

expected the Messiah to be a conquering King. **Rise from the dead**; as had been foretold, for example, in Ps. 16: 10. **Shew light**; bring joy and peace in this life and the hope of perfect blessedness in heaven. **The people**; the Jews. **Gentiles**. See Gen. 22: 18; Isa. 42: 6, 7; 60: 1-3.

II. FESTUS THE IGNORANT.—24-26. Beside thyself; out of your senses. (Compare chs. 2: 13; 17: 32.) **Much learning**; study of the Old Testament scriptures. **Turn thee to madness** (Rev. Ver.); as we say, "His head is turned". **Most noble Festus**. Paul is always the courteous Christian gentleman. **Words of truth**; and no fancies of a diseased mind. **Soberness**; sound sense. **The king knoweth**. Agrippa, at one time, was in charge, under the Romans, of the temple at Jerusalem; he was well acquainted, therefore, with the religion of the Jews and their expectation of a Messiah. **These things**; the death and resurrection of Jesus. **Not done in a corner**; but in Jerusalem, the capital of Judea, in the glare of public knowledge.

III. AGRIPPA THE INDIFFERENT.—27-29. **Thou believest**; "the prophets", and therefore oughtest to believe in Jesus, who fulfils what they taught. **With but little persuasion**, etc. (Rev. Ver.) It is as if he had said: "You seem to think that with but a little effort you can make me,—so great a man as I am,—a Christian,—one of that miserable set of fanatics." **I would to God**. I desire most earnestly. **Such as I am**; with all the blessings, present and to come, of the Christian. **Except these bonds** (chains). Another instance of Paul's courtesy.

Vs. 30, 32. After the court had been dismissed, Agrippa declared to Festus that Paul might be at once freed, had he not appealed to Cæsar.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



CÆSAREA was noted for two things: (1) Its close connection with Rome. The residence of the Roman governors of Judea was there, and the quarters of the Roman troops, while it was the port by which Judea was entered from the west. The conspicuous object to those approaching it from the sea was a temple dedicated to Cæsar and to Rome. (2) In its population there was a large proportion of strangers from Gentile countries.

LESSON QUESTIONS

What proposal did Festus make after hearing the charges against Paul? What did Paul demand? Before what royal visitors to Cæsarea did Paul give an address?

19, 20 Who was "King Agrippa"? What vision did Paul describe to him? What effect had the vision upon Paul? To whom had he preached the gospel? What three things are included in the gospel message? What was the burden of John the Baptist's preaching? (Matt. 3: 2.) What of that of Jesus? (Mark 1: 15.) What did Peter, on the day of Pentecost, bid his hearers do?

21, 22 When and why had the Jews sought to kill Paul? Whence did he receive help? What did he teach about Jesus?

24-26 What did Festus say to Paul? Give Paul's reply. Why was King Agrippa likely to understand what he taught?

27-32 What question did Paul ask of the king? Explain the king's reply. What did Agrippa say of Paul when the trial was over?

FOR DISCUSSION

- Excusable and inexcusable ignorance.
- The sin of indifference to Christ.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

In an old Scotch castle, so runs one of George Macdonald's stories, a father and daughter lived in the deepest poverty, while, all the time, in a secret cupboard, of which they knew nothing, were masses of shining jewels placed there by some ancestor. Untold riches were within their reach, had they only known it. The gospel places at our very side wealth greater than the whole world can give. The blame is ours, if ignorant pride, like that of Festus, or indifference, like Agrippa's, prevents our seeing and enjoying this best of all treasures.

Prove from Scripture—That conscience may become hardened.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 33. What is justification? A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

The Question on Missions—4. Is Christian work carried on amongst all these races? It is carried on among the Japanese, Chinese, and the "level-plain" aborigines; but not yet among the "head-hunters", and a division of the "level-plainers", known as the "south-side" barbarians, who live on the middle east coast of the island.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What did Paul begin to do immediately after his conversion?

2. How did Festus treat the apostle's message?

3. Why was Agrippa's guilt greater than that of Festus?