



*The*  
**ACTS**  
OF THE APOSTLES

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## *Today's Scripture Reading*

Acts 25: 13-27



<sup>13</sup> Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus.

<sup>14</sup> And as they stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, “There is a man left prisoner by Felix, <sup>15</sup> and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews laid out their case against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him. <sup>16</sup> I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to give up anyone before the accused met the accusers face to face and had opportunity to make his defense concerning the charge laid against him.



<sup>17</sup> So when they came together here, I made no delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought. <sup>18</sup> When the accusers stood up, they brought no charge in his case of such evils as I supposed. <sup>19</sup> Rather they had certain points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive. <sup>20</sup> Being at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wanted to go to Jerusalem and be tried there regarding them.



<sup>21</sup> But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to Caesar.” <sup>22</sup> Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I would like to hear the man myself.”

“Tomorrow,” said he, “you will hear him.”

<sup>23</sup> So on the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and they entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent men of the city. Then, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.



<sup>24</sup> And Festus said, “King Agrippa and all who are present with us, you see this man about whom the whole Jewish people petitioned me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. <sup>25</sup> But I found that he had done nothing deserving death. And as he himself appealed to the emperor, I decided to go ahead and send him. <sup>26</sup> But I have nothing definite to write to my lord about him.

Therefore I have brought him before you all, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that, after we have examined him, I may have something to write.

<sup>27</sup> For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him.”



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The image features a central graphic of a flame in shades of orange and red, positioned to the left of the word 'ACTS'. The word 'ACTS' is rendered in a large, bold, orange-red sans-serif font. Above it, the word 'The' is written in a smaller, white, cursive script. Below 'ACTS', the words 'OF THE APOSTLES' are written in a white, all-caps, serif font. The background is a dark, textured brown with stylized, wavy, flame-like patterns in a lighter brown color.



# Acts 25: 13-27

## Paul Before Agrippa & Bernice





What is the purpose of Acts?





## *Progression in Acts*

- Acts 1:1-6:7 ...Jews & Jerusalem (Peter & James)
- Acts 6:8-9:31...Hellenistic Jews & first geographic expansion in Judea/Samaria (Stephen dies, Phillip evangelizes, Paul's conversion)
- Acts 9:32-12:24...First spiritual expansion to Gentiles (Cornelius & Peter)



## *Progression in Acts (cont.)*

- Acts 12:25-16:5....First geographical expansion to Gentile world (Paul's emergence as leader)
- Acts 16:6-19:20...Further expansion, westward, into Gentile world (Jews reject, Gentiles accept)
- Acts 19:21-28:30...Paul's journey to Rome via Jerusalem (3 trials, perilous voyage)



How does this passage fit  
the purpose of Acts?

# Historical Setting



- 60 AD...Festus replaces Felix
- 62-63 AD...Acts written
- 64-66 AD...Paul martyred
- 66 AD...Jewish revolt begins
- 70 AD...Romans destroy Jerusalem & Temple

# Introducing the Characters

<sup>13</sup> Now when some days had passed, **Agrippa** the king and **Bernice** arrived at Caesarea and greeted **Festus**.

- Acts 25:13





## Festus' Explanation

<sup>14</sup> And as they stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man left prisoner by Felix, <sup>15</sup> and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews laid out their case against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him. <sup>16</sup> I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to give up anyone before the accused met the accusers face to face and had opportunity to make his defense concerning the charge laid against him.

- Acts 25:14-17





## Explanation (cont.)

<sup>17</sup> So when they came together here, **I made no delay**, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought. <sup>18</sup> When the accusers stood up, they brought no charge in his case of such evils as I supposed. <sup>19</sup> Rather they had certain points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a certain **Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive.**

- Acts 25: 17-19



## Explanation (cont.)

<sup>20</sup> Being at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wanted to go to Jerusalem and be tried there regarding them. <sup>21</sup> But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to Caesar.” <sup>22</sup> Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I would like to hear the man myself.” “Tomorrow,” said he, “you will hear him.”

- Acts 25: 20-22



## The Entry

<sup>23</sup> So on the next day **Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp**, and they entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent men of the city. Then, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. <sup>24</sup> And Festus said, “King Agrippa and all who are present with us, you see this man about whom the whole Jewish people petitioned me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live any longer.



## The Entry (cont.)

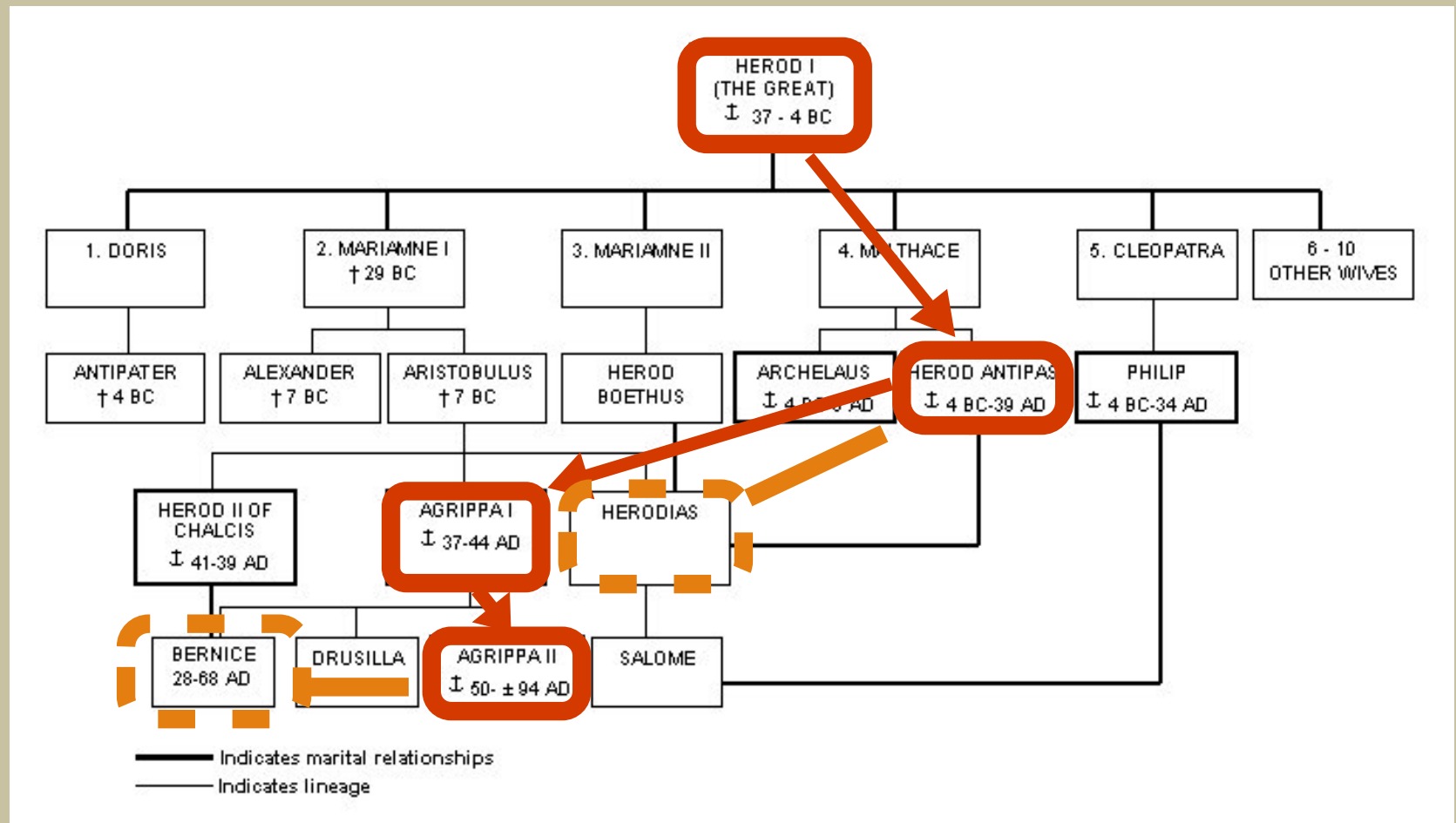
<sup>25</sup> **But I found that he had done nothing deserving death.** And as he himself appealed to the emperor, I decided to go ahead and send him. <sup>26</sup> But I have nothing definite to write to **my lord** about him. Therefore I have brought him before you all, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that, after we have examined him, I may have something to write. <sup>27</sup> For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him.”



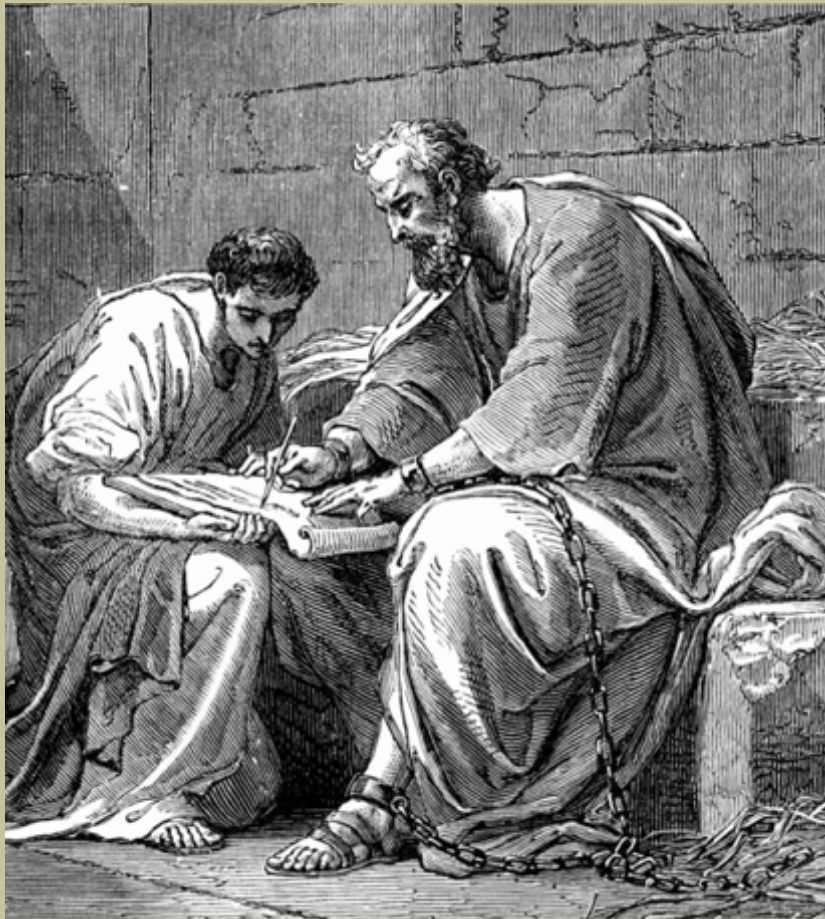
# CONTRASTING LEGACIES



## Legacy of the Herods



# Paul's Legacy



- Raised a “Hebrew of Hebrews”
- Persecutor -> Persecuted
- Missionary to Gentiles
- Author & Theologian
- Martyred in Rome



## Recap

- Acts Is About Movement...Jerusalem -> Rome
- Paul is about to be on trial, again.
- Contrast of Legacies...Herods vs. Paul





WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?



## A Biblical Legacy

<sup>4</sup> “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9



## Benediction

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

- Hebrews 12:1-3



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