

## Lesson VIII.

## PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA

May 24, 1903

Acts 26 : 19-29. Commit to memory vs. 27-29. Read the whole chapter.

19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision :

20 But <sup>1</sup>shewed first unto them of Damas'cus, and at Jeru'salem, and throughout all the <sup>2</sup>coasts of Jude'a, and <sup>3</sup>then to the Gen'tiles, that they should repent and turn to God, <sup>4</sup>and do works meet for repentance.

21 For <sup>5</sup>these causes the Jews <sup>6</sup>caught me in the temple, and <sup>7</sup>went about to kill me.

22 Having therefore obtained <sup>8</sup>help of God, I continue unto this day, <sup>9</sup>witnessing both to small and great, saying <sup>10</sup>none other things than those which the prophets and Mo'ses did say should come :

23 <sup>11</sup>That Christ should suffer, and <sup>12</sup>that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light <sup>13</sup>unto the people, and to the Gen'tiles.

**Revised Version**—1 Wherefore : 2 declared both to : 3 country ; 4 also ; 5 doing works worthy : 6 this cause ; 7 seized ; 8 assayed to ; 9 the help that is from God, I stand ; 10 testifying ; 11 nothing but what ; 12 How that the Christ must suffer ; 13 how that he first by the resurrection of the dead should proclaim ; 14 both to ; 15 made his defence ; 16 mad ; thy much learning ; 17 turn thee to madness ; 18 Paul saith ; 19 excellent ; 20 unto whom ; 21 hath not been done ; 22 With but little persuasion thou wouldest fain make me a Christian.

## GOLDEN TEXT

Acts. 26 : 22. Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day.

## DAILY READINGS

M. — Acts 25 : 13-22. Festus and king Agrippa.  
T. — Acts 26 : 1-11. Defence before Agrippa.  
W. — Acts 26 : 12-18. The converted persecutor.  
Th. — Acts 26 : 19-29. Paul before Agrippa.  
F. — Phil. 1 : 8-18. "Christ is preached."  
S. — Phil. 1 : 19-30. Boldness for Christ.  
S. — 2 Cor. 5 : 9-15. Constraining love.

## CATECHISM

Q. 79. Which is the tenth commandment ?

A. The tenth commandment is, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

## EXPOSITION

**Connecting Links**—The Jews at Jerusalem desired Festus, the new governor, to bring Paul to Jerusalem for trial, intending to lie in wait on the way to kill him. Festus refused, and held the trial at Cæsarea. The charges were unsupported by evidence, but Festus, to please the Jews, now suggested that Paul be tried at Jerusalem. Paul, however knowing that he would not receive justice there, appealed to Cæsar, ch. 25 : 1-12. About the same time Agrippa, king of a little territory north-east of the sea of Galilee, and a Jew in religion, visited Cæsarea and Paul was brought for a hearing before him. Paul began by giving an account of his life, including his conversion, chs. 25 : 13 to 26 : 18. At this point the lesson begins.

## I. A Calm Defence, 19-23.

V. 19. *Wherefore* (Rev. Ver.) ; because of his conversion and his call to preach the gospel, vs. 12-18. *O king Agrippa* ; Herod

24 And as he thus <sup>14</sup>spoke for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art <sup>15</sup>beside thyself : much learning doth <sup>17</sup>make thee mad.

25 Bu: <sup>18</sup>he said, I am not mad, most <sup>19</sup>noble Festus ; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

26 For the king knoweth of these things, <sup>28</sup>before whom also I speak freely : for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him ; for this thing <sup>21</sup>was not done in a corner.

27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets ? I know that thou believest.

28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, <sup>29</sup>Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

## TIME AND PLACE

The summer of 60 A.D. : Cæsarea, a city on the coast of Palestine, sometimes called Cæsarea on the Sea, to distinguish it from Cæsarea Philippi. Paul had been a prisoner for more than two years, having been sent thither from Jerusalem for safety. (See ch. 23 : 23, 24.)

## LESSON PLAN

I. A Calm Defence, 19-23. Offered by Paul against the charges of the Jews.

II. A Violent Interruption, 24-26. Made by Festus while Paul was speaking.

III. An Earnest Appeal, 27-29. Addressed to Agrippa by Paul.

## LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 576 ; 31 (Pa. Sel.) ; 303 ; 54 ; 434 ; 240.

Agrippa II., the son of Herod Agrippa I. who slew James (ch. 12 : 1), and the great-grandson of Herod the Great who massacred the innocents, Matt. 2 : 16. Herod Antipas, who beheaded John the Baptist (Matt. 14 : 6-10) was uncle of Herod Agrippa I. *I was not disobedient* ; as in the days of his opposition to Christ. This was now at an end and Paul's one question was, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" ch. 9 : 6. *The heavenly vision* ; seen on the way to Damascus, ch. 9 : 3-8.

V. 20. *But shewed*. As soon as he knew Christ and his salvation, he began to proclaim the truth to others, and first at *Damascus*, ch. 9 : 19-22. (See Bible Dictionary, p. 198.) *At Jerusalem*. Persecuted at Damascus, he fled to Jerusalem and preached there, ch. 9 : 23-29. *Throughout all the country of Judea* (Rev. Ver.). The time of this preaching in Judea is a matter of dispute. Lindsay refers it to the journey described in ch. 9 : 30 ; others to the occasions mentioned in chs.