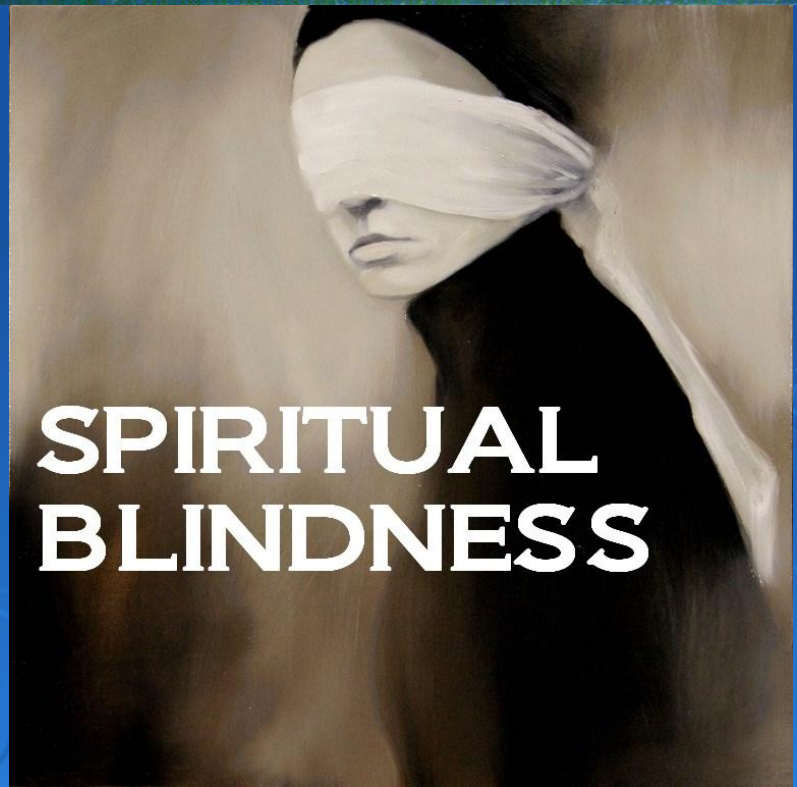


PAUL'S DEFENSE

- Almost impossible to define the charges against Paul
- Accusations had little to do with theology
- Paul was seen as a traitor to his Jewishness
- The real cause of the hatred was spiritual blindness
- High Court was willing to commit murder to get rid of Paul (no atonement available for murder)



Caesarea Maritima



**SPIRITUAL
BLINDNESS**

**"IF THE WORLD
HATES YOU,
KNOW THAT
IT HAS HATED
ME BEFORE
IT HATED YOU."
JESUS CHRIST**

John 15:18

IRRATIONAL HATRED

- Hate for Paul and what he stood for came from spiritual blindness
- Same source as hatred for Israel
- 2Cor. 4:3 – 4
- Satan is the god of this world
- Romans 11:7 – 8
- Consequence of accepting Christ is hate from un-Believers
- Consequence of Israel rejecting Christ is hate from the world





PAUL IN JERUSALEM AFTER SOME YEARS

- Paul came with gifts, but also to sacrifice
- Charitable gifts as well as the half-Shekel Temple tax
- Gifts were for the “nation”, not just for Believers
- Paul did not defile the Temple; he purified before entering
- Jews felt that other Jews from the Diaspora were unclean due to contact with gentiles



FELIX HEARS PAUL'S CASE

- Paul says he's on trial because he told the Sanhedrin he believed in resurrection
- Sadducees didn't believe in resurrection
- Paul not a heretic; most Jews believed in resurrection
- Felix postponed his verdict
- Paul would continue under arrest



FELIX AND DRUSILLA



- Western text says it was Drusilla who wanted Paul held so she could hear him
- Several ancient NT manuscripts
- Various NT sources called Text-type
- Drusilla youngest daughter of Herod Agrippa I, 16 years old
- “Jewish” Drusilla heard Paul speak about Yeshua
- The Way was still seen as a sect of Judaism

FELIX STOPS PAUL

- When righteousness, self-control & Judgment were discussed, Felix stopped Paul
- It's easy to speak about these things, including the End of Days, IN THEORY
- But when it gets “real”, and personal, and we know that we may well be swept up into persecution, the warm and fuzzy feelings vanish
- Felix hoped for a bribe, a usual and legal way for the judge to make money
- Festus replaces Felix as governor
- Paul spent much time in prison, but wasn't idle as he wrote several epistles



CORRUPT HIGH PRIESTS

- Festus a better administrator than Felix
- He met with Jewish leaders in Jerusalem
- Leaders asked if Paul could have a change of venue to Jerusalem, Festus declined
- Likely that the radical Zealots and Sicarii were the ones who insisted on Paul's death
- Many High Priests had come and gone, *Ishmael Ben Phiabi* is the current High Priest



FESTUS IS NOW THE JUDGE

- Festus's success or failure depended on achieving quiet in Jerusalem
- Next after Festus arrives in Caesarea, the trial begins anew
- Charges, without evidence
- Paul denies the charges
- He says he broke no *Halakhah*, didn't defile the Temple, and did not violate Roman law

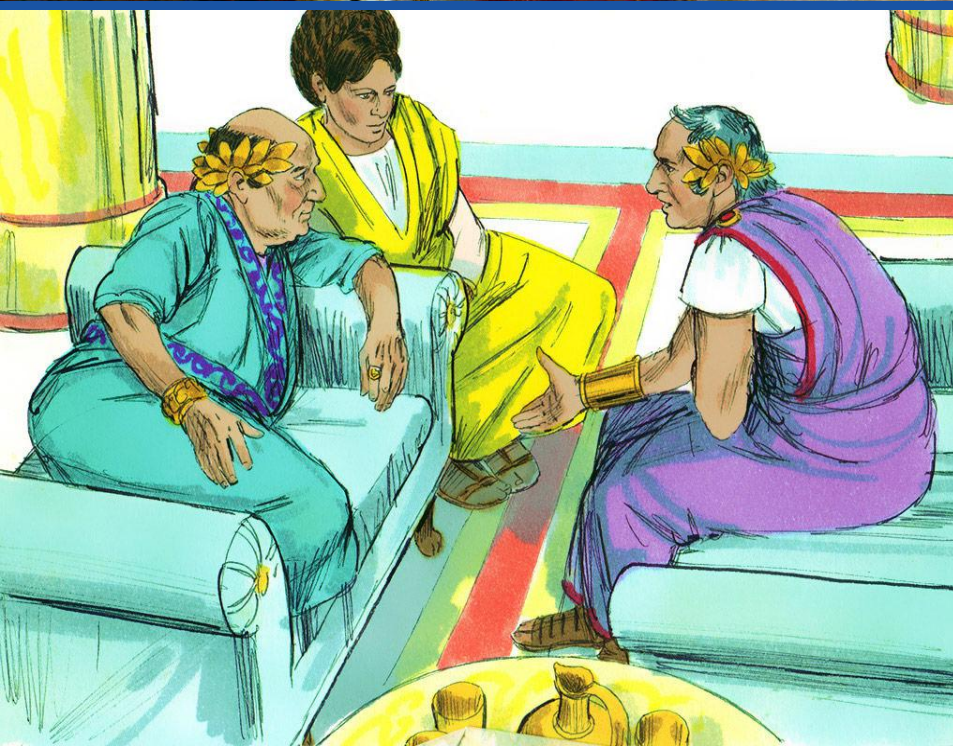


PAUL KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING !

- Roman Court of law
- All he had to do was to deny the charges
- Had the ONLY charges been about *Halakhah* and the Temple, Festus could have given Paul to the Jews for Jewish justice
- But because they added the charge of fomenting trouble, this became a Roman matter
- Paul would appeal to Caesar
- God told him to go to Rome, and this was his ticket to get there!



AGRIPPA AND BERNICE



- Nero was the Emperor
- Festus seemed to be following Felix's path of letting Paul languish in prison, without a conviction
- Agrippa II was Bernice's biological brother
- They were brother and sister to Drusilla (Felix's wife)
- Agrippa II was King over Lebanon
- Paul had an opportunity to witness to a King and a Queen.....and they were Jews!