



When Porcius Festus took over as Governor from Felix, the Jewish authorities asked for Paul to be put on trial in Jerusalem (hoping to ambush and kill him on the way). Festus instead agreed to a fresh trial in Caesarea. Paul denied the charges saying, 'I am not guilty of any crime against the Jewish laws or the Temple or the Roman government.'



Then Festus, wanting to please the Jews, asked him, 'Are you willing to go to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there?'



'No!' Paul replied. 'This is the official Roman court, so I ought to be tried here. You know I am not guilty. If I have done something worthy of death, I should die. But if I am innocent, no one has a right to turn me over to these men to kill me. I appeal to Caesar!'



Festus conferred with his advisers and then replied, 'Very well! You have appealed to Caesar, and to Caesar you will go!'



A few days later King Agrippa arrived with his sister, Bernice, to pay their respects to Festus. They discussed Paul's case together. 'I'd like to hear the man myself,' Agrippa said. Festus replied, 'You will, tomorrow!'



The next day Agrippa and Bernice arrived at the auditorium, accompanied by military officers and prominent men of the city. Paul was brought in. Festus announced, 'This is the man whose death is demanded by all the Jews, but in my opinion he has done nothing deserving death. However, since he appealed his case to the emperor, I have decided to send him to Rome. But what charge shall I make against him?'

