



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The Record of the Beginning of Jesus' Reign

Chapter Twenty-Two

INTRODUCTION

UNDERSTANDING the book of Acts helps us keep our perspective today. Reading about the obstacles faced by the apostles in the early days of Jesus' Kingship improves our ability to relate to the world today.

As we begin chapter 22, the apostle Paul has returned to Jerusalem. He had been to Syria, Asia Minor, and Europe meeting with the saints, confirming elders, and encouraging ecclesial communities as he went, helping them understand the way of Christ and freedom.

In doing this Paul acquired a reputation with local governments. The government officials in the lands he visited didn't like him because he spoke of "another King." Their dislike for him grew even more as the spiritual seeds he planted began to grow.

Paul was speaking against slavery, and the governments didn't like him doing that. Governments need slavery. They can't exist without it. Governments are built upon slavery. They rename it and call it by other names, like "Representative Government" or "Democracy" ... but it is slavery. When men make their own laws and impose them upon other men, whether it is done by a king, a Roman senate, or a voting public, it is slavery regardless of what euphemistic label they give it.

Churches and schools condition people's minds today to accept government and its slavery. In Paul's day synagogues, schools, temples, and marketplaces were the "media" for the Establishment's propaganda. Paul exposed the lies in these places and found himself at odds with local priests and politicians. Jews, especially, were continually attempting to stir up trouble against him by accusing him of crimes against the Establishment.

Paul declared the Kingship of Christ. In doing so he declared contempt for the kingships of men. He informed men of Christ's Reign. It was called "the good news" (the gospel). It was good news to the oppressed, but the oppressors called it sedition. The politicians and the priests, especially in the Jewish factions, had no place in their agendas for freedom, or for the men who taught it. This "good news" was not welcome as far as they were concerned.

The fact is most of the people who heard Paul's message didn't like it. Unfortunately, today things haven't changed much. Imagine what would happen today if Paul showed up speaking the same truths he spoke back then. Wouldn't he be received in about the same way? What if he showed up in Washington D.C. proclaiming that Jesus IS reigning, and that man's government is perpetually at war with the Kingship of Christ? What if he went so far as to help organize ecclesial communities to teach and pursue independence from the churches and the centralized government system? In other words, what if he proclaimed the truths that ACM has

NOTE: This book (*The Acts Of The Apostles*) is a study in freedom. Here we see the classic struggle between truth (freedom) and deception (slavery). Christ's Kingship represents freedom, and the various governments and religions of men represent slavery.

The Book of Acts is not about religion. It is about the battle of the forces of truth & freedom against the forces of deception & slavery.

been declaring? How would the polls show his popularity rating?

The nature of the Beast hasn't changed since the days of Paul. It has just grown in scope and in power.

In chapter 22, Paul finds himself once more in conflict with the local Jews. He ends up again in a Roman jail, this time accused by the Jews in Jerusalem. He was arrested ... pretty much as he expected. He had been warned of what would happen to him in Jerusalem. His friends begged him not to go to Jerusalem because they feared he would be arrested and thrown into prison. And sure enough that's exactly what happened.

Paul was teaching freedom through Christ's Reign. He taught that Jesus was the Son of God who was sitting upon the Throne of David. Furthermore Paul was proclaiming

that Jesus was the King designated by the Father, and the only King to whom men should declare allegiance. Some Jews, realizing the religious and political implications and ramifications of this, concluded Paul must be stopped. They created a riot, intending to kill him. Paul was close to being beaten to death when the Roman soldiers showed up.

It was the classic Jewish mob scene - clamoring, complaining, yelling, demanding and accusing. The Roman officer intervened just in time for Paul. By arresting Paul at that moment they probably saved his life. As they led him away Paul asked permission to turn and speak to the public. He wanted to give a public defense, not so much in hopes of clearing himself of the trumped-up charges, but rather for the benefit of anyone there with ears to hear truth. When the mob quieted down, Paul spoke to them.

ACTS 22:1-5 PAUL, THE EX-PHARISEE

Men, brothers, and fathers, hear my defense to you.

And when they heard he was speaking to them in the Hebrew tongue, they grew quieter. And he said:

I am a Judean man born in Tarsus of Cilicia, brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and instructed according to the strict law of the fathers, being a zealot of God as you all are this day.

I persecuted this, the way (of Jesus), unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women,

The high priest bears witness to me, as well as all the body of elders from whom I had received letters to the brothers in Damascus, that I was on my way to get prisoners from there and transport them back to Jerusalem so they might be punished.

IN VERSE three, when Paul spoke of "the *strict law of the fathers*" he was referring to "the *tradition of the elders*." These were the Pharisees' laws and traditions. Paul learned them as a Judean under the schooling of Gamaliel. Gamaliel was a doctor of Judean law and the most revered Pharisee and teacher in Jerusalem at that time. Paul was raised a

Pharisee, and was a Pharisee until he met Jesus.

Paul told these Judeans, before whom he stood, that he was no stranger to Judaism; that he had learned their religion from their own acclaimed teacher. This established Paul's credibility before his accusers. He said, "I understand your situation because I was one of you most of my life." "I grew up a Pharisee, and was

raised and educated by Gamaliel here in your city." He said, "I know your side. I learned it from your teachers. I know what you believe, and what motivates you -- probably better than you do."

He continues to tell them that not only had he learned their traditions and been one of them, but that he had done the Pharisees' bidding in persecuting "the way" of Jesus ... as they were now doing to him.

When he refers to "*the way*" he means the way of the Kingship of Christ. In Genesis 3:24 it's called "*the way of the Tree of Life*."

Paul admits that he had been a zealot for the Persian religion of Judaism (Pharisaism) even to the point of persecuting and killing the followers of Christ. He had been a well-known Pharisee. Now, he was getting a taste of his own medicine. He was now on the other end of the stick. As a Pharisee Paul had been sincere. But sincerity does not make one right. Man can be sincerely wrong. (However, in and of itself, sincerity is a good character trait.)

Paul confesses, to having persecuted and destroyed families who were following "the way" of Christ. But when Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus he stopped being an enemy of "the way." After

his encounter with Jesus he repented and became a new man. Paul was forever changed.

Paul was giving witness of his life-changing experience. He said to the Pharisee elders: "You know me. Not long ago I was one of you. In fact, it was you who gave me official letters authorizing me to pick up the prisoners that were being held in Damascus, to bring them back to Jerusalem to punish them for their political crimes."

By the way, this scenario is often re-enacted today. The Israeli Mossad and the American CIA frequently kidnap men from other nations and transport them (rendition them) to secret prisons based in other countries to torture them. Things haven't changed much.

The crime of following Jesus was serious. We're not talking about going to church. Churchgoing was not a crime. The disciples did not follow churches. They followed Jesus. There is a big difference. The crime of following Jesus, for which they were imprisoned, tortured and killed, had nothing to do with attending church meetings or for doing what church people do. If they had been church people the Jews and the Romans would have given them no trouble. But "The Way" was not a church movement. It was a political movement! The Jews and the Romans came down on them because they were proclaiming a DIFFERENT Kingship! They were advocating allegiance to a DIFFERENT King. Following Jesus, as opposed to the rulers, was considered sedition!

Following Jesus meant not following the Jewish Elders. It meant

not following Caesar. It meant not worshipping the state: the government. If Jesus is your King, then the state cannot be your king. Caesar cannot be your king. Congress cannot be your lawmaker. Following Jesus means not pledging allegiance to any other king or kingship.

Government is religion, notwithstanding all the rhetoric about "Separation of Church and State." Then, as now, the government demanded allegiance to the religion of the state. The "gods" of state were those who made laws: its "lawmakers" - like Congress today. Jesus (and Paul) taught men to NOT worship man/gods in governments and institutions with lawmaking priests and politicians. Followers of Jesus do not worship the state and its gods and institutions, and they do not pledge allegiance to the government.

Today in America, if you denounce the gods of state and their sacred form of government dating back to ancient Rome (with its Constitution, etc.), you become an enemy of the state - an infidel.

Democracy, the Constitution, etc., are tenets of state religion - i.e., Mystery Babylon. It is called "patriotism," and it is a religion. One MUST conform to these institutions today in order to be "a good citizen."

Pharisaism was strong in Jerusalem. It was the dominant political faction, in spite of the fact that it is usually thought of as a religion. Pharisaism was not from Yahweh or the Scriptures. It was not the faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It was not the faith that Moses taught. The Pharisees claimed that it was, but it really wasn't. When Paul

started believing in the God of the Bible he abandoned the Jewish (Pharisee) system and its Babylonian gods of state. In doing so, he became an enemy of the state.

The same was true for every follower of "The Way." The people held prisoner by the Pharisees at Damascus had offended the state religion of Judaism (Pharisaism).

Paul wanted his listeners to know that as a Pharisee he had persecuted the followers of Jesus, the same as the present mob was now persecuting him.

Paul pointed out that he was not the one who stirred up the riot. He was merely telling what had happened to him, and what had changed him. He was there to speak to anyone who had ears to hear.

QUESTION: We know about lawyers. They are amoral and dishonest. By admitting that he studied under the "Doctor" of Pharisee law (Gamaliel) Paul labels himself a lawyer. He probably picked up those devious, underhanded lawyer tricks, too. Should we really overlook this and believe Paul suddenly became an honest, upstanding fellow?

ACTS 22:6-13 PAUL RECOUNTS HIS MEETING WITH JESUS

As it happened, I was going my way and coming near to Damascus, about midday, and suddenly out of the heaven a great light flashed round about me.

And I fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to me, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?

And I answered, Who are you, Lord? And He said to me, I am Jesus the Nazarene whom you are persecuting.

And they who were with me indeed saw the light, but they did not hear his voice speaking to me.

And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Arise, and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you all that has been arranged for you to do.

But as I could not see due to the glory of that light, they that were with me led me by the hand, and I came into Damascus.

And Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well reputed by all the Judeans dwelling there,

Came and stood by me, and he said to me, Brother Saul, see again. And at that very moment I saw him.

PAUL recounted what he had experienced on the way to Damascus when he was confronted by the risen Christ. He said there was a great light that blinded him at midday. Paul (still called Saul at that time) fell to the ground and heard a voice ask, "*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?*"

Now, picture this if you can. As far as Saul knew, Jesus of Nazareth was supposed to be dead – executed at the insistence of the Sanhedrin. Paul, the Pharisee, was on his way to Damascus to collect more of this dead man's followers scheduled for punishment in Jerusalem. Then suddenly, out of nowhere, he hears Jesus' voice speaking to him.

To Paul this was incredible. A "dead man," whose followers Paul had been hunting down, was suddenly speaking to him and shining a blinding light upon him. At this point Paul must have been re-evaluating his position as an agent for the Jerusalem government.

Apparently, the light was so bright that Paul suffered at least a temporary blindness and his companions had to lead him by the hand into Damascus. Here he met Ananias whose first act was to help Paul "see again."

When Ananias told Paul to "see again," the words had far-reaching implications. Paul was indeed learning to "see." Not only did Paul regain his physical sight; he was also getting "new sight" of a different spiritual nature. Jesus was revealing himself to Paul, and commissioning him to be a special agent to carry the gospel to many lands.

Paul was suddenly in a new paradigm. In the space of a few hours his world was changed. A different world - the world of Christ's Reign - was now appearing to Paul, as if suddenly Paul's eyes could see things they'd not noticed before.

PONDER THIS: Churches teach people that after Jesus was raised from the tomb He flew off into outer space away from Earth. They portray his appearance to Paul as some kind of remote vision sent from another galaxy. And yet, if you stop and think about it, His appearance to Paul on the road to Damascus is strong evidence that He never left Earth. Please review Chapter Nine for more information that counters the deceptions taught in churches.

ACTS 22:14-16 PAUL'S TIME WITH JESUS

And he (Ananias) said, The God of our fathers has taken you in hand, to know his will, and to see the Just One and hear the voice out of his mouth.

For you will be witness to Him for all men of the things you have seen and heard.

And now what you are to do is arise, and be baptized and wash away your sins, and call upon his name.

IN GIVING his defense Paul digs himself in deeper. He tells his accusers that God took him in hand and gave him a special assignment to carry the good news to the nations. This whole idea offended the Judean establishment because it insinuated that God gave information to Paul and not to the Pharisees. This also insinuated that Jesus, whom they (the Pharisees) crucified, really was the Son of God.

Obviously, Paul was not making points with the Pharisees. He was, however, publishing his testimony and setting the record straight for the benefit of any lost sheep still listening for the Shepherd's voice.

Paul tells them that God chose him to hear the voice of Jesus and to see Him. Yes, verse 14 says that Paul saw Jesus!

Now, some have questioned Paul's apostleship because they say he was not one of the original twelve taught directly by Jesus. This conclusion comes from their assumption that Jesus "went to heaven" (departed for outer space) years before Paul claimed to be commissioned, and therefore Paul lacked the experience of living and working with Jesus as did the other

apostles. Thus, if Paul did not walk and talk with Jesus in person, and was never taught by Him directly, Paul could not claim apostleship on the level of the original twelve. At least that is their contention.

Here, then, is the answer from the Bible. Paul was chosen to HEAR and to SEE “the Just One”: Jesus. Paul was with Jesus the same way the other twelve had been with him. This also tells us that Jesus never left Earth, and that He manifested Himself to Paul. He was there at that time, and He is still here today!

Paul was given a special privilege. Jesus, himself, spoke to Paul and revealed himself in person to him. Acts 9:19-25 indicates that Paul spent a considerable time - approximately three years - in and around Damascus before he returned to Jerusalem. It was during this interim that Jesus personally tutored Paul.

In Galatians 1:11,12,15-18 Paul stated that he was taught the “good news” not by man, but by Christ Jesus Himself ... the same as the original twelve apostles. He also says that he was in Arabia for three years conferring with someone before he started his ministry. However, he says he did not confer with “flesh and blood.” Given these parameters, it is obvious to whom Paul was referring. He conferred with someone who was not mortal. This was clearly the risen Christ, who was no longer mortal (not flesh and blood).

In 2 Corinthians 12:1-5 Paul says he was shown a vision of “*the third reign*” (the “third heaven”). This “*third reign*” was the New Covenant Reign of Christ. In terms of that “third reign,” Paul says he heard and learned new “*unexpressed sayings*” (the KJV calls them “unspeakable words”) in verse four. This “*third reign*” (the New Covenant Reign of Christ) was obviously the subject matter about which he and Jesus were conferring over those three years (see Chapter Nine).

During Paul's three-year revision course, being tutored

directly by the risen Christ, Paul heard and learned some heretofore “*unexpressed sayings*.” The concepts were termed “*unexpressed*” because Paul had not contemplated them before. Among the Pharisees it was unthinkable that Jesus might have been raised immortal and was reigning from the right hand of Yahweh. Paul was learning new concepts about a Kingship and its principles ... of which he had been ignorant. For Paul, the Pharisee, these were not only new thoughts, they represented a totally different paradigm. The KJV translators called them “*not lawful*” - a strange rendering indeed. The concepts (“sayings”) certainly were not “unlawful,” nor were they “unspeakable.” The Greek word is “*eckon*” and it has nothing to do with law. “*Eckon*” is a combination of “*ech*” (out of) and “*eimi*” (to be). In essence, “*eckon*” means “*to be out*” or “*to be away from*.” The concepts Jesus gave Paul were “way out” beyond his contemplation prior to that time. These were “*unspoken sayings un contemplated by Paul*.”

In 1 Corinthians 15:8 and 9:1 Paul reiterates that he had seen Jesus in person. These proofs of Paul's apostleship, as well as Jesus' presence on Earth, are discussed at greater length in Chapter Nine, verse 19: “THREE YEARS OF SPECIAL TRAINING.”

QUESTION: Since 2 Corinthians 12:2,3 phrases Paul's experience in such a way that we don't know if his “time with Jesus” was real or just a vision, how can you assert for sure that Paul saw Jesus in person?

ACTS 22: 17-24 JEWISH MOB TACTICS

And it happened that when I had returned to Jerusalem, and as I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance.

And saw Him [Jesus] saying to me, Hurry, and come out quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not accept your testimony about Me.

And I said, Lord, they know

well that in every synagogue I imprisoned and scourged them that believed on You:

And when the blood of Stephen, your witness, was being spilled, I also was standing by and consenting, and holding the cloaks of them that slew him.

And He said to me, Go your

way: for I will send you out into distant nations.

And they (the Pharisees) were listening to him (Paul) until this was said, and then they raised their voices and said, Lift this man up from the earth: for he is not fit to live.

And they cried out, and flung their cloaks about, and threw dust into the air,

And the chief captain

commanded him to be brought into the fortress, and ordered him to be examined under threat of scourging to fully learn the cause for which they shouted against him.

PAUL was recounting the amazing experience that had changed his world. The experience began at the time he was confronted by Jesus on the road to Damascus, and it continued for an approximate three-year interval in and around the area of Damascus, after which he returned to Jerusalem.

Paul added that after returning to Jerusalem he was warned by the Lord to escape from an angry mob of Jews. This statement further infuriated the mob that was listening.

In verse 21 Paul ends his statement. The main theme of Paul's explanation was that his current mission and course was not of his own choice. He was doing this because he was compelled to do it. The things he had seen, heard, and learned on the way to and around Damascus compelled him to witness. Jesus had sent him to share with the scattered Israel people the good news he had learned: the gospel of the Kingship. This Jewish mob hated it. But, Paul figured he was duty bound to publish his message just in case there might be anyone there with ears to hear.

Paul knew that, for the most part, speaking truth to the mob was "casting pearls before swine." Their reply was: "Crucify him!" They wanted to do to Paul as they had done to Jesus. In verse 22 they shout, "Lift him up from the earth." This was an idiomatic expression that meant, "Crucify him!" This was the term the Pharisees used earlier to signify the kind of death they demanded for Jesus back in John 19:15:

15. But they cried out, Lift him up! Lift him up! Crucify him! Pilate said to them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

(Jn 19:15)

In both cases this was typical Jewish mobbery. The Roman officers had to rescue Paul. The scene was ugly. There were scores, perhaps hundreds, of Jews throwing dirt into the air, tearing their clothes, pulling their hair, yelling, spitting, accusing, and shouting their hatred for Paul.

Rational minds are not impressed with such behavior, nor are they impressed to do the bidding of a mob. Honorable men don't act this way. However, rationality and honor weren't present in Jerusalem at that time. So, mobs often DID get their way ... and still do today. In fact, this kind of political strategy is still common today. For instance, TV ads are perfect examples of emphasized lying to affect opinion. Or, have you ever watched a Democratic or Republican convention? How about a Jewish protest demonstration? The idea is that the public can be persuaded to believe anything that is presented emphatically, loudly, continuously, and emotionally. In the Case of these Pharisees, they wanted to convince the public that Paul had done something horrible to provoke them to their outrageous behavior.

The term for this strategy is "The Big Lie." The idea is that if the lie is big enough people will assume that it (or at least some of it) must be true because no one would make up such a great lie. You've seen it a thousand times. You may have recognized it. For instance, we are told from childhood that the American Government is for the good of the common people. But the great criminals who occupy the seats of government and the bankers who own them are the ones who benefit. Not the public. As an institution, Central Government is anti-Christ and a deterrent to happiness and progress of the common people. It lies and calls it "truth." It robs and calls it "tax." It murders and calls it "national security." It steals land and calls it "eminent domain." With these contrived words and phrases it brainwashes the public to think that what it is doing to us is good for us. Government uses and abuses the ignorant. It is to the government's

advantage to keep people ignorant. Thus, today we have schools that teach nonsense and immorality, churches that teach myths and self-gratification, and public institutions that reward depravity. After several decades of this strategy, the government has successfully dumbed down the people to the point that ignorance is "normal." That is why we see ruined and enslaved people still falling for "The Big Lie" learned in childhood ... all the while pledging allegiance to the flag that represents their slavery.

We are also told from childhood that churches are agencies of God, and that we can find access to God there. But churches break up families, teach lies, support criminals in government and banks, do away with God's laws and his Kingship, and turn people into idolatrous idiots. If churches were what they claim to be they should have done some good in the world. They've had nearly 2000 years to do something good. Today, churches are given a tax exempt status from the government. If they had anything to offer it should have been manifested by now.

Rational minds should realize churches are a plague upon mankind. Nonetheless, people still follow churches ... partly due to the long-range effectiveness of "The Big Lie" strategy. Brains have been turned to mush, and hearts have died to truth, to nobility, and to love.

12. And through the increase of lawlessness the love of the many will grow cold.

(Mtt 24:12)

Jesus taught us that a good tree produces good fruit. If a tree produces bad fruit it means that the tree is bad. If people would be "fruit inspectors" rather than church members they might stop falling for "The Big Lie."

Another well-known, and well-believed, myth popularized by "The Big Lie" strategy is what's called "The Jewish Holocaust." Even though it has been proven over and over to be a lie, it is still the most

celebrated, most vocalized and best-established event of World War II. The recorded Jewish population of Europe before the war and after the war proves that no more Jews were killed proportionally than any other ethnic segment - notwithstanding their fantastic claim to “six-million” executed in “gas chambers.” Think about it. The claimed numbers have been proven gross exaggerations by irrefutable expert investigation. The so-called killing gas chambers didn't even exist. The so-called “ovens” for burning Jews alive never existed. The small crematorium at Auschwitz used for burning the victims of typhus and cholera in the camps could not have processed even a one-tenth the amount of bodies claimed. The best-known event of World War II never even happened. This “Big Lie” has captured the imaginations of millions, robbed them of historical perspective and truth, and persecuted millions falsely. Publicly, the “Jewish Holocaust” is considered a fact, and to question it is a punishable offense.

Myth, supported by enthusiastic liars, is stronger than fact. True records of history are rare. It seems that histories are always written by the conquerors and spun carefully to make themselves look good. Most “histories” are myths.

Paul was being victimized by a myth, and reality was being circumvented. “The Big Lie” works upon the collective mind of the masses. It can be a politician lying about his morals, lying about his private life, lying about his purposes and goals, and lying about his lies. It can be a highly funded special interest group conspiring to change history to gain political and financial power. Or, it can be an angry Jewish mob making wild accusations publicly against Paul in an earlier century. The principle and the effect are the same. “The Big Lie” is a known winner in political circles.

Truths can be irretrievably lost. When historians publish fabrications, future generations lose perspective and don't know what to believe. They don't know what is true because evidence (history) has been tainted.

For instance, with thousands of movies, TV shows, millions of magazine and newspaper articles, and fabricated “eyewitness” accounts from so-called “*Holocaust survivors*,” truth is being obscured by lies. German prisoner-of-war camps are being historically revised into “Jewish Holocaust Centers.” A few good Jewish liars go on public record ranting and raving, and swearing to certain myths that are known to

produce certain effects. The public concludes that something real must have happened, otherwise why would they make such a big deal out of it. It is natural to assume that where there is smoke there must be fire.

“The Big Lie.” It works! The chief Roman officer in verse 24 ordered Paul to be interrogated to find out why the Jews were making such a fuss about him. It worked in this case, because the Roman officer concluded that Paul must be guilty of something. He, therefore, ordered the soldiers to take Paul into the military headquarters and have him “scourged” or interrogated by torture to get him to confess.

QUESTION: To speak as if the Holocaust never happened casts you in the light of someone who believes the conspiracy theory of history. Don't you suppose you will lose much of your credibility by saying such things?

ACTS 22:25-30 PAUL INVOKES ROMAN LAW

And as they stretched him forth to the straps, Paul said to the centurion that stood by, If a man is Roman and uncondemned is it lawful for you to be scourging him?

And having heard that, the centurion went to the chief captain and said, What are you doing? For this man is Roman.

Then the chief captain approached, and said to him, Tell me, are you a Roman? He said, Yes.

And the chief captain replied, I acquired my citizenship with a great sum of money. And Paul said, But I was born thus.

Then immediately those who were about to interrogate him withdrew: and the chief captain became

fearful knowing that he was a Roman and that he had bound him.

But the next day, wishing to know for certain why the Jews were accusing him, he loosed him, and commanded the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to come together, and brought Paul down, and stood him before them.

BECAUSE of the Jews' "Big Lie," the Roman captain felt compelled to interrogate Paul by scourging. So Paul appealed to a Roman law which held that a citizen could not be whipped or punished without a trial in a Roman court. Claiming Roman citizenship gave Paul access to Roman courts and delivered him out of the hands of the mad-dog Jews. Obviously, Paul's appeal to Jewish law had been of no avail so he appealed to Roman law. And since he was still considered a Roman citizen, the Romans listened.

Paul would find that his chances with a Roman court were better than they were with the Jewish mob.

The captain's reply to Paul was "*I acquired my citizenship through a great sum of money*" ... challenging Paul to explain how he came by his citizenship. Paul said, "*I was born a citizen.*" Paul was born in Tarsus, a Roman city.

At this point the captain and his men realized they had infringed on a Roman citizen's rights, and under Roman law they could be in trouble. So they immediately ceased interrogating Paul and unbound the straps from his Hands. The Roman captain decided to "go by the book" in his inquiry into what had happened between Paul and the Jewish mob.

The officer called the Jewish chief priests and the Sanhedrin to face Paul. He wanted to hear what they all had to say.

In chapter 23 we will read about this trial. This time the trial is before an official Roman court.

QUESTION: Why do you claim Paul taught men to be citizens of the Kingship of Christ when he, himself, claimed to be a citizen of Rome ?

Paul used Roman law as a defense. Doesn't this strategy justify modern patriots' use of the modern law of "the Empire" (the Constitution) and the court system's statutes and rulings? Aren't they imitating Paul's strategy?

END OF CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

FOR ANSWERS AND NOTES, SEE ENCLOSED "ANSWER SECTION."

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. In the Book of Acts we find the answer to the question, "Why were Jesus and his apostles so hated?" "Why were they killed by their contemporaries?"

From the day Jesus began to teach He was not given any in peace by the "authorities." The same was true of Jesus' disciples.

It is an undeniable fact that there was something about Jesus and his teachings that pitted the Establishment against Him.

However, the establishment seems to get along just fine with churches. Therefore, there is a basic difference between the establishment's relationship with Jesus and its relationship with churches. No other conclusion is possible.

Churches ignore this, but it doesn't go away. Churchgoers won't ask the right questions, and the Establishment (church & state) won't admit or explain it.

2. Man's governments are by nature anti-Christ, and inherently at war against "the way" of Jesus. The Establishment persecuted and murdered Jesus and his followers. It (i.e., the government and its propagandists – church, school, media, etc.) holds control over the minds of people. They know they can hold control so long as they maintain an adequate level of deception.

3. Man's government (the Establishment; the Beast) is a criminal conspiracy. It, and the people who run it, murder, rob, and lie. It is organized crime in its ultimate form. Bankers own it. Politicians manage it. Churches, schools, and the media are its propaganda agencies. To maintain its own existence, government requires a well-oiled propaganda machine. Churches, schools, newspapers and TV are that machine. In Paul's day, the "media" was less complex and sophisticated. They had the public "market places" where people met to discuss things and gossip. There were systems of synagogues, temples, and other

cultural formats where information passed. All these elements are necessary to perpetuate government.

4. Jesus came representing truth and freedom. Truth and freedom, if allowed to exist and grow, destroys all the bases of government by eliminating lies and deception. Without deception, wars could not be fomented. Without wars governments could not hold power over the people.

5. Government cannot allow truth and freedom to prosper. To allow it to go unimpeded would bring the downfall of government and its power structure. If government falls, the bankers' lose their hold upon the world. The whole World Order is at stake.

6. Jesus described himself as "Light" in a dark world. Paul's torch was lit from Jesus' light. Others carried the torches of light from Christ. Light was threatening the darkness required for "church and state" to remain in control. Jesus had to go. His disciples had to go – either by suppression, or by death.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the light, because their works were wicked.

John 3:19

7. What was the inflammatory message these men carried that brought the death sentence upon them? It was very simple. Jesus is King, and men are not. God's laws are not to be ignored or changed. Man is to obey and apply God's law, but man is NOT to create his own laws. Man is not to rule over his fellow man. Man is to seek citizenship in Christ's Kingship, not in man's governments.

8. Jesus taught this, and the Establishment murdered Him.

9. The apostles taught this, and the Establishment murdered them.

10. Today, churches teach their members to be "patriots" and "good citizens" and support church & state. Christians who accept this hypocrisy insult their Savior and bring shame to the term "Christian."

ANSWERS:

pg.3

Paul was not a lawyer. Knowing law does not make one a lawyer. Paul was a product of his environment like most of us have been products of our environment. Paul was raised a Pharisee in Judea. In comparison, today that would equate to a typical citizen raised in a typical church, educated in a typical public school, paying typical taxes, being propagandized by typical routine TV watching, and being patriotic. Paul was a church-going (synagogue-going) Judean patriot. He was deceived and lost ... just as most of us have been in the past.

When we say that Paul was a Pharisee, the term "Pharisee" carries no connotation of race. Pharisees came in many races, including Israelite ... as was the case with Paul. Some of the Pharisees were racial Edomites. Some were racially mixed. "Pharisee" was a title given to a particular political/religious sect. It is no greater stretch to believe that Paul could be converted and become a sensible and honest follower of Jesus than it is to believe that it could happen to you or me. Christ can change great sinners and cause us to become new men.

pg. 5

Paul's testimony must stand in its entirety, or none of it can stand. If any of it is accepted, then it all must be accepted. It cannot be picked and sorted like vegetables in a market. If we reject Paul's claim to apostleship, then we must reject ALL his testimony completely.

No sincere Christian with the

slightest bit of knowledge and experience of Scripture can dismiss the apostle Paul. Therefore, his claim (that he was changed by his meeting with Jesus) must be accepted as it stands. Also, his claim of seeing and knowing Jesus, although limited in technical detail, must be accepted as it stands.

For Paul, being in the visible and audible presence of the Risen Christ during his three-year extension in and around Damascus was a world-changing experience. It was a supernatural experience, and Paul admitted that he did not know the mechanisms or the physics that caused it to occur. However, he was NOT vague or unsure concerning the real presence of Jesus with him during that time.

pg. 7

Yes. Belief in the possibility of conspiracy in other countries is universally acceptable, and often used by politicians in America. However these same politicians scorn anyone who claims it can exist in America. We who show the clear proof of conspiracy in the American political system are derided ... by cowards and opportunists. We who know and speak of conspiracies, such as the Holocaust propaganda campaign, are systematically marginalized, demonized, and accused of prejudice, hate, lunacy, etc. Truth is typically less believable than a well orchestrated lie – witness Paul in 1st-century Judea.

pg. 8

Paul's appeal to Roman law was not an act of faith or loyalty to the Roman law system, but rather an act of a soldier defending himself on the battle field. Paul had fallen into the hands of Christ's enemies. He was a prisoner of war. His appeal to Roman law was merely a tactic against his accusers and his captors who did not recognize Christ's Kingship.

His claim of citizenship in Rome was a legal move which delivered him

away from the Pharisees. Paul actually had been a Roman citizen. He wasn't lying. But, Paul certainly did not hold any loyalty to Caesar or that government. His allegiance was with his King and Savior: Jesus.

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from where we also heartily accept our Savior, Lord Jesus the Christ."

Phil. 3:20