



## Decade of Availability Divine Appointments

### A. Divine Necessities

*Acts 25:23-27*

**1. Great pomp:** *v. 23* This was a spectacular gathering where everyone of importance and many others put on their best clothes to

hear Paul speak to the king.

**2. King Agrippa (Herod Agrippa II):** Herod Agrippa I was the grandson of Herod the Great (the king who tried to kill the infant Jesus). He is the Herod who had the apostle James killed *Acts 12:2*. Herod Agrippa II, son of Agrippa I, was part Jewish but fully pagan in thought and life.

**3. Divine appointment:** All of these meetings before the Roman authorities gave Paul the opportunity to share the Gospel.

### B. Paul's Defense—Again *vv. 26:1-11*

**1. Hope:** After establishing his Jewish credentials Paul shares the HOPE of Israel and all mankind. What is the hope? It is the 'resurrection.'

—The promise of a 'resurrection' and a new heaven and new earth ushered in by the Messiah is a primary theme throughout the Old Testament. Paul taught that Jesus of Nazareth was the fulfillment of these prophecies and that's why some of the Jews wanted to kill him.

### C. Paul's Conversion and Commission *vv. 12-23*

**1. Damascus experience:** This is the third time that Luke records these events. (See also *Acts 9:1-17; 22:1-16*). Each time a little more information is added.

**Arise and stand:** *vv. 15-16* Paul is apprehended by the Lord for ministry.

**Sent by Jesus:** *vv. 17-18* Here's Paul's mission. This is a powerful mission statement that could be applied to all believers. To turn people from darkness to light and show them the way of forgiveness of sin.

**Continue on:** *vv. 22-23* No matter what the situation, Paul determined in the Spirit to press on.

### D. Almost Persuaded *vv. 24-32*

**1. Festus:** *v. 24* Festus thought Paul had gone mad.

**2. Agrippa:** *v. 28* Agrippa was 'almost' persuaded.

**Divine Necessity:** Herein was a Divine appointment for Festus and Agrippa. But for Paul it was a '**Divine Necessity**' to preach the Gospel to them. Festus rejects Paul as a mad man. Agrippa thinks about it...but does not commit.

**What is your Divine Necessity?** *Luke 9:23*

“And He said to them all,

**If** any man will come after me, let him deny himself,  
And take up his cross **daily** and follow me.”

**Would you do this today?**

## Acts 25:12-26:32 (KJV)

**26:2** I think myself **happy**, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews: **3** Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently. **4** My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; **5** Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. **6** And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: **7** Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. **8** Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead? **9** I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. **10** Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. **11** And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

**26:15** And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. **16** But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; **17** Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, **18** To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

**26:22** Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: **23** That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.