

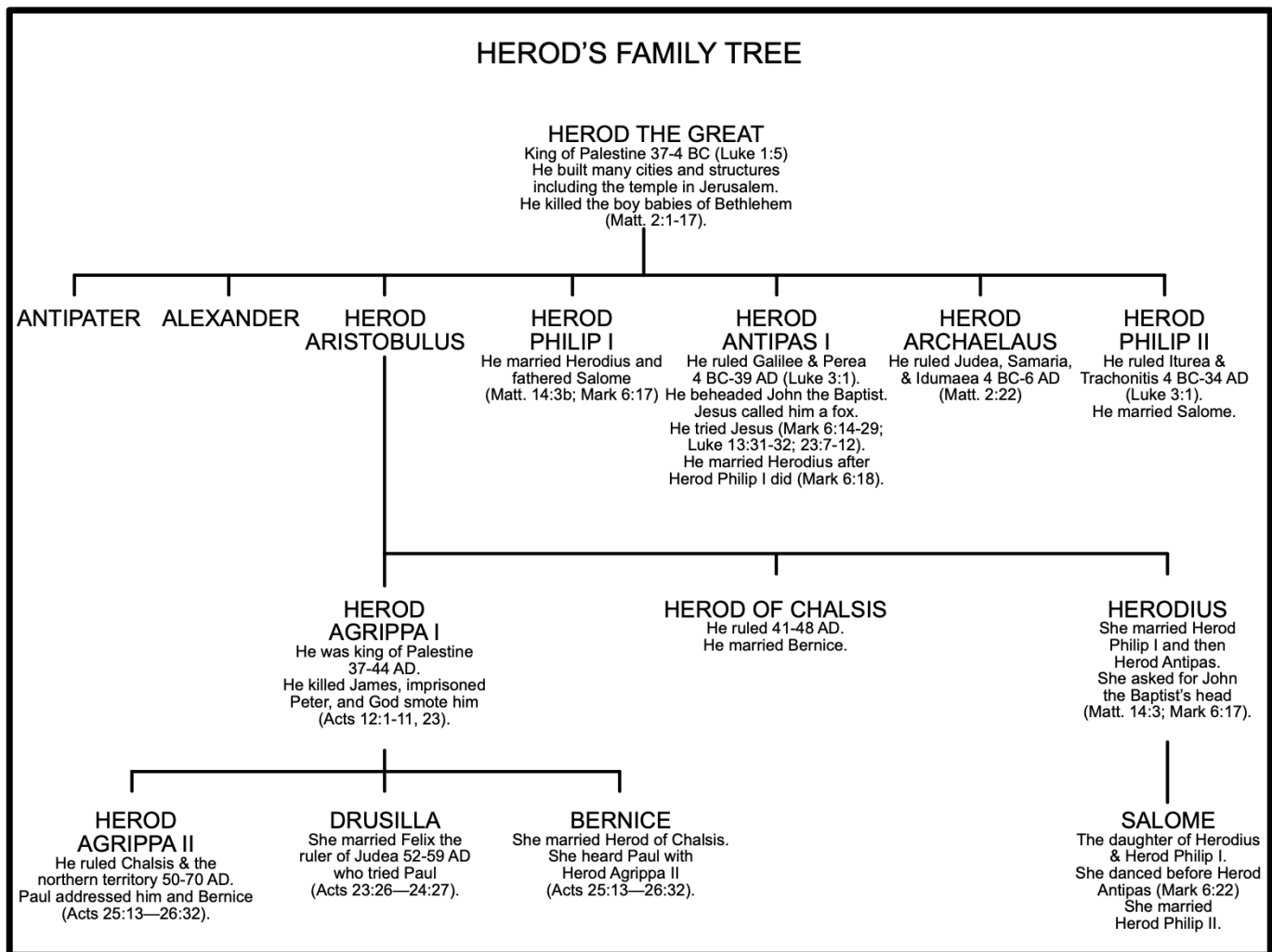
# Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles to the Uttermost

## Acts 24 Governors one and two

"... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

**Introduction:** Paul is on the trail toward Rome. He would be held for over two years here in Caesarea. This reminds us that God's plan does not necessarily unfold on our time table. The Lord had told him "...so must thou bear witness also at Rome." We can count on God's Word. The Lord had also told Ananias back in Acts chapter 9, "Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, **to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:**" All that God says will be fulfilled.

- I. Paul Before Felix 1-21
- II. Paul Before Drusilla 22-27



## I. Paul Before Felix 1-11

### A. The Silver-Tongued Enemy v1-9

1. **v1** *"...a certain orator named Tertullus..."*
2. This man was a professional speaker. He was able to speak very eloquently.
3. His purpose is seen by the Holy Spirit's comment which was to inform *"...the governor against Paul."*
4. **v2 Tertullus** began to *"accuse him."*
5. **Revelation 12:10,11** *"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which **accused them before our God day and night.** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*
6. **v2,3** Speak to Tertullus' tactic. Notice he is trying to puff up the governor.
7. "Oh, you have given us great quietness, you have done worthy deeds, you have exercised great providence!" – **The Devil majors on inflating our pride.**
8. There was some truth to Tertullus' speech, often "providence" was attributed to Roman rulers. Roman coins would be inscribed with the words "Providentia Caesaris" or in other words Caesar Provides.
9. In this very speech we are rebuked by the amount of praise afforded this worldly man. How so? How much more should we praise our King and Saviour.
10. We could say – because of God we enjoy great quietness!
11. We could say – God you have done and are doing magnificent works!
12. We could say – God by your providence our nation exists!
13. When is the last time, we just spent a day thanking God?
14. **v4-6** His conversation turns in verse 4. He begins to accuse Paul. Notice the words he uses: *"a pestilent fellow..."*, *"...a mover of sedition..."*, *"...a ring leader of the sect of the Nazarenes..."*, a profaner of the Temple!
15. **v7** Not only does he impugn Paul, but also accuses the Chief Captain of *"...great violence..."*
16. **It is interesting indeed that those worldly friends are only friends as long as you benefit them. They would be complicit with the Chief Captain if he would do what they want.**
17. The substance of Tertullus' speech produced no evidence and was as a matter of fact full of lies and dishonesty.
18. **v9** To the Jews this sounded masterfully done and he agreed with the accusations.

### B. The Spirit-Filled Apostle v10-11

1. There is a marked difference between a silver-tongued doctor of the world and a spirit-filled man.

2. You and I ought to endeavor to be yielded to God, for we need nothing less than the power of God upon our lives in this warfare.
3. **v10** Notice Paul is “...*cheerfully...*” answering for himself. Paul had nothing to hide. This is vast difference in the testimonies.
4. Notice also in this verse that Paul does not speak to Felix’s pride but rather states the facts. “...*Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation,...*”
5. This man Felix had been governor for anywhere from 10 to 13 years.
6. **v11** Paul presents the real time-table. He came from Caesarea to Jerusalem (**Acts 21:16**), the next day he stood before James and the elders (**Acts 21:18**), on the third day he purified himself in the Temple (**Acts 21:26**). From that point until now he has been in custody.
7. **v12,13** Paul points out he was not as they portrayed and further that there was no proof.
8. **v14** Paul then points out the Gospel by way of the resurrection. He also concludes that all of this is in agreeance with “*the law and in the prophets...*”
9. **v15** There will be a resurrection of the Just (**I Corinthians 3:10-15**) and the Unjust (**Revelation 20:11-15**)
10. **v16** The exercise of a pure and good conscience before God. Notice the term exercise, in other words Paul’s conscience is exercised according to God’s Word (pure) and yielded to God’s Word (good). He would not offend his purified conscience in respect to God and man. By exercising himself in the right manner he **strengthened** that which is right. The two great spheres of fellowship are in view here in the proper order God first and then man.
11. **v17** Paul mentions his absence from Jerusalem and the nation of Israel, being in Asia and Macedonia. He sought to bring an offering.
12. **v18** He implicates the maliciousness of the Jews from Asia. They “*found*” Paul. When they found him, it was not how Tertullus suggested.
13. **v19** He further say they ought to testify if they are the ones with the problem. Herein is a biblical principle for you and I toward the brethren, “*Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother **hath ought against thee**; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; **first be reconciled to thy brother**, and then come and offer thy gift.*” **Matthew 5: 23,24** Gossip is not the fix.
14. **v20,21** Paul was confident that there was no evidence against him that contained any truth. “*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.*” **Colossians 4:5**
15. **v22** Felix had understanding or knowledge of “*the way,*” but yet as far as we know is not saved. He deferred the matter to hear from Lysias the Chief Captain. Perfect (complete) knowledge of the way does not save anyone.

Salvation comes by grace through faith, our personal trust in Jesus Christ, not just knowledge of Him.

16. **v23** Apparently Felix did not see Paul at this point as a threat and afforded him great liberty.

## II. Paul Before Drusilla 22-27

### A. Paul's Witness

1. Drusilla was the daughter of Herod Agrippa I and brother to Herod Agrippa II (Whom Paul would address.) She married Felix and followed after the Jewish laws, but she was an Idumean (an Edomite) in origin.
2. "When Drusilla was still a small girl, her father betrothed her to marry the crown prince of Commagene in Asia Minor. The betrothal was eventually broken off because the groom-to-be was unwilling to be circumcised and become a Jew. Her brother, Agrippa II (before whom Paul was soon to stand, then married Drusilla off to a petty prince in Syria. When she was only sixteen, she ran away from her husband in order to marry Felix, becoming his third wife. This was the guilty pair before whom Paul now preached the Gospel." – John Phillips
3. **v22** We first find that Felix "*deferred*" the continuance of the matter. This is important because Felix will continue to defer the matter. Both the saved and unsaved, must not defer the work of God in their lives.
4. **v24** The subject of this meeting was concerning "*the faith in Christ.*" What a challenge to you and I for our conversation to be about **faith in Christ**.
5. How did this conversation ensue? He had a "dialegomai" with them. He reasoned (v25) with them.
6. **v25 Of Righteousness** – condition acceptable to God
7. **v25 Of Temperance** – self-control
8. **v25 Of Judgment** – to come "which was certain to overtake them" – Robertson

### B. Felix's Trembling v25-27

1. **v25** Felix "*answered*" – When God deals with a man, there is always an answer given. You may say but Felix did not get saved, no but he told God, "I will put this off."
2. **v25** "*...when I have a convenient season,...*" – When I have a more proper time, "*I will call for thee.*"
3. **v26** We are not told of conviction like this happening again where he "*trembled*", but rather "*...he sent for him oftener, and communed with him.*"
4. "Having once resisted the reasoning of Paul, and the strivings of the Spirit of God, he seems to have had no further alarm or anxiety." – Albert Barnes
5. **v26** He hoped someone would loose him by paying money.
6. **v27** We see alas, in the end two years expire and Felix rides off the pages of Scripture never to be heard of again. The Lord then has Paul to witness to Porcius Festus.