

Paul's Testimony Before the Court, the Great Sanhedrin (Trial 1): God's Guidance and Presence Through Terrible Strain Acts 22: 22 – 23: 11

1 *Paul's claim to legal rights*

a. Paul rejected by the mob

22 The crowd listened to Paul until he said this.
Then they raised their voices and shouted,
"Rid the earth of him!
He's not fit to live!"

b. Paul rescued by the soldiers

23 As they were shouting
and throwing off their cloaks
and flinging dust into the air,

24 The commander ordered
Paul to be taken into the barracks.
He directed that he be flogged and questioned
in order to find out
why the people were shouting at him like this.

c. Paul claimed legal rights:
He was a Roman citizen

25 As they stretched him out to flog him.
Paul said to the centurion standing there,
"Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen
who hasn't even been found guilty?"

26 When the centurion heard this,
he went to the commander and reported it.
"What are you going to do?" he asked.
"This man is a Roman citizen."

d. Paul before the commander:
Identified his Roman citizenship

27 The commander went to Paul and asked,
"Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?"
"Yes, I am,"
he answered.

e. Paul and his rights respected

28 Then the commander said,
"I had to pay a big price for my citizenship."
"But I was born a citizen,"
Paul replied.

29 Those who were about to question him
withdrew immediately.
The commander himself was alarmed
when he realized that he had put Paul,
a Roman citizen,
in chains.

f. The Commander sought the cause for the riot 2 Paul's great claim: A good conscience 3 Paul's due respect for the authority of Scripture a. The High Priest had Paul struck: For blasphemy b. Paul rebuked the presiding officer: For violating the law c. Paul was informed he was the High Priest d. Paul apologized for rebuking the High Priest 4 Paul's daring strategy launched by the Spirit of God a. His perception: Two opposing parties present b. His claim: He was being tried because he was a Pharisee c. His purpose: To cause a dispute	30 The next day, since the commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them. CHAPTER 23 1 Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day." 2 At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth. 3 Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!" 4 Those who were standing near Paul said, "You dare to insult God's high priest?" 5 Paul replied, "Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: 'Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.'" 6 Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. I stand on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead." 7 When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.
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1) Sadducees' belief: No resurrection and no spiritual world 2) Pharisees' belief: Is a resurrection and a spiritual world d. His strategy worked — too well e. His rescue 5 Paul's terrible strain but the Lord's glorious assurance	8 (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.) 9 There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. "We find nothing wrong with this man," they said. "What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" 10 The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks. 11 The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."
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