

Acts 26

Chapter 26 of 28 · 32 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Paul's Defense Before Agrippa

¹ Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:

² I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews:

³ Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.

⁴ My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;

⁵ Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

⁶ And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:

⁷ Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.

⁸ Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

⁹ I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

¹⁰ Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.

11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

12 Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,

13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Paul Recounts His Conversion and Calling

19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

21 For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

23 That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

25 But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

26 For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

30 And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them:

31 And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

32 Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Believe — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

Faith — πίστις (Pistis)

Faith, belief, trust

The Greek **pistis** (πίστις) denotes faith, belief, or trust—confidence in God's character and promises. It's both intellectual assent and relational trust, central to justification (Romans 5:1).

Forgive — ἀφίημι (Aphiemi)

To send away, forgive, release

The Greek **aphiemi** (ἀφίημι) means to send away or release—canceling a debt or dismissing an offense. Jesus taught us to pray 'forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors' (Matthew 6:12).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Holy — ἅγιος (Hagios)

Holy, sacred, set apart

The Greek **hagios** (ἅγιος) denotes holiness—moral purity and separation unto God. Believers are called 'saints' (hagioi), those set apart for God through Christ's sanctifying work.

Hope — ἐλπίς (Elpis)

Hope, expectation

The Greek **elpis** (ἐλπίς) denotes hope—confident expectation of good. This hope is 'an anchor of the soul' (Hebrews 6:19), grounded in Christ's resurrection and the believer's future inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Prophet — προφήτης (Prophētēs)

Prophet

The Greek **prophētēs** (προφήτης) denotes a prophet—one who speaks forth God's message. Jesus was recognized as 'a prophet mighty in deed and word' (Luke 24:19), fulfilling and surpassing the prophetic office.

Repent — μετανοέω (Metanoeo)

To change one's mind, repent

The Greek **metanoeo** (μετανοέω) means to change one's mind or purpose—a complete transformation of thinking. John the Baptist and Jesus both began their ministries with 'Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 3:2; 4:17).

Truth — ἀλήθεια (Aletheia)

Truth, reality

The Greek **aletheia** (ἀλήθεια) denotes truth or reality—that which corresponds to actuality. Jesus declared, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6), embodying ultimate reality.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

CROSS REFERENCES

Acts 26:1 **Parallel theme:** Acts 9:15; 26:2; Proverbs 1:24; John 7:51

Acts 26:3 **Parallel theme:** Acts 6:14

Acts 26:4 **Parallel theme:** Galatians 1:13

Acts 26:5 **Resurrection:** Acts 23:6. **Parallel theme:** Acts 22:3; 24:5

Acts 26:6

Hope: Acts 23:6; 24:15; 28:20; Titus 2:13. **Covenant:** Romans 15:8. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 12:3; 22:18; 26:4; Zechariah 13:7. **References God:** Deuteronomy 18:15

Acts 26:7 **References God:** Ezra 6:17; 1 Timothy 5:5; James 1:1. **Kingdom:** Luke 22:30; 1 Thessalonians 3:10. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 19:28; Philippians 3:11

Acts 26:8 **Resurrection:** Acts 4:2; 23:6. **References God:** Luke 18:27. **Parallel theme:** Acts 25:19; Genesis 18:14; Philippians 3:21

Acts 26:9 **Parallel theme:** 1 Timothy 1:13. **References Jesus:** Acts 22:8

Acts 26:10 **Parallel theme:** Acts 8:3. **References Jerusalem:** Acts 9:21

Acts 26:11 **Parallel theme:** Acts 13:45; 22:19; Matthew 10:17

Acts 26:13 **Light:** Matthew 17:2

Acts 26:14 **Parallel theme:** Acts 9:7; 21:40; 22:2

Acts 26:15 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 25:45

Acts 26:16 **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 2:1; Daniel 10:11; Romans 15:16; Galatians 1:12; 1 Timothy 1:12

Acts 26:17 **Parallel theme:** Acts 9:15; Jeremiah 1:8; 1:19; Romans 11:13; 1 Timothy 2:7

Acts 26:18 **Holy:** Acts 20:32; Ephesians 1:18; 1 Peter 2:9. **Light:** Luke 1:79; John 8:12; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 5:8. **Darkness:** Isaiah 42:7; Ephesians 4:18. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 35:5

Acts 26:19

Parallel theme: Isaiah 50:5; Jeremiah 20:9; Ezekiel 3:14; Jonah 1:3; Galatians 1:16

Acts 26:20

Repentance: Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; 20:21; Matthew 3:8; 9:13; Revelation 2:5; 3:3. **References God:** Acts 15:19. **Parallel theme:** Acts 9:15

Acts 26:21 **Temple:** Acts 21:27

Acts 26:22 **Prophecy:** Acts 10:43; 24:14; Luke 24:27; 24:44. **References Moses:** John 5:46. **Sin:** Revelation 15:3. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 7:12

Acts 26:23 **References Christ:** Luke 24:26; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Revelation 1:5. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 3:15; Zechariah 12:10; 13:7; John 10:18; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 2:10. **Light:** Luke 2:32

Acts 26:24

Parallel theme: Acts 17:32; 26:11; 2 Kings 9:11; Jeremiah 29:26; Hosea 9:7; Mark 3:21; 1 Corinthians 1:23; 4:10; 2 Corinthians 5:13

Acts 26:25 **Parallel theme:** Acts 23:26

Acts 26:28 **References Christ:** Acts 11:26. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 10:18

Acts 26:29 **Parallel theme:** Acts 21:33; Ephesians 6:20

Acts 26:31 **Parallel theme:** Acts 23:9; 23:29

Acts 26:32 **Parallel theme:** Acts 28:18

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