

**“Paul’s Appeal To His Brothers:
From Jewish Zealot To Christian Convert To Exile For The Faith!”**

Acts 21:40 & 22:1-21

So, when **He** (**Commander / Tribune**) had given **Him** permission, **Paul** stood on the stairs and motioned with **His Hand** to the **People (Jews)**. And then there was a **Great Silence** ... Then **He** (**Paul**) Spoke to **Them** in the **Hebrew Language**, saying, “**Brethren (Jews) and Fathers (Sanhedrin)**, **Hear My Defense before You now!**” And when **They** heard that **He** spoke to **Them** in the **Hebrew Language**, **They** kept all the more silent. “**I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this City (Jerusalem) at the Feet (Authority & Teaching) of Gamaliel (Prominent Member of the Pharisees & Sanhedrin Council), taught according to the strictness of our Fathers’ Law, and was zealous toward God as You All are today. I Persecuted this Way (Christianity) to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, as also the High Priest bears Me Witness, and all the Council of the Elders (Sanhedrin), from Whom I also Received Letters to the Brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even Those Who were there to Jerusalem to be punished. Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a Great Light from Heaven (Epiphany) Shone around Me. And I fell to the ground and Heard a Voice Saying (Theophany & Rhema) to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are You Persecuting Me?’ So I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to Me, ‘I AM Jesus of Nazareth, Whom You Are Persecuting.’ And Those Who were with Me indeed saw the Light and They were afraid, but They did not hear the Voice of Him Who Spoke (Theophany & Rhema) to Me. So I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord Said (Theophany & Rhema) to Me, ‘Arise and Go into Damascus, and there You will be told all things which are appointed for You to do.’ And since I could not see for the Glory of that Light (Epiphany), being led by the hand of Those Who were with Me, I came into Damascus. Then a certain Ananias, a Devout Man according to the Law, having a Good Testimony with all the Jews Who dwelt there, came to Me; and He stood and Said (Rhema) to Me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that same hour I looked up at Him. Then He (Ananias) Said (Rhema), ‘The God of Our Fathers has chosen You that you should know His Will, and See the Just One (Epiphany), and Hear the Voice of His Mouth (Theophany & Rhema). For You will be His Witness to All Men of what You Have Seen (Epiphany) and Heard (Theophany & Rhema). And Now Why Are You Waiting? Arise and Be Baptized, and Wash Away Your Sins, Calling on the Name of the Lord.’ Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was Praying in the Temple, that I was in a Trance and Saw Him (Epiphany) Saying (Theophany & Rhema) to Me, ‘Make Haste and Get Out of Jerusalem Quickly, for They will not receive Your Testimony Concerning Me.’ So I said, ‘Lord, They know that in Every Synagogue I imprisoned and beat Those Who Believe (By Faith) on You. And when the Blood of Your Martyr Stephen was shed, I also Was Standing By Consenting to His Death, and Guarding the Clothes of Those Who Were Killing Him.’ Then He (Epiphany) Said (Theophany & Rhema) to Me, ‘Depart, for I Will Send You far from Here (Jerusalem) to the Gentiles.’”**

Acts 21:40 & 22:1-21 (NKJV)

Q

**“How Many Times In The Book of Acts Is Paul Recorded
As Defending His Preaching & Teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?”**

A

Three Times In Different Language Tenses

- 1) His Account to the Church Elders of Jerusalem Before His Exile (Acts 9:1-22) ^{3rd Person}**
- 2) His Defense in the Scripture Recorded Before The Jews in the Temple (Acts 22:1-21) ^{1st Person}**
- 3) His Defense Before Governor Festus, King Agrippa & Queen Bernice (Acts 26:1-23) ^{1st Person}**

(Continued Over)

Self-Study Time

COMPARE - These Three Defenses With Paul's Other Account to the Church in Galatia Paul Writes, "But I make known to You, Brethren, that the Gospel which was Preached by Me is not According to Man. For I neither received it from Man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the Revelation of Jesus Christ. For You have heard of My Former Conduct in Judaism, how I Persecuted the Church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I Advanced in Judaism beyond many of My Contemporaries in My Own Nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of My Fathers. But when it pleased God, Who Separated Me from My Mother's Womb and Called Me through His Grace, to Reveal His Son in Me, that I might Preach Him Among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to Those Who Were Apostles Before Me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with Him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other Apostles except James, the Lord's Brother. Now concerning the things which I Write to You, indeed, before God, I do not lie. Afterward I went into the Regions of Syria and Cilicia. And I was unknown by Face to the Churches of Judea which were in Christ. But They were hearing only, 'He Who formerly persecuted Us now Preaches the Faith which He once tried to destroy.' And They Glorified God in Me."

Galatians 1:11-24

Q

"Are There Any Similarities Between Paul's Defense of the Gospel Of Jesus Christ & Any Other Christian in the New Testament?"

A – YES!

Stephen the Deacon & Martyr

NOTICE

Four Similarities Of Stephen's & Paul's Defenses

- 1) The Use of the Hebrew Language - Native & Religious Language of the Audience ¹
- 2) Those Directly Addressed - Jewish Brothers & Religious Leaders ²
- 3) The Title of the Name of the God - Invoked As A Divine Witness ³
- 4) The Use of a Divine Vision - God Himself Stands as Their Authority ⁴

Now Let's Compare Stephen's & Paul's Two Defenses

And Stephen Said (in the Hebrew Language), "Brethren (Jewish Brothers) and Fathers (Religious Leaders), Listen: The God of Glory Appeared to Our Father Abraham when He was in Mesopotamia, before He dwelt in Haran ..." ¹⁻³

Acts 7:2

Then Paul Spoke "Brethren (Jews) and Fathers (Sanhedrin), Hear My Defense before You now!"

And when They heard that He spoke to Them in the Hebrew Language, They kept all the more silent. ¹⁻²

Acts 22:1-2

Paul Continued, "Then He (Ananias) Said (Rhema), 'The God of Our Fathers has chosen You that you should know His Will, and See the Just One (Epiphany), and Hear the Voice of His Mouth (Theophany & Rhema). For You will be His Witness to All Men of what You Have Seen (Epiphany) and Heard (Theophany & Rhema).'" ³

Acts 22:14-15

But Stephen, being Full of the Holy Spirit, Gazed (Epiphany) into Heaven and Saw (Vision) the Glory of God, and Jesus Standing at the Right Hand of God, and then He said, "Look! I See (Divine Vision) the Heavens Opened and the Son of Man Standing at the Right Hand of God!" ⁴

Acts 7:55-56

Paul Recounts, "Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a Great Light from Heaven (Epiphany) Shone around Me. And I fell to the ground and Heard a Voice Saying (Theophany & Rhema) to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are You Persecuting Me?' So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to Me, 'I AM Jesus of Nazareth, Whom You Are Persecuting.'" ...

... “And **Those Who** were with **Me** indeed saw the **Light** and **They** were afraid, but **They** did not hear the **Voice of Him Who Spoke** (**Theophany & Rhema**) to **Me**. So **I** said, ‘What shall **I** do, **Lord?**’ And the **Lord Said** to **Me**, ‘Arise and Go into **Damascus**, and there **You** will be told all things which are appointed for **You** to do.’”⁴ Acts 22:6-10

NOTICE

Similarity to Another Account of Paul’s Trances / Visions

Now it happened, when **I** returned to **Jerusalem** and was **Praying in the Temple**, that **I** was in a **Trance** and **Saw Him** (**Epiphany**) **Saying** (**Theophany & Rhema**) to **Me**, ‘**Make Haste and Get Out of Jerusalem Quickly**, for **They** will not receive **Your Testimony Concerning Me**.’” ...

... “So **I** said, ‘**Lord, They** know that in **Every Synagogue I imprisoned and beat Those Who Believe (By Faith)** on **You**. And when the **Blood of Your Martyr Stephen** was shed, **I** also **Was Standing By Consenting to His Death**, and **Guarding the Clothes of Those Who Were Killing Him.**’ Then **He** (**Epiphany**) **Said** (**Theophany & Rhema**) to **Me**, ‘**Depart**, for **I Will Send You** far from **Here (Jerusalem)** to the **Gentiles.**’”¹⁻⁴ Acts 22:17-21

Q

“What Four Things Does Paul Use In His Defense To Prove His Authentic Witness To His Jewish Brothers & Religious Leaders?”

A1

His Early Jewish Upbringing

“I am indeed a **Jew**, born in **Tarsus of Cilicia**” ... Acts 22:3a

A2

His Formal Jewish Learning & Acceptance

“But brought up in this **City (Jerusalem)** at the Feet (**Authority & Teaching**) of **Gamaliel** (**Prominent Member of the Pharisees & Sanhedrin Council**), taught according to the strictness of our **Fathers’ Law.**” Acts 22:3bc

A3

His Zealous Defense of the Faith of His Fathers

“And **I** was **zealous** toward **God** as **You All** are today. **I Persecuted this Way (Christianity)** to the death, **binding and delivering into prisons** both men and women, as also the **High Priest** bears **Me Witness**, and all the **Council of the Elders (Sanhedrin)**, from **Whom I** also **Received Letters** to the **Brethren**, and went to **Damascus** to **bring in chains** even **Those Who** were there to **Jerusalem** to be **punished.**” Acts 22:3d-5

A4

His Divine Conversion & Change of Heart & Mind

Personal Encounter With The Lord & Messiah Jesus Christ - Acts 22:6-21

(Slide 32) Paul’s 1st Appeal To **Jewish Law** That Requires That There Be **Three Physical Witnesses**¹⁻³

1) Paul’s Eyewitness Account

Acts 22:6-21

2) Ananias’ Eyewitness Account

Acts 9:10-17

Self-Study Time Investigate The **Epiphany & Theophany** of **Ananias’ Vision**

Now there was a Disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the **Lord Said (Rhema)** to **Him** in a **Vision (Epiphany & Theophany)**, “**Ananias!**” And he replied, “**Here I am, Lord!**” And the **Lord Commanded Him**, “**Get up and go to the Street called Straight, and inquire at the House of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is Fasting & Praying (for these last three days)**” And in a **Vision (Epiphany & Theophany)**, **He (Saul)** has seen a man named **Ananias** coming in and putting **His Hand on Him**, so that **He might receive His Sight (Healing of Physical Sight & Transformation by Divine Sight).**” Then **Ananias** answered, “**Lord, I** have heard from many about this **Man**, how much harm **He** has done to **Your Saints in Jerusalem.**” ...

... “And here **He** has Authority (Appointed Both **Praeco** & **Procurator**) from the **Chief Priests** to bind **All Who Call on Your Name!**” But the **Lord Said (Rhema)** to Him (**Ananias**), “Go! For **He (Saul)** is a **Chosen Vessel of Mine to bear My Name** before **Gentiles, Kings, and the Children of Israel**. For I will show **Him** how many things **He must suffer for My Name's Sake!**” And **Ananias** went his way and entered the house; and **laying His Hands** on Him (**Saul**), **He (Ananias) Said (Rhema)**, “**Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, Who Appeared** to You on the road as You came, (He) **Has Sent Me that You may receive Your Sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit!**” Acts 9:10-17

3) Soldiers & Temple Guards Eyewitness Account

“And **Those Who** were with **Me** indeed saw the **Light** and **They were afraid**, but **They did not hear the Voice of Him Who Spoke (Theophany & Rhema)** to Me.” Acts 22:9

Paul 2nd Appeal Goes Further By **Appealing To God's Three Divine Personal Witnesses In ONE** ¹⁻³
“Then **He (Ananias) Said (Rhema)**, ‘The **God of Our Fathers** ¹ has chosen **You** that you should know **His Will**, ³ and **See** the **Just One (Epiphany)** ², and **Hear** the **Voice of His Mouth (Theophany & Rhema)**. ³ For **You** will be **His Witness to All Men** of what **You Have Seen (Epiphany)** and **Heard (Theophany & Rhema)**.”² Acts 22:14-15

Paul 3rd Appeal Found Later In **His Defense Before Governor Festus, King Agrippa & Queen Bernice**
Appeals Directly to the Authority of Jesus Christ's Command
To Convict All Men's Souls By His Witness to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ
Jesus Appearing in the Heavenly Light (Epiphany), Spoke (Rhema) by a **Divine Command**, “But rise and stand on our feet; for **I have appeared (epiphany)** to **You (Paul)** for this purpose, to make **You** a **Minister** and a **Witness** both of the things which **You have seen (epiphany)** and of the things which **I will yet reveal (epiphany)** to **You**. **I (Jesus) will deliver You from the Jewish People**, as well as from the **Gentiles, to Whom I Now Send You, to Open Their Eyes, in order to Turn Them from Darkness to Light, and from the Power of Satan to God, that They May Receive Forgiveness of Sins and an Inheritance among Those Who Are Sanctified by Faith in Me.**” Acts 26:16-18

CQ?

“What Is The Central Question To Us God's Chosen & Faithful Followers Today?”

CA

“Let Us As God's People
Be Continually Ready At A Moment's Notice,
To Give Our Appeal & Defense,
To His Gospel Message Of Grace & Forgiveness
To All We Meet!”