

Paul's Defense
Acts 21:37-22:22
January 22, 2023

Review: "Away with him!" (cf. Luke 23:18!)

Paul and the Commander 21:37-40

- Paul: A word, please?
- Commander: You speak Greek? I thought you were the terrorist.
- Paul: Nope. A Jew from Tarsus. May I speak to the people?

Paul's Defense 22:1-22

- Preparation – Aramaic, polite address "Brothers and fathers..."
- Heritage – Born & Bred (raised in Jerusalem, trained under Gamaliel)
- Passion - zealous
- Road to Damascus
 - Noon - bright light & voice
 - (Companions saw the light, but did not understand the voices)
 - Ananias – devout observer of the Law & highly respected!
- Temple –
 - Vision from Jesus - new information!
 - Jesus: Go – to the Gentiles!
- Crowd: Time to die!

Note: There are striking parallels between Stephen and Paul in the Temple.

- The charges are similar (speaking against the Law and this place – Torah and Temple).
- They both experience mob violence.
- Both deliver speeches before their accusers.
- The speeches start with the same address: "Brothers and fathers."
- Both speeches provoke a violent response.
- Both are accused by non-Jerusalem Jews (Diaspora).
- (Paul even mentions Stephen in his speech.)

Application:

- Are you prepared to give an answer about Jesus?
 - 1 Peter 3:15