

ACTS 25

NLET

FESTUS FRUSTRATES A PLOT TO AMBUSH PAUL

1 So then, Festus, having arrived in the province, after three days went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea.

2 Now,¹ the Chief Priests² and the first *men* of the Jews brought charges against the Paul. And, they were entreating him, 3 as ones who were requesting a favor against him in such a manner that he should send him to Jerusalem, while being ones who were setting an ambush to annihilate him on the road.

4 So then, on the one hand, the Festus responded that he was keeping the Paul in Caesarea³; on the other hand, that he himself was about to march out quickly.

5 “So then, the ones who are able among you,” he said,⁴ “ones who have gone down with *me*, if there is anything in the man –*namely*, this one⁵, let them bring charges against *him*.”

6 Now,
 ➤ having spent time among them *for days* – ⁶ more than ⁷ ten,
 ➤ having gone down to Caesarea,
 ➤ the next day having sat on the tribune,
 he ordered that the Paul be brought.

PAUL ASSERTS HIS INNOCENCE

7 Now, after he was standing by, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around *him*⁸, bringing many and weighty charges against the Paul⁹, which *charges* were not being strong *enough* to prove

any guilt, 8 while he was speaking in his defense¹⁰, “Neither

- in regard to the Law of the Jews, nor
 - in regard to the Temple, nor
 - in regard to Caesar,
- did I morally fail.”

PAUL AVERTS TREACHERY BY APPEALING TO CEASAR

9 Now, the Festus, wishing¹¹ to lay down a favor for the Jews, responding, to the Paul said, “Do you wish, having gone up to Jerusalem, there to be judged¹² concerning these *things* by me¹³?

10 Now, the Paul said, “At the tribune of Caesar I am one who has lastingly stood, where it is necessary that I be judged. To the Jews I have done nothing wrong, as you, *for your part*, rightly keep on observing.

11 For,¹⁴ if, on the one hand, I am in the wrong, and I have lastingly committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die.

Now, if, on the other hand, *there* is nothing to *the things* of which these are accusing me, no one is able to give me up as a favor to them.

I appeal to Caesar!”

12 Then, the Festus, having talked with the council of advisors, responded, “You have lastingly appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you shall go!”

FESTUS SEEKS AGRIPPA'S ADVICE

13 Now, after some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice came down into Caesarea, *then* embracing¹⁵ the Festus.

¹ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘Now’ here. On the basis of 10% the NU has ‘And.’

² 40% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35) and the NU, have ‘the Chief Priests’ here. On the basis of one manuscript (B) the NU has have ‘the Chief Priest’.

³ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘in Caesarea’ here instead of ‘to Caesarea’.

⁴ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order ‘“So then, the ones who are able among you,” he said,’ here instead of ‘“So then, the ones among you, he said, “ones who are able”’.

⁵ 74.2% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘*namely*, to this one’ here. On the basis of 9.4% the NU has ‘out of place’. Other manuscripts have ‘out of place’ before or after the pronoun.

⁶ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the word ‘not’ here.

⁷ 92% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the word ‘eight’ here.

⁸ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

transmission (f35), do not include the word ‘him’ here, although it is implied as the italics indicate.

⁹ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘bringing many and weighty charges against the Paul’ here instead of ‘bringing against (him) many and weighty charges’.

¹⁰ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘while he was speaking in his defense’ here instead of ‘while the Paul was speaking in his defense’.

¹¹ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order ‘for the Jews wishing’ here instead of ‘wishing for the Jews’.

¹² 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘to being judged’ (a present passive infinitive) here instead of ‘to be judged’ (an aorist passive infinitive).

¹³ 35% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘by’ here instead of ‘in the presence of’.

¹⁴ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘For,’ here instead of ‘So then,’.

¹⁵ 40% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘then embracing’ (a future middle

14 Now, while they were spending many days there, the Festus related to the king the things in relation to the Paul, saying, “*There* is some man, one having been lastingly left behind by Felix as a prisoner, 15 concerning whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the Chief Priests and the Elders of the Jews formally brought charges against *him*, ones who were asking for a judgment¹⁶ against him, 16 to whom I responded that it is not a custom for Romans to freely hand over any man to destruction¹⁷ before the one who is being accused possibly has an opportunity *to be* face to face with the ones who were accusing *him* and possibly get to have a speech in defense concerning the accusation.

17 So then, after they¹⁸ came together here, I, one who was acting without any delay, the very next *day* having sat upon the tribune, ordered the man to be brought, 18 concerning whom, having stood, the accusers were bringing *as charges* against¹⁹ *him* not one charge of which I, *for my part*, was considering *valid*²⁰.

19 Now, they were having subjects of dispute

- concerning their own superstitions with him and
- concerning some Jesus,
 - One Who had lastingly died,
 - Whom the Paul asserted to be alive.

20 Now, I, *for my part*, being puzzled concerning the investigation of these *things*, was saying, ‘If you are willing to go to Jerusalem²¹ and there to be judged concerning these things, . . .

participle) here instead of ‘having embraced’ (an aorist middle participle).

¹⁶ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘a judgment’ here instead of ‘a sentence of condemnation’.

¹⁷ 92.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the prepositional phrase ‘to destruction’ here.

¹⁸ 88.8% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the pronoun ‘they’ here.

¹⁹ 85% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘were bringing as a charge against,’ here instead of ‘were bringing to bear’.

²⁰ 91% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the word ‘wicked’ here. On the basis of one manuscript (B) the NU includes it.

²¹ 80% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the spelling ‘Jerusalem’ here instead of ‘Jerosoluma’.

²² 87% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘send’ here instead of ‘send up’.

²³ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the imperfect verb ‘was saying’ here.

21 Now, since the Paul appealed that he be kept for the diagnosis of the August One, I ordered that he be kept until such *time* I should send²² him to Caesar.”

22 Now, Agrippa was saying²³ to the Festus, “I also wish to hear the man myself.”

Now, the *Festus*²⁴ is saying, “Tomorrow you shall hear him.”

23 So then, on the next day,

➤ after the Agrippa and the Bernice had come with much spectacle and having entered into the auditorium with both

- the²⁵ commanders and
- men – *that is*, ones being²⁶ prominent – of the city, and

➤ after Festus had given orders, the Paul was brought *in*.

24 And, the Festus was saying, “Agrippa – *that is*, King *Agrippa* – and all the men who are present with us also, behold this *man* concerning whom all²⁷ the multitude of the Jews pleaded to me both at Jerusalem and here, crying out to *me*²⁸ that he ought not to live any longer.

25 Now, I, *for my part*, *am* one who comprehended²⁹ that he had lastingly practiced nothing worthy of death.

Now, also³⁰ about him – *that is*, this *one* who appealed to the August One, I decided to send him³¹, 26 concerning whom I do not have anything to write to the

The NU omits it.

²⁴ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article and conjunction translated as ‘Now, the Festus’ here. The NU omits these words.

²⁵ 93% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article ‘the’ here. The NU omits it.

²⁶ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the participle ‘being’ here. The NU omits it.

²⁷ 89% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘all’ here instead of ‘quite all’.

²⁸ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘shouting out to me’ here instead of ‘shouting out’.

²⁹ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘being one who comprehended’ (a participle) here instead of ‘comprehended’ (an active verb).

³⁰ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the adverb ‘also’ here. The NU omits it.

³¹ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the direct object ‘him’ here. The NU

lord that is not liable to fail.

Therefore, I have brought him before you *people* and especially before you, King Agrippa, in order that after the investigation has taken place I might have something to write³². 27 For, *it* seems unreasonable to me – *namely*, sending a prisoner and not to indicate also the charge against him!”

omits it.

³² 93% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘to write’ (an infinitive) here instead of ‘I

might write’ (an active, subjunctive verb).