

BIBLE STUDY

Acts 22:1-30

**Paul's Defence to the Jews.
Paul tells of His Conversion.**



Acts 22:1; " Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense."

Remember why the crowd were angry with Paul!

In 21:27; They had **claimed**
he **taught against Jewish customs**
and **brought Greeks into the Temple.**

In his defence against the charge that
he taught Jews to abandon their customs,
Paul tells the story of his interaction
with Christ on the road to Damascus.

This historical account
is told in **Acts 9; by Luke.**

Paul will tell his story again as he stands
before **King Agrippa** and **Festus**, the
Roman governor of Palestine. (**Acts 26;**)





Acts 22:1; " *Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.*"

Paul stands on the steps of the military barracks near the temple and **addresses the crowd** that had just tried to kill him.

He has the permission of the Roman officer who had rescued him from the riotous mob.

He speaks to them in the Jews' native language, a dialect of Hebrew called **Aramaic**.



Acts 22:1-2; " *Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.
When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.*"

“Brothers and fathers” was a common phrase of address that **included all the men** present.

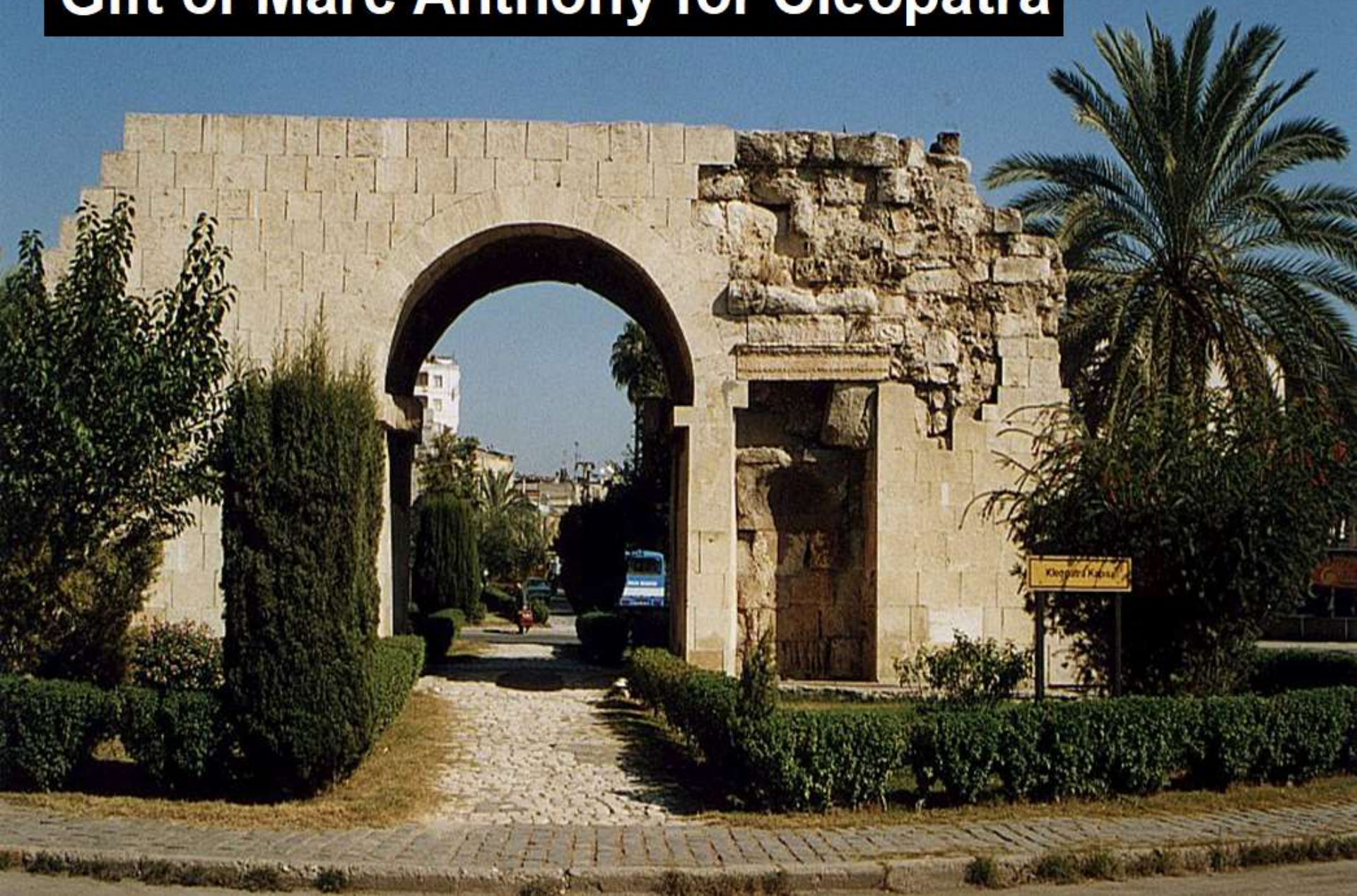
These were all adult males, no women or children.

The **“brothers”** were **his peers** in nearness of age.

“Fathers” were **the older men**, most of whom were fathers and **granted greater respect because of their age and position.**

Tarsus Gate

Gift of Marc Anthony for Cleopatra



Acts 22:3-4; "Then Paul said: "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today."

As we learn later, Paul had relatives who lived in the city with whom he probably lived during his teen years as he studied the law and traditions of Israel.

Gamaliel was probably the most **famous teacher** of his day.

Ruins at Beth Shearim, home town of Rabbi Gamaliel



Acts 22:4; “persecuted the followers of this **Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison,
5 as also the high priest and all the Council can testify. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.**

These murderous rioters were exactly like what Paul had been **before Jesus appeared to him on the Damascus road.**

Acts 22:6-8; "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me,"



'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'

'Who are you, Lord?' I asked.

**'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,'
he replied.'**

**Acts 22:9-11; "My companions saw the light,
but they did not understand the voice of Him
who was speaking to me.
'What shall I do, Lord?' I asked."**



**"Get up, the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus.
There you will be told
all that you have been assigned to do.'**

**My companions led me by the hand into Damascus,
because the brilliance of the light had blinded me."**



Acts 22:9; "My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me."

Those who travelled **with** Paul
saw the light but **not** the **vision of Jesus**.
They **heard a loud sound** but **did not understand**
what **the voice** was **saying**.

Paul says Jesus told him that
someone in Damascus would **tell him**
everything that has been appointed you to do.'

In **Acts 9:6**; Luke says that Jesus told him that
in the city **he would be told what he must do**.

Acts 22:12; Saul blind and fasting!
For three days Saul sat in the darkness
of the blind man, eating nothing.
His sorrow must have been unbearable.

He had been murdering innocent people
whose only “crime” was faithful service
to God. Saul understood that now.

How could he make amends.

What could he do to be forgiven? How
could he have a good relationship with God?

He had not been saved on the Damascus Road.
He was waiting for information
in the form of a command that would save him.



Acts 9:11; “he is praying.”

Acts 9:10-12; Ananias gets the call!
Jesus speaks to a disciple in Damascus
named Ananias and sends him
to restore Saul's sight and tell him
what he had to do in order to be saved.

Here again we have the principle illustrated
that no angel, not the Holy Spirit
nor the Lord Himself
will tell any man what to do to be saved.

An angel or the Spirit will speak to a prophet
and send him to preach the gospel to the unsaved
person. Or, as in the case of Cornelius,
will tell the subject to send for the preacher.



Ananias' House, now a chapel

Acts 22:12-13; *"A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there.
13 He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!'
And at that very moment I was able to see him."*

**Note that in describing Ananias,
Paul implies that a Jew
can be a devout observer of the law
and a Christian at the same time.**

**This was intended to refute their charge
that Paul was a traitor to his nation.**



Paul said it was the brightness of the light that made him blind. **His blindness persisted for three days** and when his sight was restored, something like scales fell from his eyes. (Acts 9:18;)

Acts 22:14 "Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you **to know His will** and to see the Righteous One and to **hear words from his mouth.**

15 You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.

16 And now what are you waiting for?

Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name."

Ananias gave **Paul** his assignment and also tells him **what he must do to be saved.**

Three Versions of the Same Story!

Paul himself tells the story of his conversion
to a crowd in Jerusalem. (Acts 22;)

And to King Agrippa. (Acts 26;)

In Acts 22:14-16; “Saul, now Paul, says that Ananias
had said to him, “The God of our fathers has chosen
you to know his will and to see the Righteous One
and to hear words from his mouth.”

“You will be **His witness** to all men
of what you have seen and heard.”

“Now what are you waiting for? Get up,
be baptized and **wash your sins away**,
calling on His name.”

Acts 22:16; " And now what are you waiting for?
Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name."

Baptism was not a sign
that Paul's sins had been washed away.
IT WAS IN BAPTISM that Paul **contacted**
the BLOOD of CHRIST which **washed his sins away.**

If as some believe,
Paul was saved on the Damascus road.
and at that point had his sins forgiven.

He then was **blind** and **fasting**
and **praying** for three days.

What sins was Ananias referring to
when he **told Paul** why wait
be baptized wash away your sins.

Acts 22:16; " And now what are you waiting for?

Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name."

Ananias told **Paul** to do **the same thing** as **Peter** had **told the crowd** on Pentecost who asked him what they must do. **Peter** had told them that **baptism was for the forgiveness of sins.**

Figuratively speaking, when they were baptized **their sins were washed away by the blood of Jesus.**

Rev 1:5;

5. "and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. **To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood.**"

Obedying the Lord's command is calling upon His name for salvation. (Luke 16:16;)



**Baptistry of ancient church building
in Damascus – now a mosque**

When was the apostle Paul saved / forgiven / and received the indwelling Spirit?

Chapter 9

³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

AC 9:5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

AC 9:7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

AC 9:10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

AC 9:11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

AC 9:13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

AC 9:15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

AC 9:17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹

**Was Paul saved
on the
Damascus road?**

**FOR
THREE DAYS
Paul was:-
BLIND!
DID NOT EAT!
DID NOT DRINK!
WAS PRAYING!**

When was the apostle Paul saved / forgiven / and received the indwelling Spirit?

Chapter 22

AC 22:6 "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'

AC 22:8 " 'Who are you, Lord?' I asked.

" 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. ⁹ My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

AC 22:10 " 'What shall I do, Lord?' I asked.

" 'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.' ¹¹ My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

AC 22:12 "A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. ¹³ He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him.

AC 22:14 "Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. ¹⁵ You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

FOR THREE DAYS

Paul was:-

BLIND!

DID NOT EAT!

DID NOT DRINK!

WAS PRAYING!

WHAT SINS DID Paul

have to wash away

after three days

If he had been saved,

forgiven, received

the Spirit, on

the Damascus road?

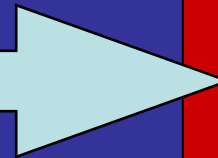
IMPORTANT QUESTION

AT WHAT POINT ARE SINS FORGIVEN?

Washed in the BLOOD

hear
believe
repent
confess
be baptized

TIME LINE



**SINS FORGIVEN
RECEIVE
INDWELLING
HOLY SPIRIT**

SAVED

**OLD MAN
(LOST IN SIN)**

**NEW MAN
(REBORN
IN CHRIST)**

**Saved by God's Grace
Through the Blood of Jesus**

Acts 22:16; " And now what are you waiting for?
Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name."

Washing Away Sin.

**"Christ loved the assembly
and gave Himself up for her
cleansing her by the immersion
with water making her holy through
obedience to the word."** Eph 5:25-26;



Acts 22:16; " And now what are you waiting for?
Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name."

**Obedying the Lord's command is
calling upon His name** for salvation. (Luke 16:16;)

Later Paul would **call upon the name of Caesar**
for his protection. (**same verb**: 25:11;)



In our **Baptism** we are
cleansed by the Blood of Christ.

Compare these texts and results.

Matt 28:19; “Therefore, after you've gone out, **make followers** from all nations. **Immerse them** by the authority of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:38; Then Peter answered, “**Change your hearts** and each one of you must **be immersed** by the authority of Jesus the Messiah, **so that your sins may be forgiven.** Then you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**”

Acts 3:19; “So, **change your hearts!** Come back to God, **so that He may wipe out your sins.**”

Acts 9:17-19; Saul was **baptised** and **received the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 22:16; “don't wait any longer. Rise up, **get yourself immersed get your sins washed away,** trusting in His name.”

Acts 22:17-18; "When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance and saw the Lord speaking. 'Quick!' he said to me. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'

Most Jews believed men of God still had prophetic visions.

So how could they question Paul's testimony?

Many of the old prophets had similar experiences.

Those who did not want to believe them didn't and many were killed to get rid of their messages.

They should know that it didn't work then and it wouldn't work now.

Acts 22:18; "and saw the Lord speaking. 'Quick!' he said to me. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because **they will not accept your testimony about me.**'"



Habakkuk Hosea Elisha Isaiah Moses Elijah Ezekiel Haggai Amos Malachi

Prophets

Acts 22:18; "and saw the Lord speaking. 'Quick!' he said to me. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because **they will not accept your testimony about me.**'

**If they got rid of Paul,
God's message
would come through to them
from someone else.**

**But it was hard for them to understand
how Paul could have changed so radically.**

**Of course that is what
Paul is trying to explain.**

Acts 22:12; " And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, **I stood there giving my approval** and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.'



Acts 22:19; "'Lord,' I replied, 'these men know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. 20 And when the blood of **your martyr Stephen** was shed, **I stood there giving my approval** and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.'

This story is told in chapters 7-9.

Paul's change was like moving from darkness to light.

The predator has become the prey.

**21 "Then the Lord said to me,
'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'
22 The crowd listened to Paul until he said this.
Then they raised their voices and shouted,
"Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!"**

**When Paul mentioned the Gentiles,
that Jesus was making the Gentiles
part of His kingdom along with the Jews,
they couldn't stand the thought.**

Most of them still can't.

Acts 22:22; "The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!"

Paul speaking of God
including the Gentiles in His plans
for the salvation of man
set off the crowd from **listening to rioting.**

Were these **Jews**
racially prejudiced?



Acts 22:22; "The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!"

Now they know the whole story.

It doesn't matter whether they believed it or not.

They just would not accept it.

Caucasians are not the only racists.

Racism is wrong and is

condemned by the word of God.

(Acts 15:9; Romans 10:12; Galatians 3:26-29;)

Paul definitely **needs the protection** afforded by his Roman citizenship.

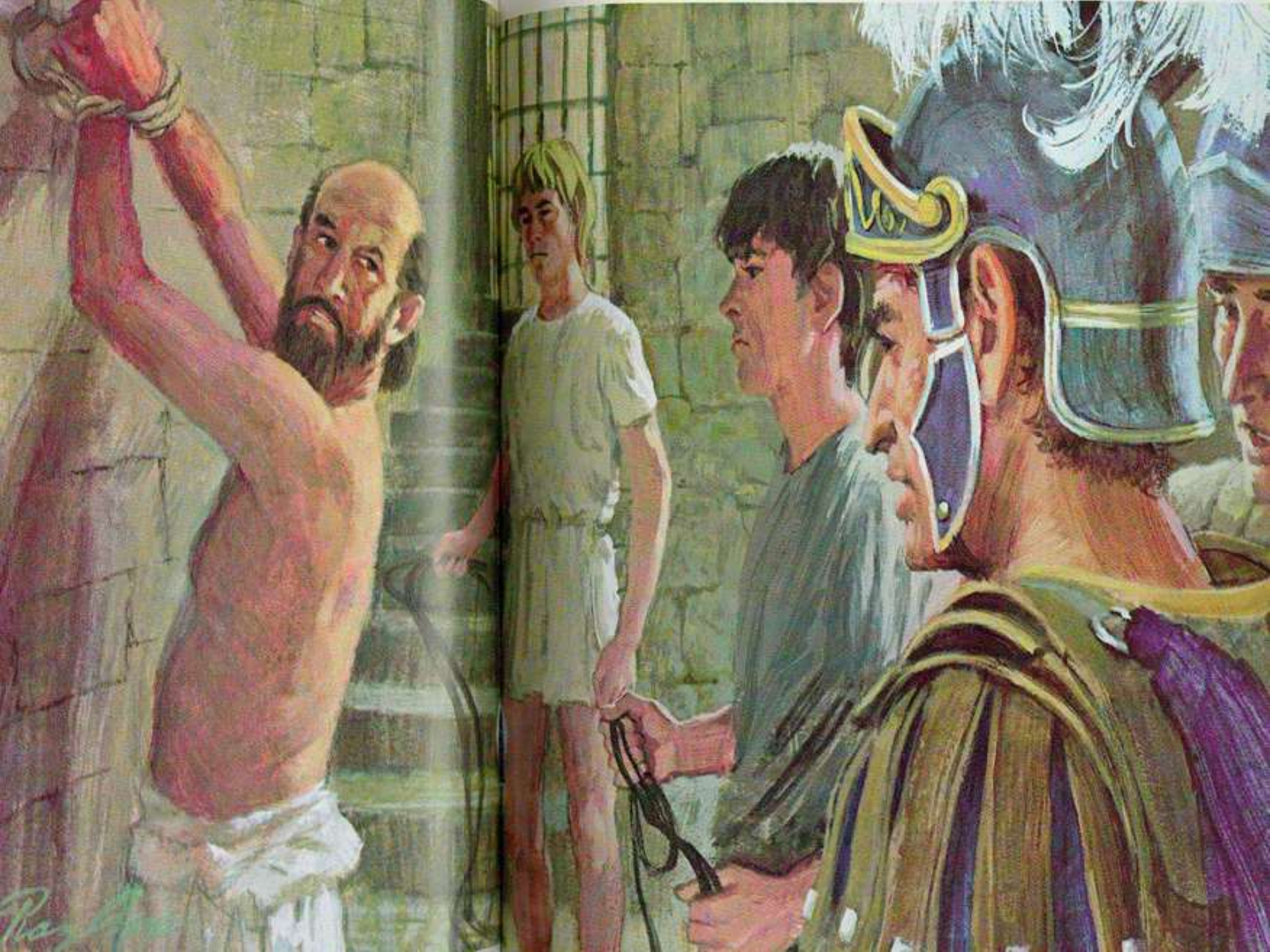
Will he get the protection that will save his life?



Acts 22:23; “As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, 24 the commander ordered Paul to be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and questioned in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this.”

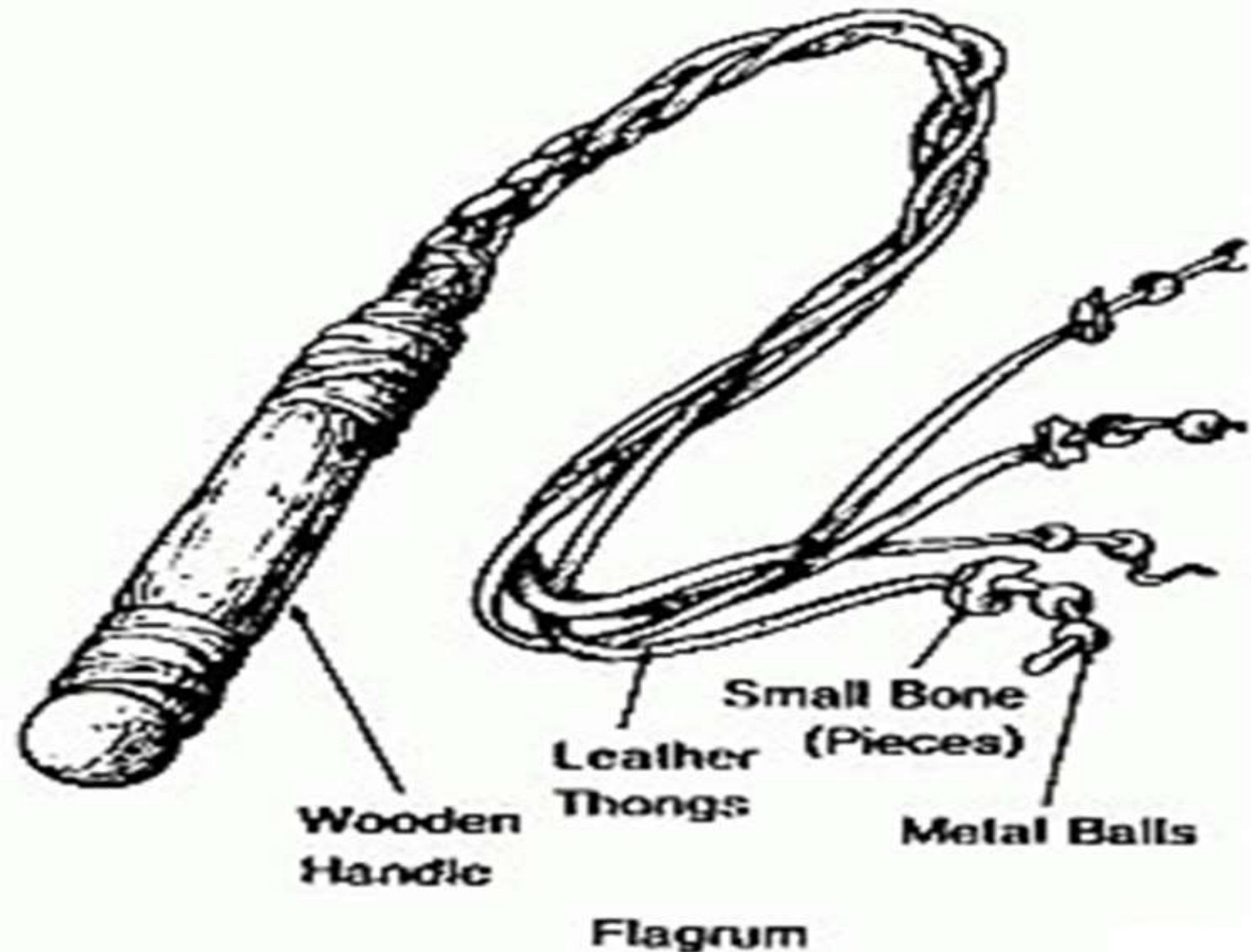
The usual method of **interrogation was to inflict pain first, then threaten more if the accused didn't talk.**

**Would Paul be beaten
as he had been in Philippi?**



Acts 22:24; “As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there,
"Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen
who hasn't even been found guilty?"

25 “When the centurion heard this,
he went to the commander and reported it.
"What are you going to do?" he asked.
"This man is a Roman citizen."



Acts 22:25; " When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. "What are you going to do?" he asked. **"This man is a Roman citizen."**

From such statements as these we can infer **some of the rights Roman citizens had** that others did not.

The interrogation of a Roman citizen did not involve the infliction of pain or even discomfort.

Roman law **provided** for Roman citizens protections similar to those provided by British laws.

But there were **no protections** for anyone who was not a Roman citizen, **he or she could be killed on the spot without a trial** if the governor gave his permission.



Acts 22:27; “The commander went to Paul and asked, “Tell me, **are you a Roman citizen?**”
“Yes, I am,” he answered.”

28 “Then the commander said,
“I had to pay a big price for my citizenship.”
“But I was born a citizen,” Paul replied.”

29 “Those who were about to question him
withdrew immediately.
The commander himself was alarmed
when he realized that he had put **Paul,**
a Roman citizen, in chains.”



Acts 22:29; "Those who were about to question him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains."

No wonder the commander was alarmed. If Paul had pressed charges against this commander for putting him in chains without being charged with a crime, he would be subject to a severe penalty himself.

Born in **Tarsus**, a city whose native inhabitants had **all been granted Roman citizenship in 66 AD**, Paul had Roman citizenship at birth.

We don't know what the going price was for purchasing Roman citizenship, but as the commander said, it was expensive.

Acts 22:29; "Those who were about to question him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains."

**Paul was all set to use
his rights as a Roman Citizen.**

**Do we have any rights
that we can use to our advantage
as Christians?**



The Sanhedrin Meeting.

Acts 22:30; "The next day, since the commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them."

The Roman commander of the city had authority to convene the Sanhedrin to hear disputes about Jewish laws and customs among their people.

He would do this only when these disputes threatened to disturb the peace and order of the city.

He was anxious to get to the bottom of this dispute, so he had Paul go before this judicial body in order to find out all the facts.

The commander had to release Paul the following day but he still wanted to know what the Jews' accusations against Paul were.

Acts 22:30; "The next day, since the commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them."

Although Paul is willing to present his case before his fellow Jews, Paul knows **they will not be swayed by the facts or his arguments.**

This is the same Sanhedrin that condemned Jesus and Stephen and would not hesitate to condemn Paul.

**To get out of their clutches,
Paul creates an uproar,
a trick that might be thought to be a little devious.**

**In chapter 23 will read of
Paul's defence before the Sanhedrin.**

There's Comfort in Familiar Things.

By Ellis Jones



**Most Jews of Paul's day wanted
to hold on to the old laws and customs
and refused to accept new truth.**

**There's comfort in familiar things:
Your bed, old shoes, old friends.
The status quo you'd rather keep
Than adjust to changing trends.**

**Connoisseurs like older wine
Poured from a hard, old skin.
But wine that's now delicious
As new wine did begin.**



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**But a child you cannot stay,
In blissful ignorance.
Some challenges are risky,
But you must take the chance.**

**Happiness and peace of mind
Come when you've done your best.
Keep your conscience clean, and try;
And God will do the rest.**



Acts 22:1-30

Paul's Defence to the Jews.

Paul tells of His Conversion.

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**Next in the series:- Acts 23:1-35;
Paul's Defence before the Sanhedrin.**