

Acts 26:19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

<u>20</u> But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

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- IV. THE OPERATIVES: THE FORWARDING EMPHASIS STEPHEN,
- V. THE OPERATIVES: THE FOUNDATIONAL EMPHASIS SAUL/PAUL THE PIONEER, 13:1-21:26

VI. THE OPERATIVES: THE FOUNDATIONAL EMPHASIS – SAUL/PAUL THE PRISONER, 21:27-28:31

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- You Are to Be a Faithful Witness, 26:16
- You Are to Be a Fearless Worker, 26:17-18
  - Given a Mission, 26:17
  - Given a Message, 26:18

After being before Felix, 24:1-27, then Festus, 25:1-22, the Apostle Paul is now in a hearing before Agrippa.

- (3) Paul and His Righteous Cause, 26:19-23
  - (a) Faithful in His Preaching, 26:19-21
    - i. His Option, 26:19

Acts 26:19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

1 Sam. 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Jn. 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. ...

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

1 Jn. 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

ii. His Opportunities, 26:20

Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

## iii. His Opposition, 26:21

Acts 26:21 For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill *me*.

(b) Fundamental in His Preaching, 26:22

Acts 26:22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

(c) Factual in His Preaching, 26:23

Acts 26:23 That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

<u>Isa. 42:6</u> I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

Isa. 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

<u>Isa. 53:10</u> Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

<u>Isa. 60:3</u> And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

### c. Paul's Courtesy, 26:24-26

(1) The Rudeness of Festus, 26:24

Acts 26:24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

Original Word: μαίνομαι

Transliteration: mainomai

Definition: to rage, be mad

Usage: I am raving mad, speak as a madman.

mainomai (the root of the English terms, "maniac" and "mania") – to rave, full of inner rage (fury); to act as though out of one's senses – getting so mad (angry) it amounts to acting "mad" (temporarily deranged). https://biblehub.com/greek/3105.htm

# Jn. 10:20 And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?

- (2) The Rebuke of Festus, 26:25-26
  - (a) It Was Prompt, 26:25a "But he said, I am not mad..."
  - (b) It Was Polite, 26:25b "...most noble Festus..."
- (c) It Was Persuasive, 26:25c-26 "...but speak forth the words of truth and soberness. 26 For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner."

Original Word: ἐπίσταμαι Transliteration: epistamai

Usage: I know, know of, understand.

epístamai (from epí, "fitting on," which intensifies hístēmi, "stand") – properly, standing upon, referring to gaining knowledge by prolonged acquaintance, i.e. sustained, personal effort. For the believer, this careful study (observation) builds on taking a stand that Scripture is the Word of God (note the epi, "on"). (epistamai) in antiquity meant, "skilled in handicraft" (M. Vincent) – referring to knowledge "resulting from prolonged practice" (Thayer, 118).] <a href="https://biblehub.com/greek/1987.htm">https://biblehub.com/greek/1987.htm</a>

"to put one's attention on, fix one's thoughts on, to turn one's self or one's mind to, put one's thought upon a thing"

https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G1987&t=KJV

### d. Paul's Courage, 26:27-29

(1) The Sudden Thrust, 26:27

Acts 26:27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

(2) The Side-stepped Threat, 26:28

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

(3) The Single Theme, 26:29

Acts 26:29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

### 3. How the Court was Convinced, 26:30-32

a. The Dismissal, 26:30

Acts 26:30 And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them:

b. The Discussion, 26:31-32

(1) Paul Was Unquestionably Innocent of the Crime, 26:31

Acts 26:31 And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

(2) Paul Was Unfortunately Involved with the Courts, 26:32

Acts 26:32 Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.

### Conclusion

- 1 Thess. 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:
- 7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.
- 8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.
- 9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;
- 10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.