

Chapter Twenty-Two

Chapter 22

- In verses 1-2, Paul begins his defense before the people.
- In verses 3-5, Paul relates his pedigree.
 - Did Paul say that he “was” a Jew, as in past tense, or did he say, “I am a Jew”?
 - Why does that distinction make such a difference?
 - Is it even possible to “change” from being a Jew to being a gentile or the other way around?
 - Some modern theologies attempt to assert that Paul discarded his heritage and “became a Christian”. How does that square with his plain assertion here?
 - Paul states his resume to include having been trained at the feet of Gamliel, a leading Pharisee and well known to his hearers. In fact, many in the crowd

probably knew of Paul's training.

- Paul's history as a zealous student "according to the strict tradition of the law of our fathers" further establishes his solid background.
- In verses 4-5, what evidence does Paul give to support his zeal?
- Would this have been public knowledge to the crowd?
- Verses 6-11 recount Paul's story of his dramatic encounter with Yeshua.
 - Upon identifying the source of this great light to be a vision of Yeshua of Nazareth, is there any recorded objections from his hearers?
- In verses 12-16, Paul continues his story of his arrival in Damascus.
 - How is Hananiah described in verse 12?
 - Was Hananiah Torah observant?
 - In verse 14, Hananiah tells Paul that the God of our fathers has appointed him to know three things.

What are they?

- By linking Paul's vision of Yeshua to his "seeing the Righteous One", the Messianic implication is clear. Did Paul's hearers object to this as he spoke?
- Did the counsel for Paul to undergo an immersion in His name elicit any response from his hearers?
- In verse 17-20, Paul relates his having gone into the Temple to pray.
 - If Paul had "taught against the Temple" as was claimed, why would he have gone there to pray?
 - As Paul related his experience of this vision from Yeshua, is there any indication yet of a reaction from the crowd?
 - Paul's acknowledgment of his complicity in the death of Stephen is notable. Do you think Paul thought about the similarity between the charges leveled against Stephen and those against himself?
- In verse 21, what does Yeshua tell Paul will be the focus of his ministry?

- According to verses 22-23, how did the crowd react to this news?
 - According to the text so far, the crowd had been listening to Paul's testimony and experiences.
 - Is there any evidence of a negative reaction to Paul's assertions regarding Yeshua as the Messiah?
 - What was the single issue that caused the crowd to become inflamed and reactive?
 - Was it the gospel of the death and resurrection of Yeshua and His Messianic claim that caused such a reaction or was it the mention of gentile inclusion?
- According to verse 24, how did the Roman officer in charge handle the situation?
 - What did this officer plan to do to obtain the truth?
- According to verses 25-30, we see the culmination of this initial incident.
 - What was the basis of Paul's challenge to this practice?
 - What did the centurion advise the commanding offi-

cer?

- What did he learn from Paul?
- What action did this revelation force the officer to do and what was his mental state?
- What final plan of action did this officer decide to do to resolve the questions surrounding Paul's actions?