

# WOC INTERNATIONAL

## The Intricate Webbing of Deceit

### Acts 24 - March 5, 2022

**Scene - Caesarea (capital of Judea and headquarters of the Roman troops)**

**Built by Herod the Great, named after Caesar Augustus, 70 miles NW of Jerusalem**

**Main Actors**

**Claudius Lysias - \_\_\_\_\_, who didn't know Shaul was a Roman citizen by birth**

Acts 22:27-29 "The commander came and said to Sha'ul, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes," he said. 28 The commander replied, "I bought this citizenship for a sizeable sum of money." "But I was born to it," Sha'ul said. 29 At once the men who had been about to interrogate him drew back from him; and the commander was afraid too, because he realized that he had put this man who was a Roman citizen in chains." CJB

**Who sent him there after Shaul's nephew told him about the secret plot against his life**

Acts 23:19-21 "The commander took him by the hand, led him aside privately and asked, "What is it you have to tell me?" 20 He said, "The Judeans have agreed to ask you tomorrow to bring Sha'ul down to the Sanhedrin on the pretext that they want to investigate his case more thoroughly. 21 But don't let yourself be talked into it, because more than forty men are lying in wait for him. They have taken an oath neither to eat nor to drink until they kill him; and they are ready now, only waiting for you to give your consent to their request." CJB

**Ananias - \_\_\_\_\_**

**Who hated Paul for what he had said about him before Lysias took him into custody**

Acts 23:2-3 "But the cohen hagadol, Hananyah, ordered those standing near him to strike him on the mouth. 3 Then Sha'ul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! Will you sit there judging me according to the Torah, yet in violation of the Torah order me to be struck?"

**Tertullus - Professional \_\_\_\_\_ hired by the Sanhedrim to accuse Shaul before Felix**

**Drusilla - Jewish wife of the King Azizus of Emesa, daughter of Herod Agrippa**

**She was the youngest and most beautiful of Herod Agrippa I's three daughters**

**Originally married him to Azizus at 14, and later broke it off to marry Felix**

**Antonius Felix - Mean, cruel Roman \_\_\_\_\_ of Judaea, appointed by Emp Claudius**

**Who hired Simon the magician to persuade Drusilla to leave her husband & marry him**

Acts 8:9-11 "But there was a man named Shim'on in the city who for some time had been practicing magic and astonishing the nation of Shomron, claiming to be somebody great. 10 Everyone gave heed to him, from the lowest to the highest, saying, "This man is the power of God called 'The Great Power'." 11 They followed him because for a considerable time he had amazed them with his magic." CJB

**Notes**

## Backdrop

**Shaul was threatened with \_\_\_\_\_, so Lysias sent him to Felix during the night**

Acts 23:31-33 “So the soldiers, following their orders, took Sha’ul during the night and brought him to Antipatris, 32 then returned to the barracks after leaving the cavalry to go on with him. 33 The cavalry took him to Caesarea, delivered the letter to the governor, and handed Sha’ul over to him.”

## Verse 1-4

Acts 24:1 “After five days, the cohen hagadol Hananyah came down with some elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they presented their case against Sha’ul to the governor.” “Sha’ul was called, and Tertullus began to make the charges: “Felix, your Excellency, it is because of you that we enjoy unbroken peace, and it is your foresight that has brought to this nation 3 so many reforms in so many areas. It is with the utmost gratitude that we receive this. 4 But, in order not to take up too much of your time, I beg your indulgence to give us a brief hearing.” CJB

## Verses 5-9

Acts 24:5-9 “We have found this man a pest. He is an agitator among all the Jews throughout the world and a ringleader of the sect of the Natzratim. 6 He even tried to profane the Temple, but we arrested him. 7 8 By questioning this man yourself, you will be able to learn all about the things of which we are accusing him.” 9 The Judeans also joined in the accusation and alleged that these were the facts.” CJB

**Why did Tertullus specifically bring these 3 charges and make note of his arrest?**

**Agitator - He was saying that Shaul was an \_\_\_\_\_ of Rome and Jewish religion**

**Charges Felix was pledged to uphold**

**Ringleader - He was reminding Felix that any group supporting a Messiah (the Natzratim)**

**Is being loyal to a different king and \_\_\_\_\_ of Roman leadership**

**Profaner of the temple - He was saying this was a crime the Jews could punish, but...**

Acts 21:28-29 “Men of Isra’el, help!” they shouted. “This is the man who goes everywhere teaching everyone things against the people, against the Torah and against this place! And now he has even brought some Goyim into the Temple and defiled this holy place!” 29 (They had previously seen Trophimus from Ephesus in the city with him and *assumed* that Sha’ul had brought him into the Temple.)” CJB

## Verses 10-14

Acts 24:10-14 “When the governor motioned for Sha’ul to speak, he replied, “I know that you have been judge over this nation for a number of years, so I am glad to make my defense. 11 As you can verify for yourself, it has not been more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Yerushalayim; 12 and neither in the Temple nor in the synagogues nor anywhere else in the city did they find me either arguing with anyone or collecting a crowd. 13 Nor can they give any proof of the things of which they are accusing me. 14 But this I do admit to you: I worship the God of our fathers in accordance with the Way (which they call a sect). I continue to believe everything that accords with the Torah and everything written in the Prophets.” CJB

## Notes

**Shaul doesn't use flattery and he \_\_\_\_\_ to each of Tertullus' 3 points**

**1 - During his 12 days in Jerusalem he incited no insurrection**

**2 - Being a Natzrati, a follower of Yeshua from Natzeret, is no ground for complaint**

**The Way" refers to the beliefs and practices of Yeshua's followers and is the right Way**

**Shaul's accusers regard it as 1 way among many, and a way they did not like**

**3 - He did nothing wrong, either in the Temple or elsewhere**

**When Shaul said, "I worship the God of our fathers"**

**He claimed protection under Roman law letting nations worship their own deities**

### **Verses 15-16**

Acts 24:15-16 "15 And I continue to have a hope in God – which they too accept – that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous. 16 Indeed, it is because of this that I make a point of always having a clear conscience in the sight of both God and man." CJB

### **Verses 17-21**

Acts 24:17-21 "After an absence of several years, I came to Yerushalayim to bring a charitable gift to my nation and to offer sacrifices. 18 It was in connection with the latter that they found me in the Temple. I had been ceremonially purified, I was not with a crowd, and I was not causing a disturbance. 19 But some Jews from the province of Asia – they ought to be here before you to make a charge if they have anything against me! 20 Or else, let these men themselves say what crime they found me guilty of when I stood in front of the Sanhedrin, 21 other than this one thing which I shouted out when I was standing among them: 'I am on trial before you today because I believe in the resurrection of the dead!'"

**What was the charitable gift? - Tithes and offerings from the Macedonian & Grecian churches**

**Reality - While Sha'ul considered the Messianic community in Jerusalem part of Israel**

**In 1989, Israel's High Court of Justice labeled Messianic Jews Israel's as \_\_\_\_\_**

**Meaning, they are not considered Jews for purposes of Israel's Law of Return**

### **Verses 22-23**

Acts 24:22-23 "But Felix, who had rather detailed knowledge of things connected with the Way, put them off, saying, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case." 23 He ordered the captain to keep Sha'ul in custody, but to let him have considerable liberty and not prevent any of his friends from taking care of his needs." CJB

**There is no evidence that he ever did - Felix is simply putting off a decision in Sha'ul's favor**

**So, he made his desire to confer with Lysias a pretext for delaying \_\_\_\_\_**

### **Notes**

**Verses 24-26**

Acts 24:24-26 “After some days, Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Sha’ul and listened to him as he spoke about trusting in the Messiah Yeshua. 25 But when Sha’ul began to discuss righteousness, self-control and the coming Judgment, Felix became frightened and said, “For the time being, go away! I will send for you when I get a chance.” 26 At the same time, he hoped that Sha’ul would offer him a bribe; so he sent for him rather often and kept talking with him.” CJB

**Notice Shaul never sought favor of Felix nor Drusilla and let their frequent interviews**

**Be his \_\_\_\_\_ to preach righteousness, temperance, and final judgment to them**

**Note - While Felix was frightened enough not to want to hear more about judgment**

**He was not frightened enough to believe the Gospel**

**Verse 27**

Acts 24:27 “After two years, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; but because Felix wanted to grant the Judeans a favor, he left Sha’ul still a prisoner.” CJB

**The case dragged on for 2 years till Felix retired and according to the Bezan text**

**He stayed in prison to please Drusilla (who died when Mt Vesuvius destroyed \_\_\_\_\_)**

**Shaul eventually appealed to Rome, which was his right as a Roman citizen**

**Conclusion****Notes**