



Acts Chapter 22 Paul Is Trapped!

Moving forward into Acts chapter 22 it's important that we remember what we have learned in the book of acts up to this point. Before we move forward it's important that if you're new to this teaching, and you have not started from the beginning of this study on the book of Acts, it's going to be difficult to understand the rest of this study on the book of Acts.

We've already learned some very profound things in our study of the book of Acts up to this point, and we've taken the time to examine some of the fundamental teachings of the Apostles and especially the Apostle Paul who wrote over two thirds of the New Testament.

So far into our investigation into the book of Acts we've learned that much of what today's modern day version of Christianity teaches and preaches is often times off the mark to say the least. We've learned that there is a very different story found between the pages of our Bibles.. than there is being preached from behind many of today's modern day pulpits by our modern day denominational charters of men and their so called “Early Church Fathers” and their prestigious Commentators, and Seminary Professors.

For those of you who have been with us from the very beginning of this journey into the book of Acts... I'm sure that you would agree with me when I say that there is more than just a striking difference between what today's Pastor's, Priest's, Bishop's, and Pope's, are trying to sell us... and what we truly find between the pages of the very leather bound Bibles that these Pastor's, Priests, Bishop's, and Pope's carry in their hands.

Through out our study of the book of Acts we've discovered a profound difference between the truth of what the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob says in his scriptures that... Timothy tells us is “breathed out by God”.. and the man made, man created, man fabricated version of what is now being taught in most of our modern day Christian Churches by men who have been spoon fed their doctrines, and their theologies, and their philosophical understandings not by God or by his Ruach Hakodesh, or by our Messiah... but by men.

We've listened to the warnings of our Messiah in Matthew 23:8 through 12 commanding us not to listen to the teachings of men who do not have his Ruach Hakodesh... his Holy Spirit. We've heard him warn us explicitly... not to call men our instructors... we've been commanded to call no man on Earth our Father in Matthew chapter 23 verse 9, and we've been commanded to

study to show ourselves approved in 2nd Timothy 2:15, so that we would be able to test the fruits of a so called man of God found in 1st John 2:4 through 6.

Throughout our study into the book of Acts we know that the Apostle Paul as well as the rest of the Apostles always lived in obedience to the law, and we know that they always kept the 7th Day Sabbath of God that God himself commanded... and not the 1st day of the week Sunday Sabbath of men. We know that James the brother of Yahshua Jesus and the elders of the Jerusalem Church tell us that Paul himself always lived in obedience of the law in Acts chapter 21 verse 24.

We've learned that Paul, nor James, nor Timothy, nor any of the Apostles ever preached or taught against circumcision in Acts chapter 15, and that even Paul himself circumcises Timothy in the beginning of Acts chapter 16.

We've learned that there is no "Two House" or "Two Church" doctrine found anywhere between the pages of our Bibles, and that all who come to him and believe and have faith in him are indeed grafted into the one Olive Tree, the one Body, the one Vine, the one House of Israel who are the only people found in our Bibles that God ever calls his people.

We've learned that there is no difference between a Jew or a Gentile, or a slave or someone who is free, or even a man or a woman if we are indeed in the Messiah according to Galatians chapter 3 verses 27 through 29. And that we... if we are indeed in him... are all now heirs of the Promise of Abraham.

And because we've studied the book of Acts we know that as much as almost half of the New Testament is nothing more than quotes from the Old Testament. And we've learned that you can not study any one book of the Bible with out knowing and understanding what's in the other books of the Bible.. because they are all inter-related, and tightly woven together like a fine wicker basket.

We've learned that there would be no way to pick up the book of Acts and to study it by itself with out knowing that much of the book of Acts contains direct quotes from the Old Testament, and is talking about the other books in the New Testament... like the book of Ephesians and 1st and 2nd Corinthians and the book of Romans and so on and so fourth... because these other books tell us what Paul was teaching and preaching while he was visiting these towns and cities that we find him in... in the book of Acts.

The Physician Luke tells us much about the travels of the Apostle Paul and where he went but it does not expound upon what he taught or what he was preaching in cities like Corinth, or Ephesus, or Roam and so on and so fourth. And this is why we can not study the book of Acts with out also studying these other writings of the Apostle Paul... because they give us insight as to what he was teaching and preaching in these cities.

So as we move into Acts chapter 22 it's important that we already have a solid foundation concerning not only the things that Paul did preach and teach... but also what Paul did not preach and teach.. because this is where to many of today's denominational charters of men have missed the mark. And so I want us to keep these things in mind as we move into Acts chapter 22.

At the end of Acts chapter 21 we see Paul at the Temple.. and once again... we see Paul Purifying himself and four other men, and shaving their heads, and making the offerings for them, and paying for those offerings himself... according to the instruction that James gave him that James once again took directly from the Law of Moses found in Numbers chapter 6 verses 1 through 21. So this is where Paul is and this is what Paul is doing... once again my friends... living in obedience to the law... and this is where the angry Jews find him... and they drag him out of the Temple and into the streets and start to accuse him of all kinds of false charges.

The Roman soldiers then, hear and see all of this commotion and they inter-seed, and they stop the crowd from beating Paul and they start carrying Paul away, but Paul speaks to the Roman Tribune in Greek, and he asks to address the angry mob... and the Roman Tribune allows Paul to speak... and this is where we left off... in Acts chapter 21... Now as we move into Acts chapter 22... we get to hear what Paul says to this angry mob of Jews... and I want us to notice once again... that Paul does not speak to the crowd in Greek like he did the Roman soldiers... he speaks to the Jews in their own native tounge of Hebrew.. and notice how this gets this angry crowd of Jews to be quite long enough for him to speak... lets read Acts chapter 22:

Acts Chapter 22:

Act 22:1 "Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you."

Act 22:2 And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

Act 22:3 "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.

Act 22:4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,

Act 22:5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

Act 22:6 "As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me.

Act 22:7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

Act 22:8 And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'

Act 22:9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

Act 22:10 And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.'

Act 22:11 And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

Act 22:12 "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,

Act 22:13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.

Act 22:14 And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;

Act 22:15 for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.

Act 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Act 22:17 "When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance

Act 22:18 and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'

Act 22:19 And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you.

Act 22:20 And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.'

Act 22:21 And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

*Act 22:22 **Up to this word they listened to him.** Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live."*

Act 22:23 And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air;

Act 22:24 the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this.

Act 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?"

Act 22:26 When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen."

Act 22:27 So the tribune came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" And he said, "Yes."

Act 22:28 The tribune answered, "I bought this citizenship for a large sum." Paul said, "But I am a citizen by birth."

Act 22:29 So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound

him.

Act 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.

Now.. it's important for us to remember why the Jews wanted to kill Paul in the first place. This angry mob of Jews was zealous for the law just as James tells us in Acts chapter 21 verses 20 through 22... lets go back and read that so that we can clearly identify who this angry mob of Jews were and why they were so angry with Paul in the first place:

*Act 21:20 And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of **those who have believed.** They are all zealous for the law,*

*Act 21:21 **and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.***

Act 21:22 What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.

This is why this mob of angry Jews wanted to kill Paul. They believed that Paul was teaching against the law of Moses and that Paul was teaching them not to circumcise their children or to walk in the ways of the Halikah (also known as their customs). Now... before we get to far ahead of ourselves I want us to also slow down and realize that these angry Jews were not Jews who had rejected Yahshua Jesus as there Messiah. These were believing Jews according to James in verse 20. So these Jews believed that Yahshua Jesus was indeed their Messiah.. and they were still zealous for the law (just as they should have been by the way).

Now... I want us to stop and think about that for just a moment. Here we have James the brother of Yahshua Jesus telling us that these are believing Jews, and we also have James who's clearly upset that these believing Jews think.. that Paul was teaching and preaching against the law and circumcision. Notice what James says in verse 22... he says "What then is to be done?"

So James knows that this is not right, and he clearly knows that Paul was not teaching against the law or circumcision, but James also clearly knows that this is not what these believing Jews have heard about Paul. Once again as we can clearly see in verse 20.. these believing Jews are very zealous for the law, and even more so now that they have heard from their Messiah who clearly taught that not one dotting of an "i" or one crossing of a "t" would be removed from the law until Heaven and Earth pass away (and again you can find that in Matthew 5:18).

And so it was no secret to James or the elders at the church at Jerusalem or these believing Jews.. that Gods laws were certainly not nailed to some tree somewhere and done away with as many of our modern day denominational churches preach and teach today.

And we need to be very clear here... that Paul never taught or preached against the law or against circumcision. Paul himself always lived in obedience to the law. And again we can see that just a few verses down in Acts 21:24.

Act 21:24 take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law.

And once again its important to note that many of today's modern day denominational churches will try to flat out lie to their congregations and tell them that the only reason Paul went to the Temple to purify himself and those four men at the Temple, and the only reason Paul paid for their offerings.. was because Paul was trying to be tricky and sneaky.. so that he could deceive these Jews into thinking that he was keeping the law... when he really wasn't.

Once again my friends.. where is it written that you shall deceive people in his name in order to get them to believe? This my friends... would have been a lie... and this my friends would have been a sin. To say that Paul sinned in order to trick the Jews into believing in his Messiah is nothing short of another demonically inspired doctrine of demons taught by men who should have spent more time reading their scriptures and less time teaching and preaching.

The reason that this angry mob of Jews thought that Paul was teaching and preaching against the law and against circumcision was because of the “Circumcision Group” who were a very elite group of Jewish Pharisees who were trying to force Paul's new Gentile converts to be immediately circumcised before they ever knew what circumcision was or why they needed to be circumcised.

This “Circumcision Group” was trying to proclaim that “Circumcision” itself is what saved them and Paul knew better than that. Circumcision does not save anyone any more than Baptism saves anyone. Only the Grace of the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob saves a person. We baptize, and we circumcise because we are saved... not to be... saved. Once again 1st John 5:3 tells us the very biblical definition of “The Love Of God”. If you ever want to know how to love God... simply turn to 1st John 5:3:

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

It is not the “act” of circumcision or baptism that saves... it is the grace of God that saves. Circumcision and baptism are done because we love him and these are his commandments that are not a burden to us. And Paul knew that. So what Paul was trying to get through to the new Gentile converts is that you do not have to be circumcised in order to be saved... that comes later...not now. The Circumcision Group was simply putting the cart before the horse.

Paul was not saying “do not be circumcised”... he was simply saying that circumcision is not what saves you... and the Jews who were all zealous for the law simply misunderstood what Paul was teaching. They thought that Paul was teaching them not to circumcise anyone.... and the Jews knew that circumcision was a commandment of God... so they immediately thought that Paul was some kind of false prophet. And for more information on whether or not Paul ever taught against circumcision... you can go back and take our study on Acts chapter 15 where we take you throughout the scriptures line by line and allow the scriptures themselves to prove... that Paul nor James, nor any of the Apostles ever taught against circumcision... and once again... in Acts chapter 16 verse 3... we see that Paul himself circumcises Timothy.

So... this is why the Jews were so angry with Paul. They had been told that Paul was preaching against the law and against circumcision, and they thought that Paul was bringing Gentiles into the Temple.. and we have to remember that their Jewish “Halakah” taught that the Gentiles were dogs... and it was the “Halakah” (which once again was written by men...and not written by God) said that it was unlawful for a Jew to even enter the house of a Gentile and a Jew could not even eat with a Gentile... none of which is found anywhere in the Torah. This was once again nothing more than the teachings of men that our Messiah chastised the Pharisees for in Matthew chapter 23 when he called them “Two fold children of hell” and “A brood of vipers” along with some other.. not so nice names.

So now they've got Paul and their in the process of beating him and stoning him to death when the Roman soldiers get wind of a riot that's going on.. and they come to inter-ceed and they bind Paul and the soldiers start to carry him away.. but Paul speaks to the Roman Tribune in the Greek language... so the Roman Tribune knows that Paul is an educated man.. and allows him to speak to the people... but when Paul begins to speak to the Jews... once again... he does not speak to them in Greek... he speaks to the Jews in their native tongue of Hebrew... and once this angry crowd of Jews hears Paul speaking in their native tongue of Hebrew.. they begin to settle down and are quite enough for Paul to begin speaking.

Now... I want us to notice that as Paul begins to speak... he tells them who he is, and that he is a Jew himself who was born in Tarsus, and who has sat at the feet of Gamaliel one of the most revered Rabbi's of their time. And he continues on to tell them that he himself persecuted those who were of “The Way” and those who believed in Yahshua Jesus as the Messiah. And Paul does a pretty good until he gets to verse 21 and watch what happens once he says that Yahshua was sending him to the Gentiles... lets go back and read Acts chapter 22 verse 21 and 22:

Act 22:21 And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'

Act 22:22 Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live."

Notice... that it wasn't until Paul told the crowd that his Messiah had sent him to the Gentiles that they started shouting for them to take him away and to kill him. Once again... we must understand the “Halakah” which was not written or commanded by God. The “Halakah” was nothing more than the laws and by-laws and traditions of men written by men. And the Jewish “Halakah” said that Gentiles were dogs and that you could not enter their homes or even eat with a Gentile... so it's no surprise that as soon as Paul tells them that his Messiah ordered him to go to the Gentiles... this was all the crowd needed to confirm their suspicion... that Paul was preaching against the law.

Once again my friends... the Devil himself had driven a wedge between the Apostle Paul and these believing Jews who were his brothers and sisters, and I want us to notice how he did it! He did it by teaching men that this “Halakah” (that was written by the Rabbi's and Scribes, and not by God) was just as true as the Word of God.

God never told them that the Gentiles were dogs or that you could not eat with a Gentile, or that you could not enter the home of a Gentile. Even their great great grandfathers never treated a Gentile that way. Consider Numbers chapter 15 verses 14 through 16:

Num 15:14 And if a stranger is sojourning with you, or anyone is living permanently among you, and he wishes to offer a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD, he shall do as you do.

*Num 15:15 For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you, a statute forever throughout your generations. **You and the sojourner shall be alike before the LORD.***

Num 15:16 One law and one rule shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you.

A “sojourner” was a “Gentile” my friends. They were not Israelite's by blood. They were “sojourning” with them... which means they were “traveling” with them... and God says that the “Sojourner” or “Gentile” and the Israelite would be alike before Yahovah our Father, and that there would be one law... notice that my friends... ONE LAW... for both the Israelite and the Gentile. And you can read that again in Exodus chapter 12 verses 48 and 49 but for times sake I think you get the message... so lets move on.

The “Halakah” was much like the Jewish “Talmud”. They are nothing more than the writings of foolish men who have allowed themselves to be lead astray by our adversary, and with in these writings you will find all kinds of doctrines of demons not found anywhere in the scripture. And so too has Christianity done the very same thing that the Jews did. We Christians have also created our own version of the Halakah, and the Talmud. We have created our own doctrines and traditions and rituals just like they did... not found anywhere in the scriptures.

Christianity today sells it a little differently, but it's still the same concept. Our adversary has caused men to add things, and to take away things from the Word of God in order to lead his

people astray.. just like the Pharisees and Saducees, and Scribes of Yahshua's time had done.. and they're still doing it to this very day. Nothing has changed my friends. Our adversary never really changes anything. He simply repackages it.. and resells it over and over and over again throughout each generation, and Gods people over and over again are destroyed for lack of knowledge because they have rejected knowledge.

The only law that Paul was preaching against... was their “Halakah” that's much like the “Talmud” written by men... and not by God. So once again... this crowd of angry Jews fires up, once they hear Paul say that the Messiah had sent him to the Gentiles... and the crowd once again starts to shout for the Romans to take Paul away, and to kill him.

Now... before we get to far ahead of ourselves I want to also take us back to verse 12 and let's talk for just a moment about this devout man of God by the name of Ananias. Paul says that after Yahshua knocks him to the ground and strikes him blind... this man by the name of Ananias heals him of his blindness.. but let's pay close attention to exactly who Paul says Ananias is in verse 12:

Act 22:12 "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,

Notice that Ananias is a devout man according to what? What does it say that Ananias was a devout man according to? It says that Ananias was a devout man and I quote “According to the law”.. and that Ananias was well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there.

So lets stop and lets take a moment here to get this straight. Ananias was “A devout man according to the law” Paul says. Now Ananias was a believer in the Messiah Yahshua Jesus! So if the law was abolished... if the law was done away with... if the law was nailed to a tree somewhere.... if the law was a curse.... if the law was bondage... then how could this believer in Messiah Yahshua Jesus be a “Devout man according to a law” that no longer is valid, and no longer exists (at least according to our modern day Pastor's, Priest's Bishop's, and Popes)?

Think about this for just a moment. What are we told by our modern day Pastor's Priest's, Bishop's and Popes today? We're told that we're living in a dispensational state of grace apart from Gods law... we're told that Gods law is obsolete... and that it's a curse, and that it's bondage, and that it's all been nailed to the cross are we not?

How then could this Ananias be a devout man according to a law that does not exist, and is no longer valid?... That makes no sense does it my friends? And I just wanted to once again point this out to those of you who are still caught up in the bondage of the “Once saved always saved, dispensational grace, and do as thou wilt is the whole of the law” nonsense that we hear so much about today. You see the more we read the scriptures for ourselves the more we can be assured that there is no such thing as dispensational grace that divides us from Gods law. And for those of you who are new to that understanding, I would like to invite you to

HolyImpactMinistries.com where we have plenty of teachings on that particular topic.

And before we leave this study on Ananias behind I also want us to catch what Ananias said in verse 14, so lets read verses 12 through 14:

Act 22:12 "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,

Act 22:13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.

Act 22:14 And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;

Notice that in verse 14 Ananias says that “The God of our fathers appointed Paul to know his will... to see the Righteous One... and to hear a voice from his mouth”. So we now have both Father and Son involved in this story. Both the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob and his Son (our Messiah) are mentioned by Ananias... and Ananias very clearly says that it was the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob that appointed Paul to his will, and to see his Son Yahshua Jesus.

Now I like to mention this because so many of today's modern day denominational charters of men just love to mention Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, and not the Father. And this goes way back to Marcion of Synop who tried to cut out the Torah and the writings of the Prophets when he compiled his first version of the “New Testament”. It was Marcion of Synope who wanted to make “Jesus” the new God of the Gentiles and leave the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob out of the picture all together.

It's important to know and to understand that Yahshua Jesus is all throughout the Bible... he's not just in the New Testament my friends.. and he was put there by his Father, and it was the Word of his Father that our Messiah came to teach and preach... not his own word according to John 12:49, and John 7:16. So the man made, man created, man fabricated idea that Gods commandments, precepts, laws, and appointments are all done away with... is simply not found anywhere in our Bibles my friends... and I repeat... not anywhere... and that is another teaching in itself.. and once again we have plenty of teachings on this topic at our website at HolyImpactMinistries.com.

Moving forward to verse 24 we see this Roman Tribune start to order that Paul be flogged. Now... these whips that were used for flogging were not simply whips like we would think of. These Roman whips were called “flagellum”. And if we turn to the Internet we can simply type in “Roman Flagellum” and you can see what I'm talking about. These whips had a handle with leather straps just like a whip that we would think of... but they also had pieces of metal and bone attached to then ends of the straps that were there to dig into the flesh, and when they pulled the whip back... it would tare off some of the skin and the muscle along with it. So this

was not just a simple whipping that Paul was about to receive... and just for future reference... this was the same flogging that our Messiah was made to endure when they flogged him.

https://www.google.com/search?q=flagellum&rlz=1C1AVNG_enUS670US670&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwivnuLrtNXSAhVDSCYKHXYCA5kQ_AUICCgB&biw=1366&bih=676#tbm=isch&q=Roman+flagellum&*

Take into consideration Isaiah chapter 52 verse 14:

Isa 52:14 As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

So this is the kind of flogging that these Roman Soldiers were about to administer to Paul, but Paul speaks up and mentions the fact that he's a Roman Citizen. Now.. we covered this earlier in our study on the book of Acts... but just for the benefit of anyone who may be watching who might be new... it was Roman law.. that a Roman Citizen could not be bound or flogged. A Roman Citizen was exempt from being bound or flogged. So this Roman Tribune immediately stopped and did an about face once he heard that Paul was not only a Roman Citizen who had purchased his Citizenship... but that Paul himself was a natural born Roman Citizen which was rare... for a Jew to be a natural born Roman Citizen. And if word got out that this Roman Tribune had bound a Roman Citizen... he himself could be flogged.

So this is how Paul escapes the flogging. But this Roman Tribune still needs to find out why this crowd of angry Jews wanted to kill Paul. What was Paul guilty of? The Roman Tribune still had no idea what Paul had done, or what law Paul had broken that caused the whole city to be in such and uproar... so the Roman Tribune puts Paul in a jail cell and and commands this Jewish Sanhedrin to come and question Paul in the morning to find out what Paul did.. and this brings us to the end of chapter 22, and into chapter 23.

So before we close this session... lets go ahead and read Acts chapter 23 so that we can get a sneak peek of whats in next weeks study.

Act 23:1 And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day."

Act 23:2 And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.

Act 23:3 Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?"

Act 23:4 Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?"

Act 23:5 And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written,

'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

Act 23:6 Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducee's and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial."

Act 23:7 And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducee's, and the assembly was divided.

Act 23:8 For the Sadducee's say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

Act 23:9 Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?"

Act 23:10 And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.

Act 23:11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

Act 23:12 When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

Act 23:13 There were more than forty who made this conspiracy.

Act 23:14 They went to the chief priests and elders and said, "We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food till we have killed Paul.

Act 23:15 Now therefore you, along with the council, give notice to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him before he comes near."

Act 23:16 Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul.

Act 23:17 Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to tell him."

Act 23:18 So he took him and brought him to the tribune and said, "Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, as he has something to say to you."

Act 23:19 The tribune took him by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?"

Act 23:20 And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more closely about him.

Act 23:21 But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him, who have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they have killed him. And now they are ready, waiting for your consent."

Act 23:22 So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, "Tell no one that you have informed me of these things."

Act 23:23 Then he called two of the centurions and said, "Get ready two hundred soldiers, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night.

Act 23:24 Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and bring him safely to Felix the governor."

Act 23:25 And he wrote a letter to this effect:

Act 23:26 "Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings.

Act 23:27 This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman citizen.

Act 23:28 And desiring to know the charge for which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their council.

Act 23:29 I found that he was being accused about questions of their law, but charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment.

Act 23:30 And when it was disclosed to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him."

Act 23:31 So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris.

Act 23:32 And on the next day they returned to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him.

Act 23:33 When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him.

Act 23:34 On reading the letter, he asked what province he was from. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia,

Act 23:35 he said, "I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive." And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod's praetorium.

So once again we see time and time again that even the believing Jews were conspiring to murder Paul, even though Paul was trying to get them to understand that they were throwing away their very own salvation. Here we have these Jews who do believe in Yahshua Messiah... that are trying to kill their very own brother.. simply because the Devil himself had driven a wedge of deception between them.

Remember.. Paul was not preaching or teaching against the law or circumcision, nor was he breaking any laws by bringing a Gentile into the Temple. None of the charges that these believing Jews were accusing Paul of were true... they had simply been tricked into thinking that they were true.. and so we find the Apostle Paul in a very intricate web of deceit that had been spun by the father of all lies... who had Paul right where he wanted him (or at least... so he thought).

Food for thought... until next Wednesday at 7pm EST.