

# Acts 22

## Chapter 22

<sup>1</sup> **M**EN, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence *which I make* now unto you.

<sup>2</sup> (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)

<sup>3</sup> I am verily a man *which am* a Jew, born in Tarsus, *a city* in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, *and* taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

<sup>4</sup> And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

<sup>5</sup> As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

<sup>6</sup> And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me.

<sup>7</sup> And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

<sup>8</sup> And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.

<sup>9</sup> And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and

were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.

<sup>10</sup> And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

<sup>11</sup> And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.

<sup>12</sup> And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt *there*,

<sup>13</sup> Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.

<sup>14</sup> And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

<sup>15</sup> For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

<sup>16</sup> And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;

<sup>18</sup> And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy

testimony concerning me.

<sup>19</sup> And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee:

<sup>20</sup> And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.

<sup>21</sup> And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

<sup>22</sup> And they gave him audience unto this word, and *then* lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a *fellow* from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live.

<sup>23</sup> And as they cried out, and cast off *their* clothes, and threw dust into the air,

<sup>24</sup> The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him.

<sup>25</sup> And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?

<sup>26</sup> When the centurion heard *that*, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman.

<sup>27</sup> Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea.

<sup>28</sup> And the chief captain answered, With a great sum

obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was *free* born.

<sup>29</sup> Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

<sup>30</sup> On the morrow, because he would have known the certainty wherefore he was accused of the Jews, he loosed him from *his* bands, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down, and set him before them.