

# Acts 25

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# Paul's Trials

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1. Why did the chief priests and the leading men of the Jews request from Festus that Paul be brought to Jerusalem?

## Acts 25: 1-3

1 Festus then, having arrived in the province, **three days later went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea.**

2 And the chief priests and the leading men of the Jews brought charges against Paul, and they were urging him,

3 requesting a concession against Paul, that he might have him brought to Jerusalem (*at the same time, **setting an ambush to kill him on the way.***).

## 2. What was Festus's response to the Jews?

**Acts 25: 4-5**

**4 Festus then answered that Paul was being kept in custody at Caesarea and that he himself was about to leave shortly.**

**5 "Therefore," he said, "let the influential men among you go there with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them prosecute him."**

## **Acts 25: 6-7**

**6** After he had spent not more than eight or ten days among them, he went down to Caesarea, and on the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought.

**7** After Paul arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him which they could not prove,

3. How did Paul respond to the Jews' false charges against him?

**Acts 25: 8**

**8 while Paul said in his own defense, “I have committed no offense either against the Law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar.”**

## Acts 25: 9-10

9 But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me on these *charges?*”

10 But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. I have done no wrong to *the Jews*, as you also very well know.



**1. Every follower of Jesus is the target of false accusations by “the accuser of the brethren”.**

**Rev. 12: 10**

**10** Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren** has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

## 2. Jesus is our defense against condemnation and false accusations.

**Rom. 8: 33-34**

**33** Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

**34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

## 4. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar?

**Acts 25: 11-12**

**11** “If then, I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is true of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar.”

**12** Then when Festus had conferred with his council, he answered, “You have appealed to Caesar, to Caesar you shall go.”

**It was the right of a Roman citizen to appeal his case before Caesar if the charge involved a capital offense, and once the appeal was made, nothing could stop it.**

**The person was to be tried before Caesar himself.**

**The appeal shook Festus, because now he knew he had made a serious blunder.**

**Things had gotten out of hand, because the words, “I appeal to Caesar” were irrevocable; the words could not be reversed.**

## **Acts 25: 13**

**13** Now when several days had elapsed, **King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and paid their respects to Festus.**

# 5. Describe Paul's trial before Festus.

**Acts 25: 14-18**

**14** While they were spending many days there, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man who was left as a prisoner by Felix;

**15** and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him.

**16** "I answered them that it is not the custom of the Romans to hand over any man before the accused meets his accusers face to face and has an opportunity to make his defense against the charges.

**17** "So after they had assembled here, I did not delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought before me.

**18** "When the accusers stood up, they *began* bringing charges against him not of such crimes as I was expecting,

6. How did Paul present the Gospel during his trial before Festus?

## Acts 25: 19-21

19 but they *simply* had some points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a dead man, Jesus, whom Paul asserted to be alive.

20 “Being at a loss how to investigate such matters, I asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there stand trial on these matters.

21 “But when Paul appealed to be held in custody for the Emperor’s decision, I ordered him to be kept in custody until I send him to Caesar.”

## Acts 25: 22

22 Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I also would like to hear the man myself.”

“Tomorrow,” he \*said, “you shall hear him.”



# 7. Who are King Agrippa and Bernice?

Herod Agrippa II ruled a client kingdom of the Roman Empire to the northeast of Festus' province.

Agrippa was known as an expert in Jewish customs and religious matters. Though he did not have jurisdiction over Paul in this case, his hearing of the matter would be helpful for Festus.

King Agrippa's great-grandfather had tried to kill Jesus as a baby.

His grandfather had John the Baptist beheaded.

His father had the apostle James martyred.

**Bernice** , was a Jewish client queen of the Roman Empire during the second half of the 1st century. Bernice was a member of the Herodian Dynasty that ruled the Roman province of Judea between 39 BCE and 92 CE. She was the daughter of King Herod Agrippa I and Cypros and a sister of King Herod Agrippa II.

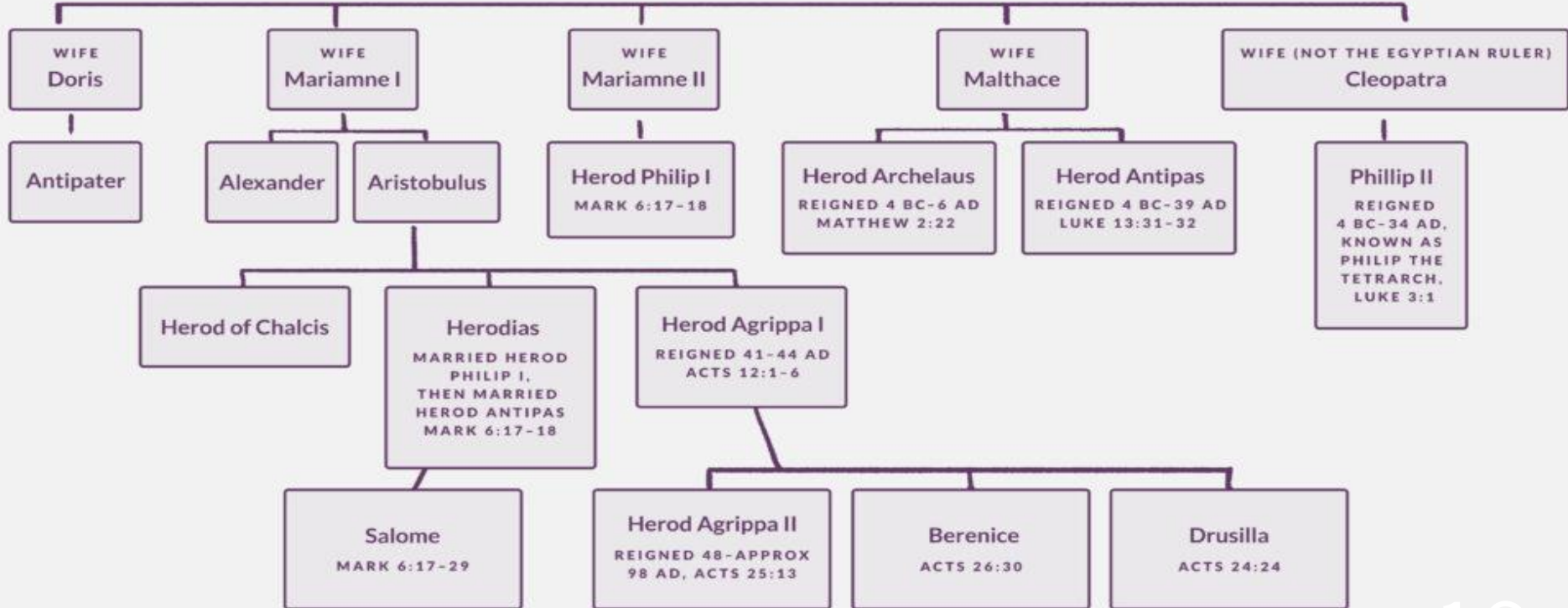
After a number of failed marriages throughout the 40s, she spent much of the remainder of her life at the court of her brother Herod Agrippa II, amidst rumors the two were carrying on an incestuous relationship. (Josephus)

A client state, in international relations, is a state that is economically, politically, and/or militarily subordinate to another more powerful state (called the "**controlling state**").

A client state may variously be described as satellite state, associated state, dominion, condominium, self-governing colony, neo-colony, protectorate, vassal state, puppet state, and tributary state.

## Herod the Great

REIGNED 37 BC, MATTHEW 2



## 8. Why did King Agrippa come to Caesarea?

**Acts 25: 13**

13 Now when several days had elapsed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and paid their respects to Festus.

9. Who was in attendance in the auditorium when King Agrippa wanted to examine Paul?

## **Acts 25: 23**

**23** So, on the next day when Agrippa came together with Bernice amid great pomp, and entered the auditorium accompanied by the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.

**Acts 25: 24**

**24 Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all you gentlemen here present with us, you see this man about whom all the people of the Jews appealed to me, both at Jerusalem and here, loudly declaring that he ought not to live any longer.**

# 10. What was King Agrippa's assessment of the charges brought against Paul?

## Acts 25:25-27

25 "But I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death; and since he himself appealed to the Emperor, I decided to send him.

26 "Yet I have nothing definite about him to write to my lord. Therefore, I have brought him before you *all* and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the investigation has taken place, I may have something to write.

27 "For it seems absurd to me in sending a prisoner, not to indicate also the charges against him."

## **Acts 26: 30-32**

**30** The king stood up and the governor and Bernice, and those who were sitting with them, **31** and when they had gone aside, they *began* talking to one another, saying, **“This man is not doing anything worthy of death or imprisonment.”**

**32** And Agrippa said to Festus, **“This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”**



# 11. How does Paul's life encourage you with your spiritual journey?

1. Speak the **Truth**
2. Endure **Faithfully**
3. **Pray** continually
4. **Trust in Jesus**