

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 22:1-30 | LESSON SUMMARY

### Roman Citizen

**ACTS 22:2-3**, "And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said: "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day." (ESV)

- Paul gives his testimony, beginning with his status as a Jew
  - Speaking Hebrew, likely Aramaic
  - Educated by Gamaliel; one of the most prestigious rabbis of the day (Acts 5:34)
    - Best possible education of his day
    - "Zealous for God," a Pharisee
  - Philippians 3:5, "circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee..." (ESV)
  - Paul was ruthless (verses 4-5)
    - He knows some of the people here—they would have known him when he was "Saul"



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### Paul's Testimony

- Luke shared Paul's testimony back in chapter 9
- Paul will share here, as well as:
  - Acts 26
  - Philippians 3
  - 1 Timothy 1
- Paul mentioning Ananias further evidences good Jewish families who converted
  - Ananias' verbiage emphasizes that they still serve the God of their fathers; accepting Jesus doesn't deny their previous faith

**ACTS 22:17-18**, "When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'"

- Paul reminds God of who he was
  - "And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'" (Acts 22:21, ESV)
  - This enrages the crowd
  - Paul is sent to be flogged



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ACTS 22:25, "But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?"

- Paul knows the answer
- The commander is shaken by this information
  - "The tribune answered, "I bought this citizenship for a large sum." Paul said, "But I am a citizen by birth." (Acts 22:28, ESV)
- It's far from over

ACTS 22:30, "But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them." (ESV)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Robert Louis Wilken, *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*, F.F. Bruce, *The Book of Acts*, R. Kent Hughes, *The Church Afire*

