

# THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## CHAPTER 23:1-11

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**TITLE:**

### **HAVING A GOOD ARGUMENT**

**BEING READY TO SHARE THE LORD**

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**THEME:**

*Acts 1:8*

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and "you shall be witnesses to Me" in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

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Paul's world seemed to be falling in on him... Three years ago in Seattle, Elmer Cinnamon and his wife were sitting down in their living room prepared to watch the seahawks play a routine Sunday afternoon game when "Ka-Boom" - a 14 lb. frozen block crashed through the upstairs room down on to the living room floor, 2 ft. from Elmer's Chair. the police were called to examine the strange block of frozen stuff. believing it was a meteorite, The FAA was called in but - by the time they arrived, the space traveler began a meltdown until everyone in the room was able to determine exactly what it was... a 14 lb.. frozen block of waste was accidentally ejected from an airliner passing over Seattle at 43,000 ft. Elmer Cinnamon said "Once it started melting, we all recognized it"

*Paul's world seemed to be fallen in  
and things began to stink!*

He was excited about being at Jerusalem to see his kinsmen, Paul is instructed by James to appease the natives by quietly blending in among them...

### **The Jerusalem Council (Sanhedrin)**

Made up of Primarily Pharisees & Sadducees, they comprised of 70 (71) men, leading rulers & elders over Israel's religious life.

### **The Important Background**

*Josephus writes "Ananias was a violent robber of the priest, stealing their 10% for a 10 year period. He was a thief and a considered to be Israel's worst known High Priest*

Paul knew these *guys twenty years ago, it is possible that there are still those sitting there who had sent Paul out to kill Christians*

## 1.) Paul's Preliminary Hearing

vv. 1-5

### A.) Paul Gives his defense before the Sanhedrin vv. 1

His freedom and *forgiveness was viewed as arrogance and pride*

### Paul's Evaluation of Himself

His Conscience (what is being said on the inside of the man)

1 Corinthians 4:3-4

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. :4 For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

### THE CONSCIENCE

The voice of Experience (what we **have** experienced)

- It functions based upon knowledge, what is known
- It can only deal with what was, not what shall be
- It has no ability to guide, only to goad

When Paul killed *Christians, he did it believing that it was truly the right thing to do*

Jesus Said; John 16:2

"the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

## The Jiminy Cricket

Do not follow your conscience...

# A Warning to Us All;

#1

## WE NEED TO GUARD OUR CONSCIENCE...

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, :2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

#2

## WE NEED TO PURGE OUR CONSCIENCE...

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things.

#3

## WE NEED TO REST OUR CONSCIENCE

1 Peter 3:16

having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

Evil going unchecked, will harden your conscience

*TIME Magazine 1994*

The Baby-Boomers have given birth to the generation Xer's  
the most violent, hard-hearted generation in the history of America

**America's most dangerous crimes are now committed by kids 19 yrs.  
and under**

Proverbs 29:1

He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

B.) God Turned the Hearing around on Them vv. 2-5

## You Whitewashed Wall - Paul

A Term Used of a worn out and decaying tomb  
You Look good on the Outside, but **you're Rotting on the Inside**

## Serpents, brood of vipers! - Jesus

Matthew 23:33 How can you escape the condemnation of hell?

# Who warned You - *John the Baptist*

Matthew 3:7 "Brood of vipers! to flee from the wrath to come?"

**Always Directed to the Same group of People - The Leaders**

## They're Several Views

#1 PAUL'S POOR VISION KEPT HIM FROM IDENTIFYING THE HIGH PRIEST.

#2 THE HIGH PRIEST DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DON HIS ROBES.

#3 PAUL'S RESPONSE WAS A REBUKE, MEANING THAT PAUL CHALLENGED THE WRONGFUL CONDUCT OF THE HIGH PRIEST AND MUCH MORE...

Paul was Protesting the abuse of the Office

"I did not **know**, brethren, that he was the high priest;

\* **know** GRK 1492 eido (i'-do);  
(1) to be aware of, (2) to acknowledge

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What Paul is Saying is;

**"I would never speak evil of a High Priest"**

Exodus 22:28

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*Paul Judged the Priest by the Word*

*~ in Light of his own Conduct*

**Pauls' response was a personal rebuke  
directed at the High Priest**

**"By your conduct, you wouldn't be recognized as a high priest"**

**"A Real High Priest wouldn't act the way you do"**

# What is Going On ?

God's Calling upon Paul's life is being Fulfilled

Acts 9:15

he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before;  
#1 Gentiles, #2 kings, and #3 the children of Israel.

## 2.) Paul's Permanent Hope

vv. 6-10

### A.) He Trusted in the Word of God

vv. 6

Probably the Oldest *Reference in the Bible is...*

Job 14:14

If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes.

Job 19:26

And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God,

Psalm 17:15

As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

### B.) Paul Understood the Resurrection

vv. 6a

\* Cried Out GRK 2896 krazo (krad'-zo)  
to scream aloud, to shriek, to exclaim

## The Doctrine of Resurrection

is a Judeo-Christian Doctrine (Biblical).

### Paul had always believed in the resurrection

Romans 8

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1 Corinthians 15:35

But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" :36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. :37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain-- perhaps wheat or some other grain...

1 Corinthians 15:40 (42)

There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. :42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

**Did you know that every person  
who has ever lived will be resurrected ?**

John 5:28

"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice J :29 "and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

C.) He Had Seen Jesus Personally

vv. 6

## Chapter 22 'His Testimony'

**Sadducees** *They denied the supernatural, rejected the doctrine of Resurrection, Angels,*

**Pharisees** *Held to what we hold to, resurrection, angels and the supernatural*

**this is something that we all should be guilty of...**

**“The Hope of Resurrection...”**

\* **Hope** GRK 1680 elpis (el-pece')  
to have absolute confidence in. to anticipate a thing,

\* **Resurrection** GRK 386 anastasis (an-as'-tas-is)  
to literally stand up again, to recover from death

## What Happens When you Die

**IF YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN,**

at the time of death, you instantaneously awake in the presence of God, in heaven and very much experiencing life.

*your physical body remains on earth until the resurrection*

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IF YOU'RE NOT A CHRISTIAN,  
at the time of death, you are instantaneously awake in Hell  
very much experiencing a living Death  
*your physical body remains on earth until the resurrection*

A graveyard has the *bodies of both - believer & unbeliever, Though they be in Eternity Apart from One another*

## *There's A Rule Breaker*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-16

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. :14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. :15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. :16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

This Event will Fulfill Jesus' Prophecy in John 14  
*The Christians Attitude toward the Rapture  
is to be Joy...*

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

**3.) Paul's Present Strength**

**vv. 11**

A.) Paul was Consumed with doubt & Fear

vv. 11b

**"You Have Testified of Me in Jerusalem"**

Words of Commendation

*Paul had Felt like a Total Failure*

"You are Doing More than You Realize"

by coming today  
by coming Wednesday night  
by praying at Islands or Mimi's  
by praying over your family

God Must Keep Us from Knowing these Things

let's remember that when we are rejected  
or think we've blown it.

B.) He was Encouraged by Jesus Himself vv. 11a

**be of good cheer**  
(take or receive courage)

**Discouraged, Rejected, Depressed, A Failure**

But the following night the Lord **stood by him**

**P.M.S.**

post ministry syndrome

\* Stood GRK 2186 ephistemi (ef-is'-tay-mee)  
to stand with, to be teamed up with, yoked together

*and said, "Be of good cheer, (Paul hadn't any good cheer left, he only had foam and fizz)*



The Lord is on your side to Bless you

*Jesus seems to love this statement...*

*Personally, to the Crippled Man*

Matthew 9:2

He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

*Publicly, to the Frightened Sailors*

Matthew 14:26

And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. :27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

*Privately, in the upper room*

John 16:33

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

C.) Paul's Future was Reassured by the Lord vv. 11c

**"You must also bear witness of Me in Rome"**

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A lesson from mr. job ~ all things being Father-Filtered

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Romans 8:33

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. :34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. :35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? :36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." :37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. :38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, :39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

NOTE: When did the Lord Appear to Paul? - at Night

**Light shines** the brightest when it's the darkest  
**the stars** look the their best when the sky is at its blackest shade

## There's a Drama Being Played Out

(Then in Paul's day & Now in my day)

- There are the forces of God (good)
- There are the forces of Satan (evil)
- There are those for whom it's fought over (Us)
- There are those caught in between the two (All Mankind)

Revelation 12:10b

for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day  
and night, has been cast down.  
& Zechariah 3

# ENEMY IDENTIFICATION CHART

Your Prayers are worthless, Your mission is Meaningless  
Your Purpose is Hopeless...

**But we have our Attorney**

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. :2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Psalm 139

O LORD, You have searched me and known me. :2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. :3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. :4 For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. :5 You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. :6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. :7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? :8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. :9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, :10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. :11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," even the night shall be light about me;

1 John 3:20

For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart,  
and knows all things.