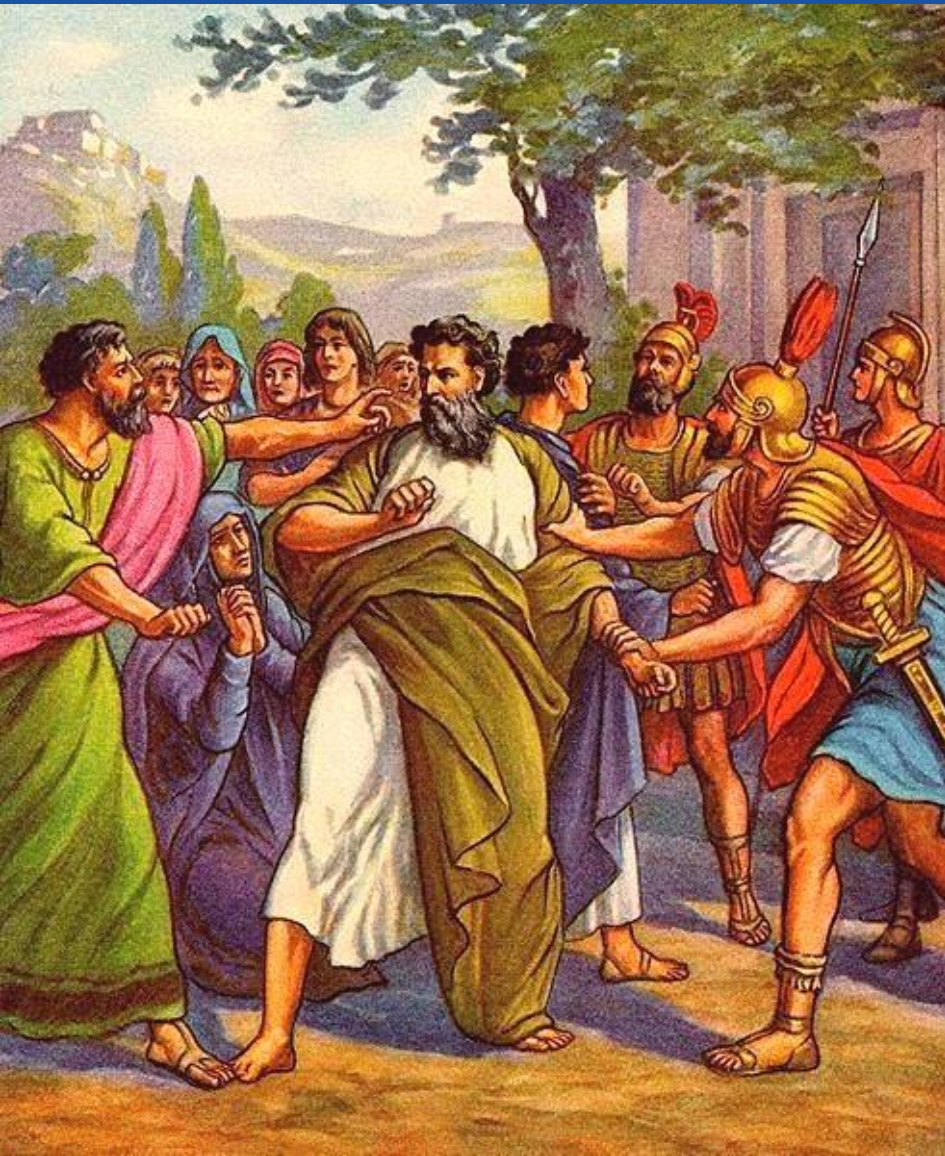
# ROMAN GUARDS INTERVENE

- All the accusations against Paul were lies
- Roman military located adjacent to the Temple area
- Antonia Fortress built by Herod the Great
- Mob intended to kill Paul
- Commander named Claudius Lysias
- Paul arrested and taken to the barracks area





# PAUL IS MISTAKEN FOR THE EGYPTIAN

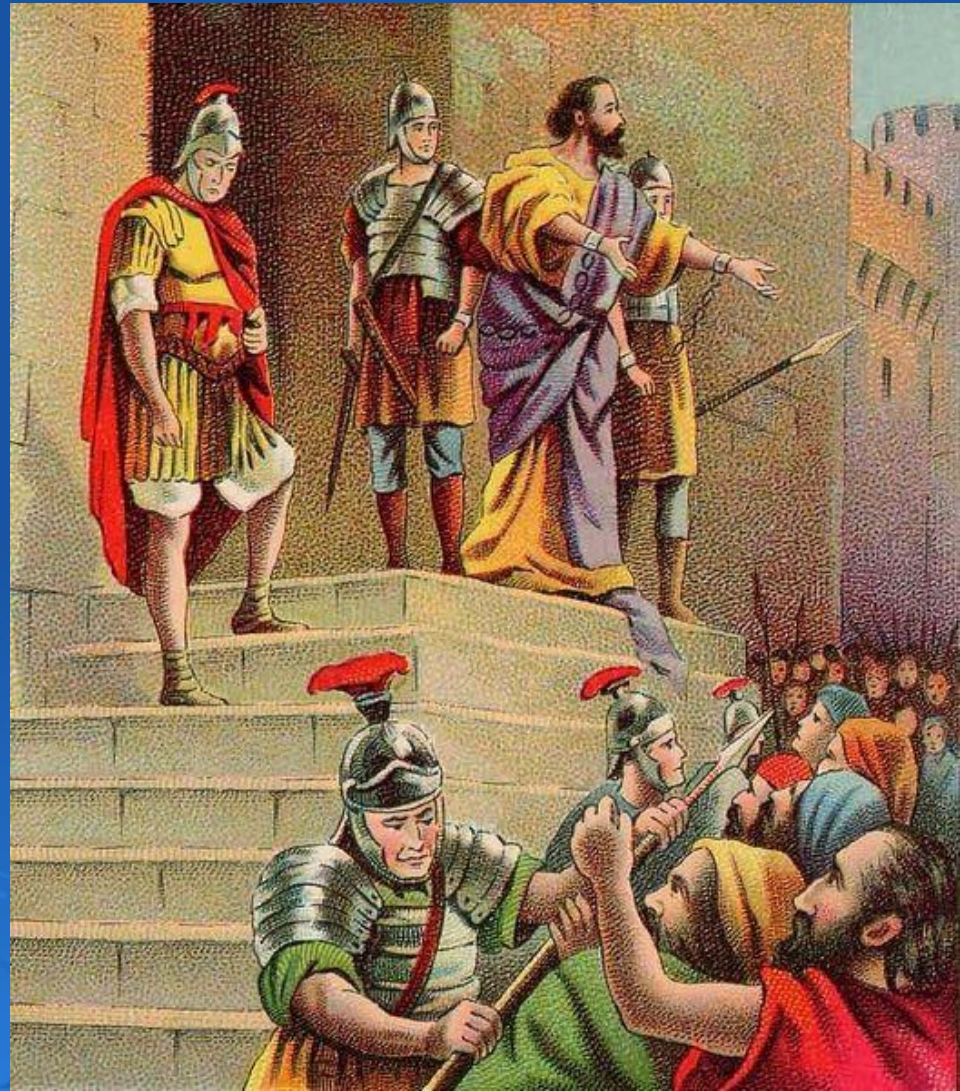


- Lysias couldn't get a good answer from the mob as to what Paul had done
- Greek was Paul's first language
- The Egyptian had formed a group of 4000 followers, who thought they could oust the Romans from the Temple Mount
- The Egyptian couldn't speak Greek, so now Lysias knew he had the wrong man



# PAUL SPEAKS TO THE ANGRY CROWD

- Paul explains that he is from Tarsus of Cilicia
- He speaks to the crowd in either Aramaic or Hebrew
- Acts chapter 22
- Jews had to live under Roman occupation
- Highest religious authority was corrupt
- Gentiles trampled over Jews' holiest places
- In our day, new immoral and degrading social policies are forced upon us
- If we don't submit, we are called bigots and haters
- How are Believers to react?





# PAUL AT THE ANTONIA FORTRESS



- Paul begins his speech using the same words as Stephen did
- Paul explains that he is a natural born, Diaspora Jew
- Part of his upbringing was in Jerusalem, his teacher was Gamaliel
- Well educated in the *nomos* (Law) of their “fathers”
- Paul is a credentialed Torah scholar



# PAUL'S FORMER DARK SIDE

- Paul says he persecuted The Way
- He had the official backing of the High Priest and the Sanhedrin
- On his way to arrest Believers in Damascus, a light blinded him
- A voice asked “Why are you persecuting Me?”
- In Damascus, Hananyah restores Paul's sight
- Hananyah is a Believer AND an observant follower of the Law





# CONNECTIONS TO THE ESSENES



- Damascus was headquarters of the Essenes
- *Tzaddik* = Righteous One
- “God of our fathers” is who determined Paul’s purpose in life
- Hananyah, John the Baptist and Yeshua had connections to the Essenes
- Paul told to immerse himself, and have his sins washed away in Yeshua’s name



# PAUL SPEAKS ABOUT PRAYING IN THE TEMPLE

- Paul says he had a vision at the Temple
- Paul tried to convince God to let him stay in Jerusalem (Acts 9)
- God insists Paul leave and go to the gentiles
- The crowd explodes upon the word “gentile” and Paul is taken inside the Fortress





# PAUL IS INTERROGATED

- At this point all Lysias knows is that Paul is not the Egyptian
- Most people did not survive being flogged
- This treatment was not permitted for Roman citizens
- Paul said he was born into his citizenship
- No Procurator at this time: Lysias was the highest governing authority in Judea

