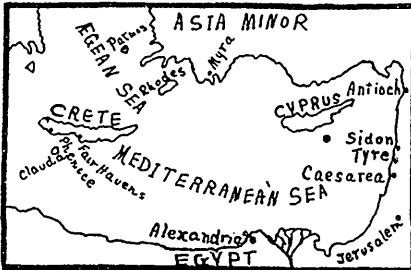


.. the prophets; the Old Testament scriptures.

15, 16. **Hope toward God**; hope built on God himself and his promises. **Resurrection**; the general belief of the Jewish people. **Just and unjust** (see Dan. 12 : 2, 3), a sharp thrust at Felix, whose life was so evil. Paul regarded the Christian religion, not as opposed to the Jewish faith, but the outcome and fulfillment of it. **Herein**; because I believe in the resurrection and expect to stand before God as my judge. **Do I exercise myself**; like an athlete training for a race. **A conscience void of offence**; a conscience that does not offend God or cause others to stumble.

III. **A FEARLESS CHALLENGE.—17-21.** **After many years**; the four or five (see ch. 18 : 21, 22). **Came to bring alms**; the money collected in the churches of Europe for the poor Christians in Jerusalem, Rom. 15 : 26; 1 Cor. 16 : 1; 2 Cor. 8 : 4. **Offerings**; belonging to the Nazirite vow, ch. 21 : 23-26. **Jews from Asia**. See ch. 21 : 27, 28. **Purified** (according to the Jewish law) **in the temple**; "then, how did I profane it?" (Chrysostom.) **Who ought to have been here**; to make their accusations in open court. **Let these men... say** (Rev. Ver.); Ananias, the high priest, and those with him, v. 1. **Touching the resurrection**, etc. See ch. 23 : 6. Only the Sadducees would blame Paul for teaching this doctrine.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



Caesarea is about 50 miles northwest of Jerusalem in an airline, but when Paul and his escort traveled over the highways between the two places, they probably covered 70 or 80 miles. The visitor to Caesarea to-day, standing on the sea shore and looking westward over the Mediterranean, may see in the harbor a sailboat fastened by a long rope to the shore, rocking to and fro just as in the days of Paul. The fine buildings which once stood along the water front are gone. Their foundations rest on part of a massive breakwater which used to shelter the harbor, originally several

hundred feet long, but now half torn to pieces by the surges and storms of nineteen hundred years.

LESSON QUESTIONS

10, 11 Who had made charges against Paul? What was the character of Felix as a ruler and as a man? How did Paul show his courtesy? How long had Felix been judge over the Jews? Why was Paul glad to have his case heard by Felix? How long was it since Paul had come to Jerusalem? What bearing had this on the case? In what single word did Paul answer the charges made against him?

12, 13 What does Paul here say that he had not done? What were the synagogues? What did he say his enemies could not do? On what sort of testimony had Jesus been condemned? (Mark 14 : 55-59.)

14 What title did the Christians give to their faith? What did the Jews call it? Whom did Paul serve?

15, 16 What hope did he hold? What did he train himself to do? Where does he liken the Christian life to a race? (1 Cor. 9 : 24-27.)

17-21 What did Paul challenge his enemies to do?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Should Christians ever answer false accusations made against them?

2. Is conscience always a safe guide?

A PRAYER

Our Father, wilt thou bless to us the lessons we have learned this week. May thy Word mean more to us each time we read it. Bring to our remembrance the promises, the warnings, the invitations we have learned just when we need them. Be with us to-day, to-morrow and every day, until thou dost call us to be with thee forever. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That we should have a good conscience.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 73. Which is the eighth commandment? A. The eighth commandment is, Thou shalt not steal.

The Question on Missions—2. Amongst what people do our Trinidad missionaries work? Trinidad missionaries work among the East Indians, of whom there are now at least 120,000 in the island, laboring. They labor on sugar and cocoa and cocoa-nut estates, or own and cultivate their own gardens and land. Many of them are now "cane farmers," growing sugar canes and selling them to the large sugar factories, when reaped, at a stated price per ton.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: The "Great Hymn of the Church"—Primary, 595; Junior and Upward, 438, 102, 240, 49 (Ps. Sel.), 275, 245.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What was Paul's answer to the charges made against him?

2. What account did he give of his conduct in Jerusalem?

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