

ARREST IN JERUSALEM



Lesson 11 for September 15, 2018

Adapted From www.fustero.es

www.gmahktanjungpinang.org

Acts 23:11

“The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, ‘Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome’ ”

Paul longed for seeing a united Church (Galatians 3:28). He encouraged the Gentile churches to help their Jewish brothers in Jerusalem by giving an offering for them (Romans 15:25-27) Paul faced many trials in Jerusalem like the Holy Spirit had announced (Acts 21:22), both within and outside Church.

1) The trials of Paul in Jerusalem:

✚ *Problems with the believers.*

Acts 21:15-26.

✚ *Problems with the Jews.*

Acts 21:27-36.

2) Paul defends himself:

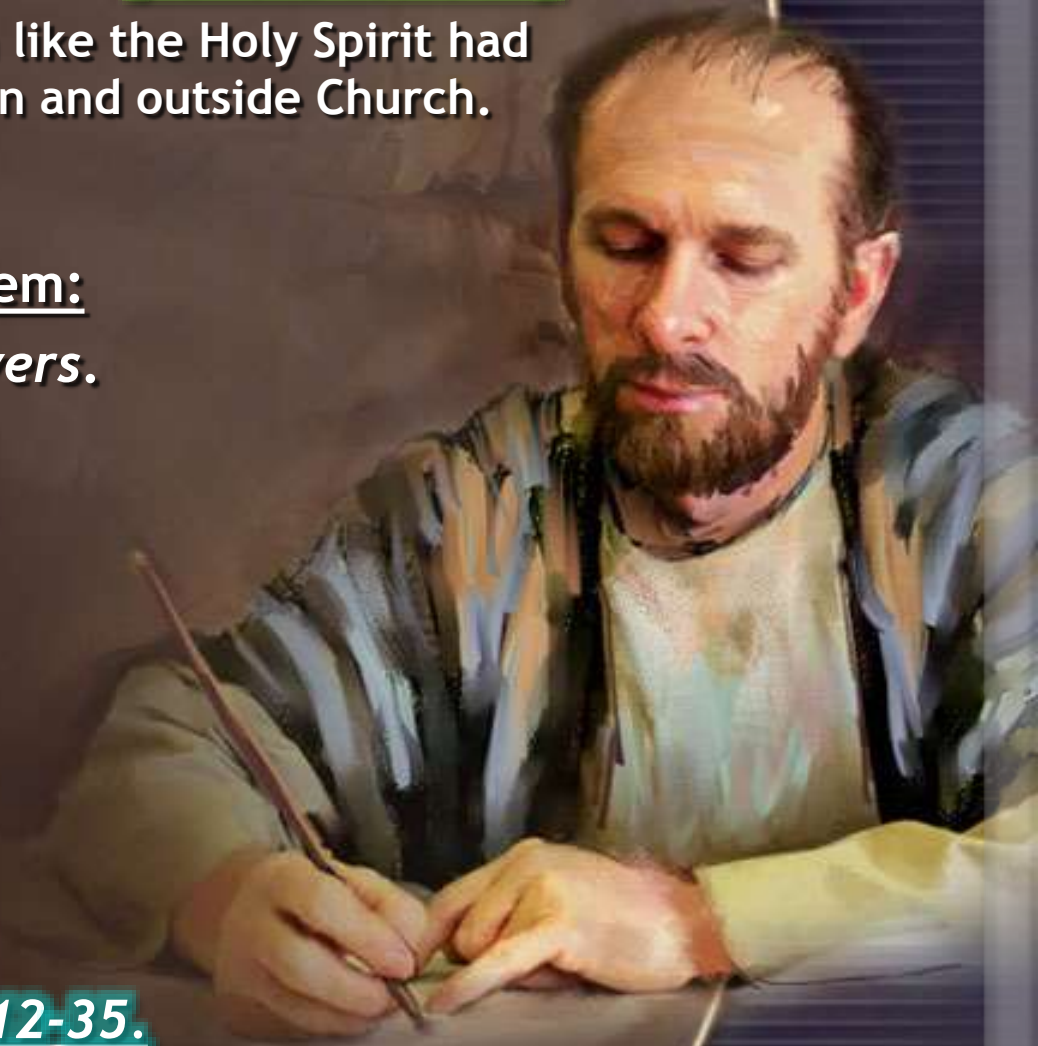
✚ *Before the crowd.*

Acts 21:37-22:29.

✚ *Before the Sanhedrin.*

Acts 22:30-23:11.

3) Saved from death. Acts 23:12-35.



Acts 21:15-26

PROBLEMS WITH THE BELIEVERS

“but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.” (Acts 21:21)

Paul was warmly welcomed to the Church in Jerusalem.

Nevertheless, James told him about some criticism towards him. Some people said that Paul was teaching the Jews to abandon their tradition.



Paul was asked to show his “piety” by sponsoring the Nazirite vow of some Jewish believers.

Paul could’ve just denied the false accusation. However, he agreed to James’ request. Some brothers could understand that Jewish traditions were required for salvation.

“This concession was not in harmony with his teachings nor with the firm integrity of his character. His advisers were not infallible. Though some of these men wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, yet when not under its direct influence they sometimes erred. It will be remembered that on one occasion Paul withstood Peter to the face because he was acting a double part.”



E.G.W. (SDA Bible Commentary, volume 6, on Acts 21:20-26)

Acts 21:27-36

PROBLEMS WITH THE JEWS

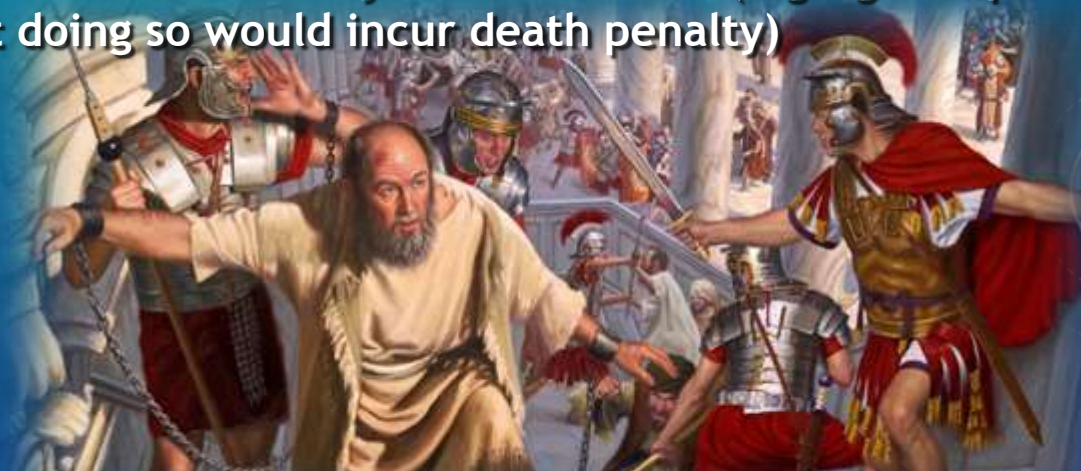
“Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him.” (Acts 21:27)

In some cases of Nazirite vow, the next rite had to be celebrated: “then he shall shave his head on the day of his cleansing; on the seventh day he shall shave it. Then on the eighth day he shall bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest.” (Numbers 6:9-10)

Soon before that time ended, Paul was accused of bringing Gentiles to the courtyard of the Jews (big signs explained that doing so would incur death penalty)

“No stranger is to enter within the balustrade round the temple and enclosure. Whoever is caught will be responsible to himself for his death, which will ensue.”

The Roman Commander, Claudius Lysias, had to intervene because the crowd almost lynched Paul. He chained Paul and took him to the Antonia Fortress.



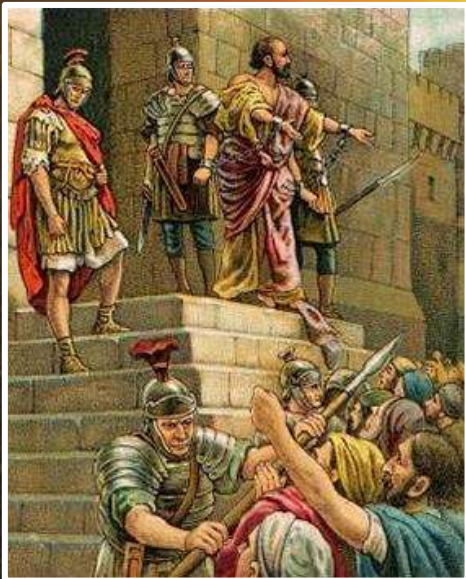
BEFORE THE CROWD

Acts 21:37-22:29

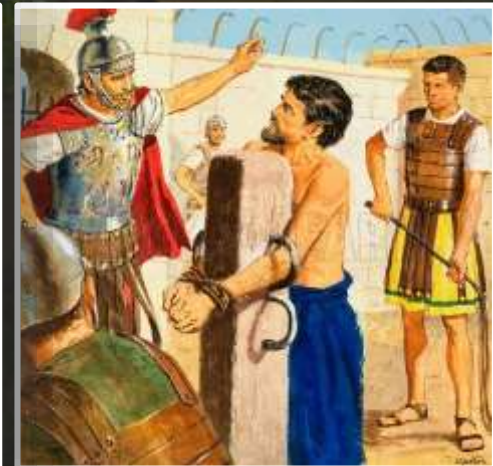
“Brethren and fathers, hear my defense before you now.” (Acts 22:1)

Paul asked permission to speak. He spoke Aramaic, the Hebrew tongue, so the crowd kept quiet.

Paul wanted to persuade his fellow countrymen that Jesus was the Messiah. He told his personal testimony. Everyone listened to Paul very carefully until he spoke about his mission to the Gentiles. “Then they raised their voices and said, ‘Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!’” (Acts 22:22)



The Roman commander took Paul into the fortress and had him examined by flogging. Paul mentioned that he was a Roman citizen, so he could not be subject to that kind of torture.



Acts 22:30-23:11

BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

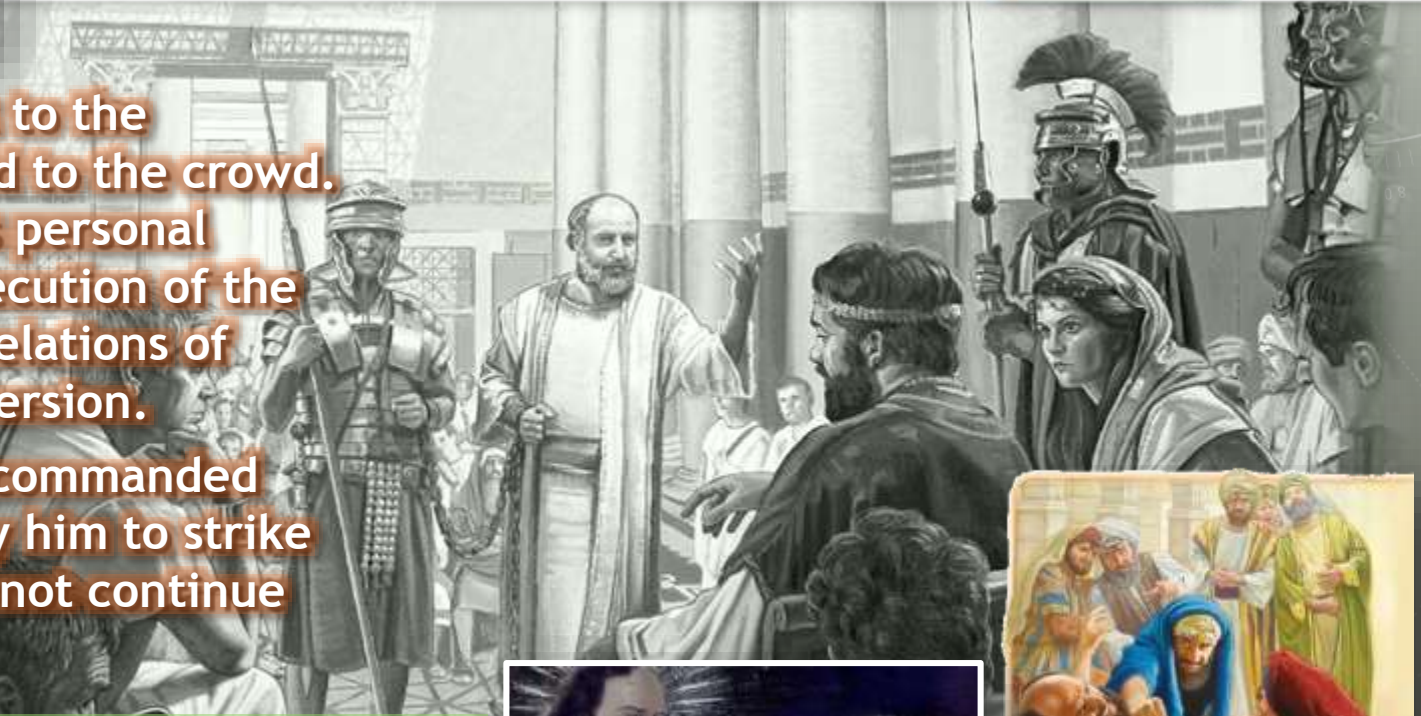


“But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, ‘Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!’” (Acts 23:6)

Paul tried to speak to the Sanhedrin as he did to the crowd. He spoke about his personal devotion, his persecution of the Christians, the revelations of Jesus and his conversion.

However, Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him, so Paul could not continue preaching.

Then, Paul spoke about the resurrection to set the Pharisees against the Sadducees. Claudius saved Paul again. God encouraged Paul and assured him that he would testify in Rome.



SAVED FROM DEATH

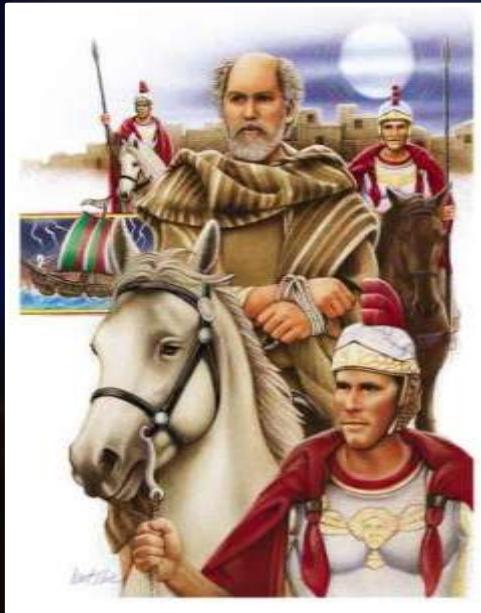
Acts 23:12-35

“And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.” (Acts 23:12)



God used Paul's nephew to save him from a certain death by the Jews.

The young man warned Claudius, so he transferred Paul to Caesarea.



The Jews and the Sanhedrin had shown a deep hate against Paul, and more than 40 people supported the plot against him. Therefore, Claudius took great care in securing Paul during his transfer.

Paul could request a fair judgment before Felix, and even appeal unto Caesar if necessary.



E.G.W. (Early Writings, page 207)

“Again the Lord appeared to Paul and revealed to him that he must go up to Jerusalem, that he would there be bound and suffer for His name. Although he was a prisoner for a great length of time, yet the Lord carried forward His special work through him. His bonds were to be the means of spreading the knowledge of Christ and thus glorifying God. As he was sent from city to city for his trial, his testimony concerning Jesus and the interesting incidents of his own conversion were related before kings and governors, that they should be left without excuse concerning Jesus. Thousands believed on Him and rejoiced in His name.”

