

# ACTS

## CHAPTER 23: TOWARDS ROME

- Acts 19:21 *“I must visit Rome”*
- Acts 27:23 – 24 *“You have to stand before the Emperor”*
- Paul expected to speak to Jews in the synagogues of Rome, not to the powerful elite rulers of the Roman Empire
- Rome the capital of gentile world gov't & the gentile Christian Church
- When Messiah returns, world gov't will go back to Jerusalem and operate as a theocracy

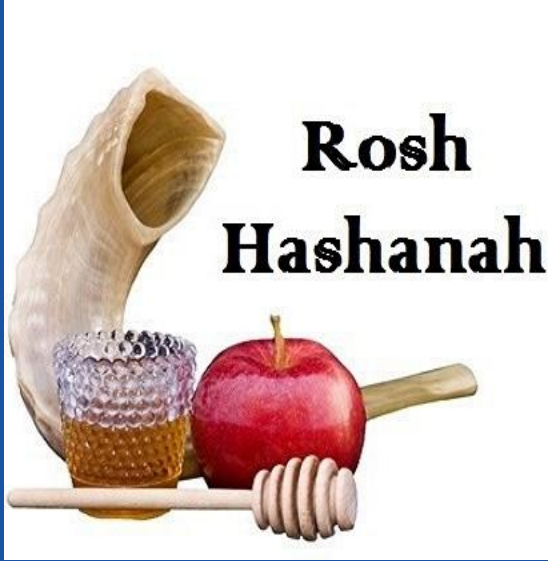
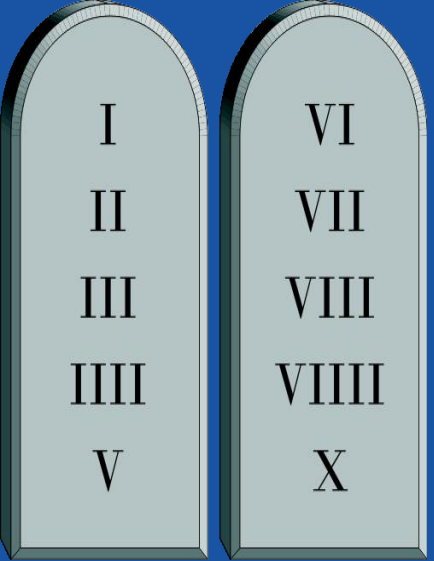


# PAUL DEFENDS HIMSELF



- Roman tribune is still not sure what Paul has done
- Not the common Jews who wanted Paul dead
- Zealots were super-nationalists who hated gentiles
- Scholars have trouble pinpointing what crime Paul had committed
- Paul insists on his good Jewish character, but is struck on his mouth for saying it





**Rosh  
Hashanah**

**LAW OF MOSES**

**TRADITIONS**

**CUSTOMS**



**H A L A K H A H**

**( J e w i s h L a w )**

**When reading Paul the term “LAW” is key to understand**

**Paul rarely discusses matters in technical terms or does he offer minute nuances**



- Christians stand at the head of the list when it comes to defending manmade doctrines more than God's commands
- Christians and Jews claim their doctrines and God's Word as essentially one in the same
- The route to modernization of Christianity is to go back to the earliest days of our faith





- Paul doesn't declare innocence, he declares he has a good Jewish character
- Paul calls High Priest *Hananyah* (Ananias) a white-washed wall.....he is accusing him of being a fake, a phony
- Paul of course knew he was the High Priest due to the garments he was wearing
- Did Paul sully his Apostolic credentials by responding that way?

# YESHUA WAS ALSO SLAPPED



- John 18:19 – 23
- Yeshua struck by Caiaphas, Paul by Ananias, and both had words with High Priest
- Paul knew by Ananias' garments that he was the High Priest
- Paul's dialogue was tongue in cheek, and sarcastic
- Perhaps Paul did sin according to the letter of the Law of Moses



# PAUL INSTIGATES A FIGHT



- Paul announces that he is STILL a Pharisee
- Says his case revolves around his belief in resurrection
- Huge argument erupts
- Law (*nomos*) with Josephus means *Halakhah*, not the Law of Moses (Torah)
- Pharisees led the masses via the synagogue

## PHARISEES

Law

Interpretations of the Torah

Middle Class

Resurrection of the Dead

Belief in Afterlife

Rejected the Jewish Leaders



## SADDUCEES

Temple

Torah Alone

Upper Class

No Resurrection

No Afterlife

Supported Jewish Leaders



# CHAOS AT THE SANHEDRIN



- Sadducees are wealthy aristocrats who form the senior Priesthood
- Claim to strictly follow ONLY the Law of Moses, and shun the Traditions of the Pharisees, but are corrupt and aloof
- The issue of resurrection puts the Pharisees on Paul's side
- 1Cor.15:16 – 17
- Lysias has to remove Paul from the scene due to the mayhem at the Sanhedrin



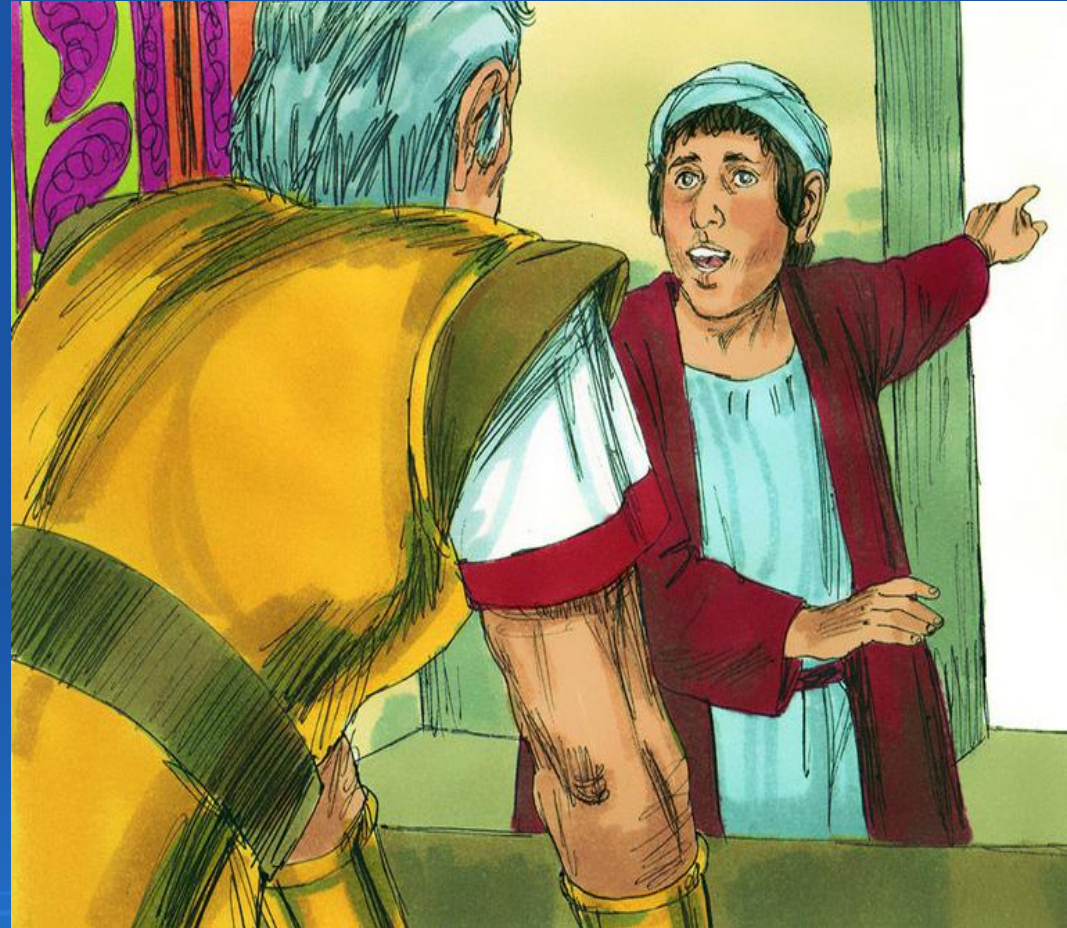
# PAUL IS ENCOURAGED BY THE LORD



- Paul sent back to his cell
- God says that soon Paul is going to witness to the Emperor of Rome!
- Paul's comfort is secondary to God's purposes
- Frustrated Zealots plot a plan to take Paul from the Roman guard
- Zealots so passionate about defending their Jewishness that they'll give up their lives
- Paul seen as a traitor to Jewishness

# PAUL'S NEPHEW TO THE RESCUE

- 40 men plan to attack the Roman garrison
- They went to the High Priest and told him their plan
- Nephew somehow found out about the plot to kill his uncle
- Nephew tells Paul and then Lysias



# PAUL TO BE TAKEN TO CAESAREA



- Lysias orders 2 Centurions to assemble troops for a quick march to Caesarea Maritima
- Will leave at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour of the night to avoid the conspirators
- Romans divided a day into daytime and nighttime
- Each had 12 hours
- An hour was a division of time, not a measurement of time
- A daytime hour was not the same length as a nighttime hour