

# Acts.

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# Paul's Defense

## The Charge

↳ ACTS 21:27-36

## The Defense

↳ ACTS 21:37-22:22

## The Appeal

↳ ACTS 22:23-29

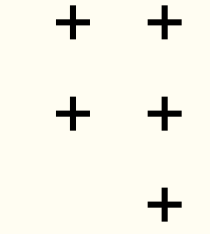




## The Charge

**When the seven days were nearly over,** some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, <sup>28</sup> shouting, “Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place.” <sup>29</sup> (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.)

ACTS 21:27-29 NIV



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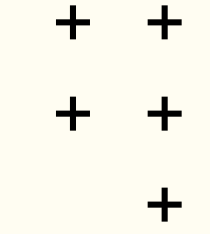
ACTS 21:27-29 NIV



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ACTS 21:27-29 NIV



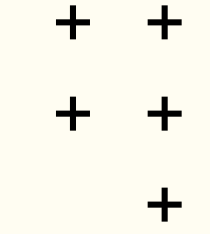


## The Charge

The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut.<sup>31</sup> While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar.<sup>32</sup> He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.<sup>33</sup> The commander came up and

arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done.<sup>34</sup> Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks.<sup>35</sup> When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers.<sup>36</sup> The crowd that followed kept shouting, “Get rid of him!”

ACTS 21:30-36 NIV

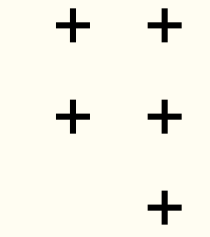




## The Defense

“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. <sup>4</sup> I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, <sup>5</sup> as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.”

ACTS 22:3-5 NIV



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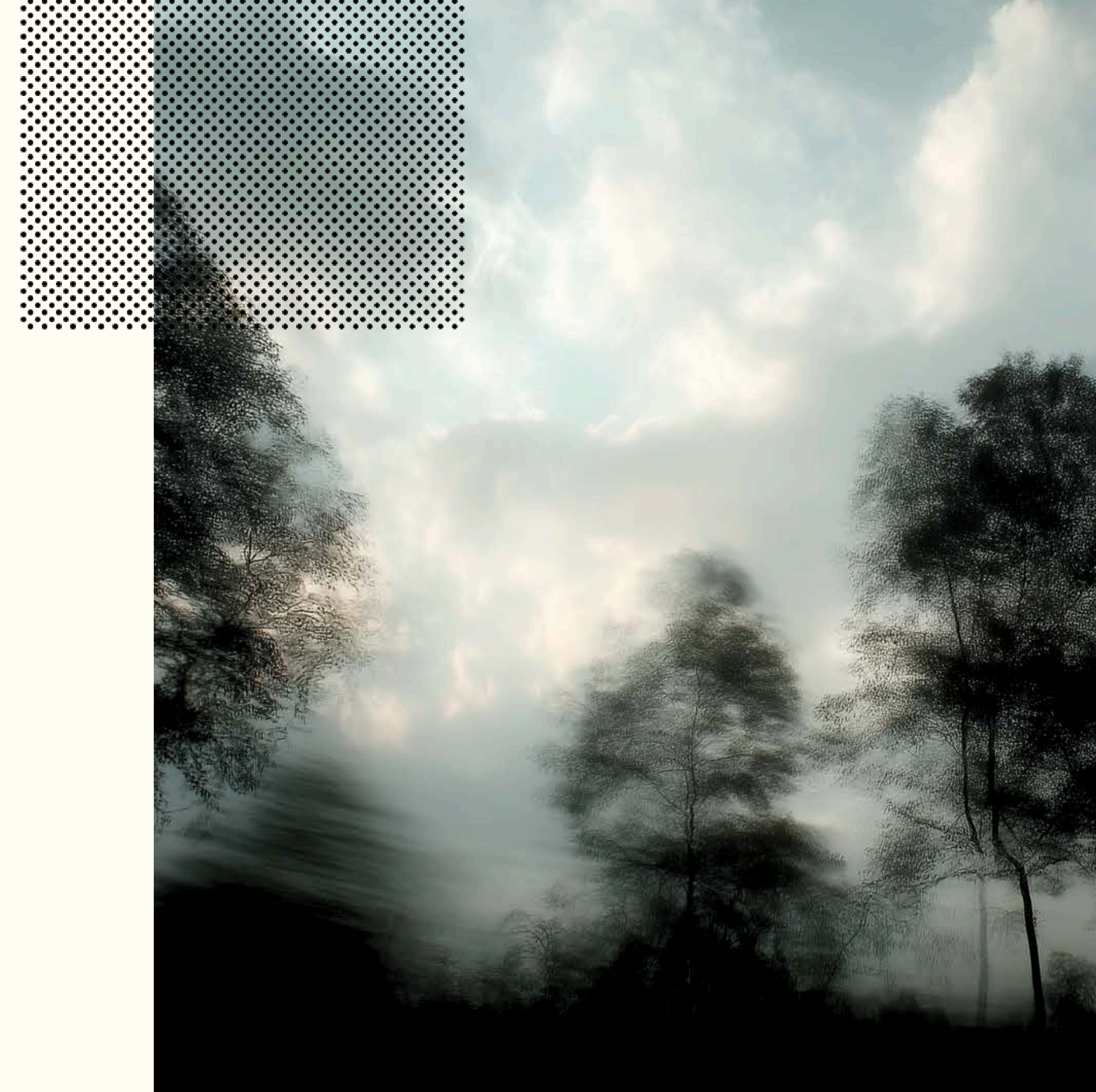
...though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-6 NIV



# Acts.

God uses Paul's past not to  
define him but to **deploy** him.

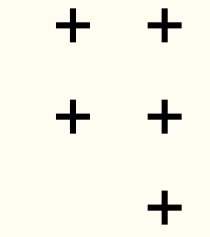




## The Defense

“About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. <sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’ <sup>8</sup> ‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked. ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied. <sup>9</sup> My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup> ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ I asked. ‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’

ACTS 22:6-10 NIV

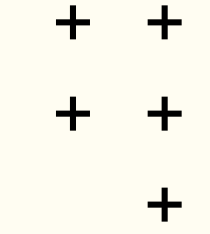




## The Defense

“When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance <sup>18</sup> and saw the Lord speaking to me. ‘Quick!’ he said. ‘Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.’ <sup>19</sup> ‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. <sup>20</sup> And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’ <sup>21</sup> Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

ACTS 22:17-21 NIV

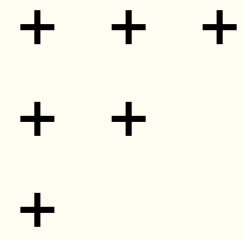


## The Appeal

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!”<sup>23</sup> As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air,<sup>24</sup> the commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this.<sup>25</sup> 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?”<sup>26</sup> 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.**”<sup>27</sup> The commander went to Paul and asked, “Tell me, are you a **Roman citizen**?” “Yes, I am,” he answered.<sup>28</sup> Then the commander said, “I had to pay a lot of money for my citizenship.” “But **I was born a citizen,**” Paul replied.<sup>29</sup> Those who were about to interrogate him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a **Roman citizen,** in chains.

ACTS 22:22-29 NIV



# Good News Implications

Jesus is the resurrected Lord.

The Gentiles are indwelt by God's Spirit.



## The Appeal

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ACTS 22:22-29 NIV

A dramatic landscape with a cloudy sky and sunbeams filtering through trees. The scene is captured in a wide-angle shot, showing a dense forest of trees in the foreground and middle ground. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds, and bright sunlight is breaking through, creating a series of rays of light that illuminate the scene. The overall mood is serene and hopeful. The text is centered in a white box with a soft shadow, making it stand out against the darker background.

**How has God designed the “past” in your story  
to prepare you for mission in His story?**



# Prepared for Mission

Family/Relationships

Ethnicity/Citizenship

Economic Demographic

Education/Employment

Spiritual History

Personality/Gifting

Family Brokenness

Trauma/Events

Hurts/Hang-Ups/Habits

Personal Sin

Life Choices



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