

# Acts 26:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come**—Paul identifies himself with Israel's messianic hope, using dodekaphylon (δωδεκάφυλον, "twelve tribes") to emphasize the continuity between Israel and the church. The word en ekteneia (ἐν ἐκτενείᾳ, "instantly/earnestly") describes intense, continuous worship—the same root used of Jesus praying in agony (Luke 22:44). Paul's point is devastating: he is accused of believing what faithful Jews have always believed—resurrection and Messiah.

**For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews**—The Greek peri hēs elpidos (περὶ ἧς ἐλπίδος, "concerning which hope") is emphatic. Paul faces persecution not for abandoning Judaism but for fulfilling it. The irony is sharp: those who claim to serve the God of Abraham now prosecute the one who proclaims Abraham's promises fulfilled in Christ (Galatians 3:16). This echoes Stephen's accusation that the religious establishment always resists the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51).

## Historical Context

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Paul spoke these words circa AD 59-60 before Herod Agrippa II (great-grandson of Herod the Great) and the Roman governor Festus in Caesarea. Agrippa was considered an expert in Jewish customs (26:3), making him an ideal audience for Paul's argument. The "twelve tribes" language was still meaningful despite the

northern kingdom's exile—pious Jews maintained tribal identity and awaited national restoration.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does Paul's defense challenge the false dichotomy between Christianity and faithful Judaism?
2. What does it mean that the resurrection hope was central to ancient Jewish worship "day and night"—and should it be equally central to yours?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰς	ἧς	τὸ	δωδεκάφυλον	ἡμῶν	ἐν	ἐκτενείᾳ
Unto	which	G3588	twelve tribes	promise our	instantly	G1616
G1519	G3739		G1429	G2257	G1722	
νύκτα	καὶ	ἡμέραν	λατρεῦον	ἐλπίζει	καταντῆσαι	περὶ
night	and	God day	serving	hope	to come	For
G3571	G2532	G2250	G3000	G1679	G2658	G4012
ἧς	ἐλπίδος	ἐγκαλοῦμαι	βασιλεῦ	Ἀγρίππα	ὑπὸ	τῶν
which	hope's sake	I am accused	king	Agrippa	of	G3588
G3739	G1680	G1458	G935	G67	G5259	
Ἰουδαίων						
the Jews						
G2453						

## Additional Cross-References

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**James 1:1** (References God): James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

**1 Timothy 5:5** (References God): Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

**1 Thessalonians 3:10** (Kingdom): Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

**Philippians 3:11** (Parallel theme): If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

**Matthew 19:28** (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Luke 22:30** (Kingdom): That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Ezra 6:17** (References God): And offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.