

GOSPEL
of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Acts 22:1-12

**Paul's Defense Speech
Before Jews in Jerusalem**

by Bob DeWaay

May 5, 2024

Paul Begins His Address

Acts 22:1-3 (NASB)

"Brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I now offer to you." And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew dialect, they became even more quiet; and he said, "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today.

- Paul uses terms of respect; identifying with them
- 'Hear' is in the imperative; 'defense' is *apologia*

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 2

Paul Testifies of His Previous Life

Acts 22:4-5 (NASB)

"I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.

- Witnesses to Paul's previous life were still available in the Jewish leadership
- Paul hopes they will see the source of his change

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 3

Jesus Confronted Paul

Acts 22:6-8 (NASB)

"But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' "And I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.'

- Jesus regarded an attack on His disciples as an attack on Himself
- Paul's conversion is narrated three times in Acts

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 4

Jesus Promises a Commission

Acts 22:9-10 (NASB)

"And those who were with me saw the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me. And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Get up and go on into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.'

- "go on" is imperative (lit. 'travel')
- "appointed" is *tasso* in the perfect tense: this is already the divine assignment (see Gal. 1:15-17)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 5

Ananias Was Used to Pray for Him

Acts 22:11-13 (NASB)

"But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus. A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him.

- The former enemy is now "Brother Saul"

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 6