



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2140 ~ Almost Thou Persuadest Me.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Following the Apostle Paul's trial before Governor Festus in Caesarea, a further examination of the case was presented to King Agrippa when the king came to welcome Festus to his new position. Agrippa was himself a Jew and he understood the Jewish customs much better than Festus did. Paul had appealed to be tried by Emperor Nero in Rome but Festus, the judge, had found it difficult to provide a crime sheet that listed what the charges were that Paul should be tried for.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

There were two main disagreements between the Sanhedrin and the followers of 'the Way', which were Christians. The Sanhedrin always denied the divine nature of the Lord Jesus even when they saw Him do miracles. They claimed that Jesus Christ was a man just like every other man. But God had told Mary's future husband, Joseph, that he should call the special baby boy born to her, "Jesus," which means 'Jehovah Saves'. God chose His Son's name before He came to earth in human flesh.

Jesus' life, death and resurrection also took on new meanings when the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost. Jesus had come to make a new covenant, or agreement, with those who believed that His shed blood was their substitute to pay for their sins. This new belief was a covenant of faith and a person had to want to ask Jesus to be part of it.

Jesus' new covenant with people fulfilled the old covenant God had established with the Jews recorded in the early books of the Old Testament of the Bible. Under the Old Testament covenant, all the Jewish people had been slaves who had escaped from Egypt under God's direction. But the Law of God that Moses received on Mount Sinai placed everyone under the restraints of God's Law of right and holy standards, whether they liked it or not. But following the Law didn't work, no matter how strictly the rules were policed, as rebellion in each person's heart responded to the Law and showed things in their lives that were displeasing to God. God, who had blessed the Jews in amazing ways, saw that the people did evil continually and eventually, God took them away from their promised land. When they returned, they were governed by other nations and there was a long period of silence in history when God never spoke to His chosen people at all.

But when Jesus came to earth, even those people who hadn't seen a healing done by Jesus, marvelled at the accounts that they heard and they wondered if Christ was a visitation from God. Jesus healed many people and not all of them were Jewish. He never denied anyone His gift of healing.

When he was young, Paul said he was blameless as far as the Law was concerned. In his testimony in Philippians, Chapter 3, Paul gave an account of his early life and his own righteousness. But he threw it all away to receive Christ and the righteousness that only comes from God.

Paul taught that while the Law shows us our sin, the Law can't save us. In Romans, Chapter 3, Paul said: "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law." But the Sanhedrin disagreed with him on this point and they totally opposed the idea of Jewish people becoming believers in Christ, as the people then didn't need the Jewish priests in the temple to present their sin offerings anymore.

Paul tried to tell the Sanhedrin that Christ was a perfect High Priest who had died for their sins. But the Sanhedrin fought hard to stop this new belief from sweeping throughout the Jewish population and taking away their financial power. Such opposition and corruption to hold fast to the temple rituals continued to be practised until God stopped this by allowing the Romans to kill the Jews in Jerusalem and plough over the ruined temple site.

After the Lord Jesus had spent 40 days with His disciples after the resurrection, He said in Luke, Chapter 24: "Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

So when Paul spoke to the assembled people with King Agrippa, he went into a great amount of detail, particularly about his conversion. If Jesus had really died and not risen out of his grave, it would have been impossible for Jesus to speak to Paul on the road to Damascus. Those dishonest chief priests had paid a huge amount of money to bribe 100 Roman guards who saw Jesus come out of His tomb. Those guards had told lies to the Jews to hide what really had happened.

The Lord Jesus spoke about the passing of the Law of Moses in Matthew, Chapter 5. He said: "Remember that as long as heaven and earth last, nor the least point nor the smallest detail of the Law will be done away with – not until the end of all things." Christians tend to think that the Old Testament law is gone and not relevant anymore. For repentant sinners, the penalties of their sins but not the law itself, were wiped out by Jesus' victory on the cross. But under the Old Testament law, the penalties for sinning were exacting and could have been: either being considered ritually unclean until the next day, needing to make an offering, being cut off from people if unclean with a disease such as leprosy or receiving the death penalty.

Take, for example, the Ten Commandments and Commandment No.8 not to steal. Did Jesus' coming do away with that? Of course not! Jesus didn't come to lower the standards but to actually raise them higher in the power and enabling of God's life-giving Holy Spirit. Paul wrote in Galatians, Chapter 5, that the Holy Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control in the lives of those He controls. There is no law against such things as these, as such attributes are beyond the law and actually fulfil the intention of the law.

Paul finished his story before Agrippa by proclaiming that he, Paul, had been faithful to his heavenly vision. Paul stated that Agrippa knew about these things because they'd been done openly. Paul asked Agrippa if he believed the prophets, and answered the question himself by saying that he knew that Agrippa believed. At that point, Agrippa responded: "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

Paul wanted everyone present to become a Christian like himself, except for the chains that he wore. Agrippa stood up and with Festus, the two went outside to discuss the matter. They seemed to agree that Paul had done nothing deserving of death or chains. Agrippa then told Festus that Paul could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.

King Agrippa had a full explanation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus given to him by Paul, yet he never humbled himself and asked God for the same mercy and forgiveness that Paul had received. There are many people who decide that a current time isn't right yet for them to bow to Jesus; instead, they wait for another time but it never comes. A song was written from King Agrippa's response to Paul. It says, "Almost persuaded now to believe, almost persuaded Christ to receive. Seems now some soul to say, "Go, Spirit, go Thy way, some more convenient day on Thee I'll call."

Have you ever wondered why Paul had to go to Rome? Rome was the political and cultural centre of the 1st Century world. Although a church had already been started in Rome by other believers in Christ, Paul's arrival and witness would be such an encouragement to them. Also while there in prison, Paul had time to write a further 5 letters to the young churches.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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