

Fact Sheet for "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"

Acts 25:23-26:32

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This is one of the famous verses from Acts.

Festus was the procurator. Agrippa was the king. Agrippa II was son of Herod Agrippa I who had James killed, who intended to kill Peter, and who was eaten by worms and died.¹ Agrippa II was also the great-grandson of Herod the Great who had the temple mound expanded, built the temple, and later had the infant boys killed in and around Bethlehem. Because he was a friend of the Roman imperial family he was awarded the privilege of appointing the Jewish high priest and also had been made custodian of the temple treasury. He was well acquainted with the Jewish religion. Paul's appearance before Agrippa was not required in Roman law.

Acts 25:23

"pomp" – (φαντασία, phan-ta-si'-a) *pomp, pageantry*

Five cohorts of a thousand soldiers each were stationed at Caesarea. A tribune headed each cohort (see Acts 21:31). Five tribunes were there. Paul was brought in chains (see 26:29).

Acts 25:24

"shouting" – (βοάω bo-a'-o) *call, shout, cry out*

Acts 25:25-26:3

This was Paul's 5th defense

- 1 – On the steps of the Antonia Fortress (21:37-22:22)
- 2 – Before the Sanhedrin (22:30-23:10)
- 3 – Before Felix (24:1-23)
- 4 – Before Festus (25:1-12)
- 5 – Before Agrippa

Acts 26:4-5

Read Philippians 3:3-6

Acts 26:6-10

This does not necessarily indicate that Paul was a member of the Sanhedrin (Acts 8:1; 22:20).

Acts 26:11-14

¹ Acts 12.

The Hebrew language – Aramaic (see also Acts 21:40)

Acts 26:15

What follows was not recorded by Luke in Acts 9.

Acts 26:16-18

This is still true today!

Acts 26:19-20

This vision was real, not just emotional!

Consider the details of both Saul's and Ananias' visions (Acts 9:10-12, 15-16).

Acts 26:21-27

Paul pressed the gospel personally to Agrippa.

Acts 26:28

^{NIV} **Acts 26:28** Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"

Acts 26:29-32

Application

Paul's vision was not based on feeling, emotion, or sickness. It could not have been faked. That vision gave him the marching orders for his future ministry. And Paul was faithful to that vision.

One of the reasons Paul was so bold in his defense before Agrippa was because he was being faithful to God's calling.

Could God speak to us in the same way he spoke to Paul? Certainly, but these kinds of visions were rare in biblical history, and are certainly rare today.

But God still has given us marching orders (1 Peter 1:14-16; Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

Our call to ministry is just as valid as Paul's. But it is easy to lose sight of God's calling. It's easy to shift the focus on to us and away from God... on to what I want right now, on to what is good for me, on to what I like.

Ask yourself, "What did Paul do?" Then ask yourself, "How am I doing?"