

# Acts 26

## Chapter 26

<sup>1</sup> THEN Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:

<sup>2</sup> I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews:

<sup>3</sup> Especially *because I know* thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.

<sup>4</sup> My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;

<sup>5</sup> Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

<sup>6</sup> And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:

<sup>7</sup> Unto which *promise* our twelve tribes, instantly serving *God* day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.

<sup>8</sup> Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

<sup>9</sup> I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many

things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

<sup>10</sup> Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against *them*.

<sup>11</sup> And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities.

<sup>12</sup> Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,

<sup>13</sup> At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

<sup>14</sup> And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

<sup>15</sup> And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

<sup>16</sup> But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

<sup>17</sup> Delivering thee from the people, and *from* the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

<sup>18</sup> To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

<sup>19</sup> Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

<sup>20</sup> But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

<sup>21</sup> For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill *me*.

<sup>22</sup> Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

<sup>23</sup> That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

<sup>24</sup> And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

<sup>25</sup> But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

<sup>26</sup> For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I

speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

<sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

<sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

<sup>29</sup> And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

<sup>30</sup> And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them:

<sup>31</sup> And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

<sup>32</sup> Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.