

Handout: Acts Lesson 11

The charges Tertullus (the Sanhedrin's advocate) presented against Paul:

1. He is a pest/troublemaker who creates dissension among the Jews worldwide.
2. He is a leader of the Nazorean religious sect.
3. He attempted to desecrate the Temple.

According to the Law, to profane the Sabbath was a death penalty offense (Ex 31:14). The Jews have extended that offense to include profaning the Temple even though it is not found in the Law.

Paul refuted the charges brought against him:

1. He did not cause a disturbance in the city or in the Temple for the week he was in Jerusalem.
2. They have no witnesses to back up the allegations made against him, not even the Jews from Asia who first accused him and who are the only supposed "eyewitnesses."
3. Far from profaning the Temple, he came into the Temple in a state of ritual purity according to the Laws of the Jews.
4. He is a member of the Way and the purpose of his journey was to bring alms.
5. The real reason he is on trial is because of his belief in the resurrection of the dead.

After several stunning denials, Paul suddenly "confesses" that he is a member of the Way (meaning the Christian community), but he worships the same God as the Jews, and he confesses his belief in the resurrection of the dead. The language of his "confession" is a profession of his faith. Paul's phrasing of the bringing of the money to Jerusalem as "*alms for my nation and offerings*" was probably to disguise the fact that the gift was for the church in Jerusalem.

The family of Herod the Great has been part of the story of God's plan for mankind's salvation since the birth of Jesus:

- Herod the Great: Idumaeen appointed by the Romans to be king of the Jews. He ruled Judea, Samaria, Galilee, Idumaea, Perea, Batanea, Trachonitis and Auranitis. He attempted to kill the baby Jesus.
- Herod Antipas: Herod the Great's son and tetrarch of the Galilee and Perea. He executed St. John the Baptist.
- Herod Agrippa I: The grandson of Herod the Great and king of Judea, Samaria and other territories ruled by his grandfather. Professing to be a religious Jew, he persecuted the Church of Jesus Christ, executed the Apostle St. James Zebedee, imprisoned and attempted to execute St. Peter.
- Herod Agrippa II, Bernice and Drusilla: The great-grandchildren of Herod the Great. Herod Agrippa II was the last of the Herodian rulers. He ruled parts of the Galilee, Perea, territories north of the Sea of Galilee that stretched to Damascus as well as certain territories in Lebanon. Professing Jews, the three adult children of King Herod Agrippa I had the opportunity to hear Paul preach the Gospel of salvation but rejected the opportunity to come to faith.