

Kids' Chronicle

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BY JOE SARNICOLA

The trials of Paul

Bound in chains, Paul stood next to the Commander of the Roman army in front of a crowd of angry Jews. They had demanded Paul's arrest for preaching salvation to the Gentiles. This was considered a sacrilege.

The Commander gave Paul permission to speak in his own defense.

"Citizens of Israel," Paul began, "I am a Jew who has been trained in the laws of Moses, and I ordered the arrest of many Christians myself. But one day Jesus appeared to me in a bright light and told me to teach the word of God to the Gentiles."

At these words, the crowd began throwing dirt and rocks at Paul. Fearing a riot, the Commander ordered Paul taken to the jail to be whipped and questioned.

As the jailer raised his whip, Paul asked, "Would you do this to a Roman citizen who has not been found guilty of any crime?"

"Stay your hand," the Commander said. Then he asked Paul, "You are a Roman citizen?"

"I am," Paul said.

"I paid a large sum of money for my citizenship," the Commander said. "How did you obtain yours?"

"By birth."

The Commander knew if he punished a Roman citizen unjustly, he would be punished himself. He released Paul to the Sanhedrin, the Jewish governing body.

Ananias, the chief priest, asked, "What have you to say about what you have done?"

"I stand here on trial because my hope is in the resurrection of the dead."



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

A loud argument began among the members of the Sanhedrin because some of them believed in the resurrection and some did not. Fearing for Paul's safety, the Commander ordered soldiers to bring him to a holding cell in the jail.

The next morning, Paul's nephew came to visit him. "Uncle Paul," he said, "I have learned of a plot by forty men to kill you. One of the men will tell the Roman Commander that the Sanhedrin wants to question you again. When you are released, you will be taken to a secret place and killed."

Paul immediately called for one of the guards and said, "Take this young man to the Commander. He has an important message." After hearing the report, the Commander assembled a battalion of foot soldiers and horsemen to escort Paul to Felix,

the governor.

The Commander gave one of the soldiers a letter to Felix which said:

Governor Felix;

This man was about to be killed by a mob of angry Jews. I rescued him with my troops after learning he was a Roman citizen. The Sanhedrin claims he has broken some of their laws, but I have found no charges that require a death sentence. After learning of a death threat against him, I am sending him to you, along with some of his accusers.

— Commander Lysius

Governor Felix listened to both Paul and his accusers, but he was afraid any decision he made would cause a riot, so he left Paul in jail for two years, at which time Festus was elected as the new governor.

When the Jewish leaders asked Festus to release Paul to them, the governor asked Paul, "Will you go to Jerusalem and stand trial for the charges brought against you?"

Paul answered, "The charges against me are false, and no one has the authority to release me to the Sanhedrin. I appeal to Caesar."

"Then to Caesar you will go," Festus declared. "Prepare a ship to sail to Rome!"

Read more about it: Acts 22-26

Q & A

Q: Why did the Jews want to kill Paul?

Q: Why did Paul start believing in God?

The Bible Times

Jerusalem 55AD

Paul of Tarsus has been sent by ship to Rome to appeal his case in Caesar's court.

Once a high ranking Jewish official, two years ago he was charged with sacrilege by the Sanhedrin. A formal request for a death sentence has been filed against him.

A Roman guard states that Paul was to have been whipped, but this punishment was prevented when it was discovered Paul was a Roman citizen. It is unlawful to punish him without a Roman trial.

Lysius, Commander of the Roman army, met with both Paul and the Sanhedrin in an attempt to make peace. One Jewish leader claims that Paul made a remark which caused an argument and Paul had to be taken to jail for his own safety.

The son of Paul's sister told the Commander of a rumor that an attempt would be made to murder Paul. Lysius had no choice but to send him to the governor under armed guard.

The newly-elected governor, Festus, after listening to both sides of the case, granted Paul's right to appear before Caesar.

It is not known what Caesar will decide.

Before the ship set sail, some of the crew voiced fear after hearing stories of recent storms at sea.

King Solomon's Wisdom



"Rich and poor have this in common: the Lord is maker of them all."

Proverbs 22:2

Talking to God

Dear God:

When I am sad, I talk to you and I feel better. When I am happy, I am thankful to you for your goodness.

"I give thanks to you, O God, for your wondrous deeds."

Psalms 75:1

May Essay Winner

Congratulations to Christy Hinkley, a fifth-grade student at St. Theodore School in Rochester. She is the winner of a \$50 Savings Bond for the best essay in the May Kids' Club Contest. Her essay is reprinted below.

May Essay Question: Samuel went to Eli to talk about the important things in his life. Who do you talk to, and why?

I talk to my Great-Grandma because I know I can trust her to keep a secret, or help me when I need help. My Great-Grandma will help me solve my problems, or teach me what I don't know. If I go to see or talk to my Great-Grandma, I know I will go home feeling a lot better and less confused. With all her experiences in life, she has good answers for me!

Which of the following books of the New Testament were written by Paul? Answers on page 13.

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. — Galatians | 5. — Timothy | 9. — Matthew |
| 2. — Titus | 6. — John | 10. — Ephesians |
| 3. — James | 7. — Romans | |
| 4. — Revelations | 8. — Colossians | |

Kids' Club

Win a \$50 Savings Bond!!!

Paul said his faith was strong because Jesus rose from the dead. Why is his resurrection so important to us as Christians?

Write an answer of 100 or fewer words. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winner will earn a \$50 Savings Bond. The winner will be notified by phone. The essay will be printed in an upcoming edition of *Kids' Chronicle*. Send your entry to: Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

The deadline for essays is June 24, 1993.



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