

# Acts 22:1-22

## Paul Speaks to His Accusers

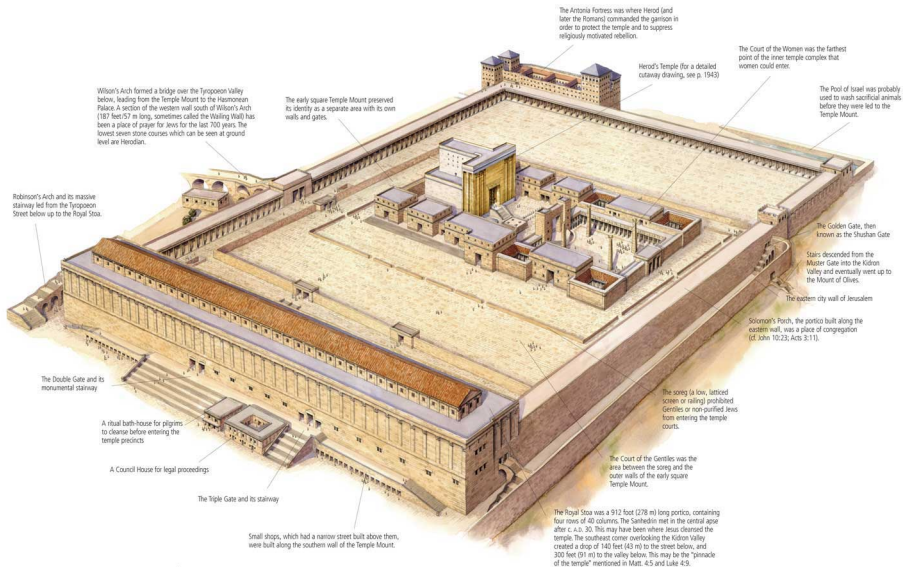
Jeremy Doan

Holly Hills Bible Church

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## All Jerusalem is in confusion

- 21:17 – Paul arrives in Jerusalem
  - James and the elders note the growing discontent amongst the Jews
  - They recommend that Paul take a vow to appease the Jews
- 21:27 – The people drag Paul out of the temple
  - Saying he teaches against the law and the temple
  - Accuse him of bringing a Gentile into the temple
- 21:31 – the Roman commander at the temple gets word of the riot
  - Rushes into the temple and seizes Paul
  - Unable to determine what the issue is
    - Initially thought Paul was an Egyptian revolutionary
  - Carries Paul towards the fortress
- 21:37 – Paul asks to speak from the fortress steps
  - Speaks to the crowd in Aramaic (though the text says Hebrew)
    - Important point is that it is a language the Jews would speak



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# Such was I

1 *“Brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I now offer to you.”*

- *Brethren and fathers*
  - He starts from a place of commonality and fraternity
  - The people listen closely because he is speaking in Hebrew/Aramaic
- Paul's curriculum vitae
  - Jewish by birth
  - Citizen of Tarsus in Cilicia
  - A student of Gamaliel
    - The most highly regarded teacher of the day
    - *According to a strict manner of the law*
  - Zealous of God
    - Acknowledges the are coming from a place of zeal
  - Persecuted “the Way”
    - Even to the point of killing those involved
    - *Binding and delivering to prison both men and women*

# The road to Damascus

6 *“But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me,”*

- *But it happened that as I was on my way*
  - He was going to Damascus to arrest other Christians
  - Those with him saw the light, but did not understand the voice
    - This was a personal call
    - What would the light signify to the Jewish ears?
- *And I said, What shall I do, Lord*
  - Paul demonstrates his obedient response to the call of the Lord
  - Through all this, he is showing the Jews that he is not acting on his own

## A devout man (according to the law)

11 *“But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.”*

- *But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light*
  - What is significant about Paul's blindness?
- *And one Ananias*
  - He was devout by the standard of the law
  - He was highly regarded by the Jews
  - He gave Paul back his sight<sup>1</sup>
- *And he said, The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will*
  - *To see the Righteous One*
  - *To hear a voice from his mouth*
  - *You will be a witness*
- *Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name*

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<sup>1</sup>to put it crudely

## I fell into a trance

17 *“It happened when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I fell into a trance,”*

- *And saw him saying to me*
  - Who is “him”?
  - Does this refer back to verse 14?
  - Note that this takes place in the temple
- *Make haste, and get out of Jerusalem quickly*
  - “He” prophesied that the Jews would not accept his witness
- Paul defends himself before God
  - *I used to imprison and beat those who believed in You*
  - *I also was standing by approving [of the stoning of Stephen]*
  - In other words, Paul was zealous for the law
- *Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles*
  - See also Acts 9:15

# Mob justice

*22 They listened to him up to this statement, and then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!"*

- *They listened to him up to this statement*
  - What didn't they like about this statement?
  - Had they already judged Paul?
- *Away with such a fellow from the earth*
  - Is there more going on here than just zeal for the law and the temple
- What happens next?
  - About to be flogged, Paul declares his Roman citizenship
  - Paul goes before the Jewish council
  - The Jews plot to kill Paul
  - Paul goes before the Roman governor
  - Paul appeals to Caesar