

# Acts 26:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews**—Paul addresses King Agrippa II, who as ruler of territories in northern Palestine and supervisor of the Jerusalem temple, possessed exceptional knowledge of Jewish law and theology. The Greek *gnostes* (γνώστην) means "knower" or "expert," indicating Agrippa was not merely familiar but deeply versed in Jewish matters.

**Wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently** (δέομαι μακροθύμως ἀκοῦσαί μου)—The word *makrothymos* (μακροθύμως, "patiently") literally means "long-suffering" or "long-tempered," a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). Paul requests the same patient endurance God shows toward sinners. This is Paul's most sophisticated defense, tailored to a Jewish expert who could appreciate the messianic implications of his testimony.

## Historical Context

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Acts 26 records Paul's defense before Agrippa II (ruled AD 53-100), great-grandson of Herod the Great. As a Herodian ruler appointed by Rome with authority over temple affairs, Agrippa was uniquely qualified to evaluate Paul's claims about fulfillment of Jewish messianic prophecy. Festus (Roman procurator) arranged this hearing hoping Agrippa could help formulate charges for Paul's appeal to Caesar.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Paul's strategic approach to Agrippa (expert-to-expert) model contextualized gospel witness to different audiences?
2. What does Paul's request for patient hearing teach about how we should present the gospel to skeptics—with confidence in truth but humility in manner?

## Interlinear Text

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μάλιστα	γνώστην	ὄντα	σε	πάντων	τῶν	κατὰ	
<b>Epecially</b>	<b>expert</b>	<b>to be</b>	<b>thee</b>	<b>in all</b>	G3588	<b>which are among</b>	
G3122	G1109	G5607	G4571	G3956		G2596	
Ἰουδαίους	ἐθῶν	τε	καὶ	ζητημάτων	διὸ	δέομαι	σου,
<b>the Jews</b>	<b>customs</b>	G5037	<b>and</b>	<b>questions</b>	<b>wherefore</b>	<b>I beseech</b>	<b>thee</b>
G2453	G1485		G2532	G2213	G1352	G1189	G4675
μακροθύμως	ἀκοῦσαί	μου					
<b>patiently</b>	<b>to hear</b>	<b>me</b>					
G3116	G191	G3450					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 6:14** (Parallel theme): For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.