

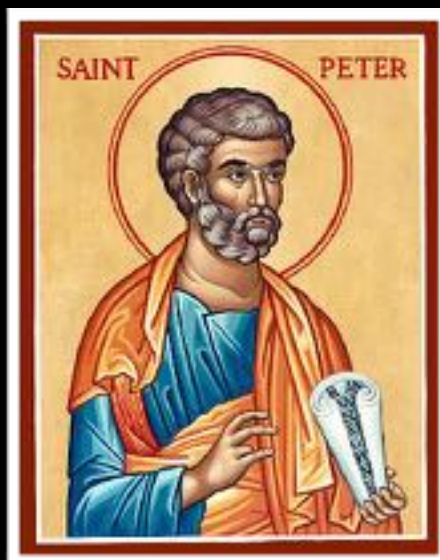
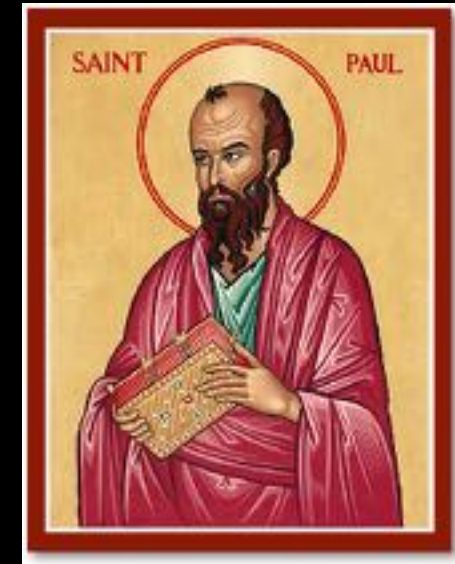
Paul & Politicians: Before the Sanhedrin

Acts 22:30-23:35



Fra Angelico – Paul's Dispute before the Sanhedrin
Cappella Niccolina, Palazzi Pontifici, Vatican

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment... not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. (Rom 13:1-2, 5)



Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. (1 Pet 2:13-15)



Paul's
Defense



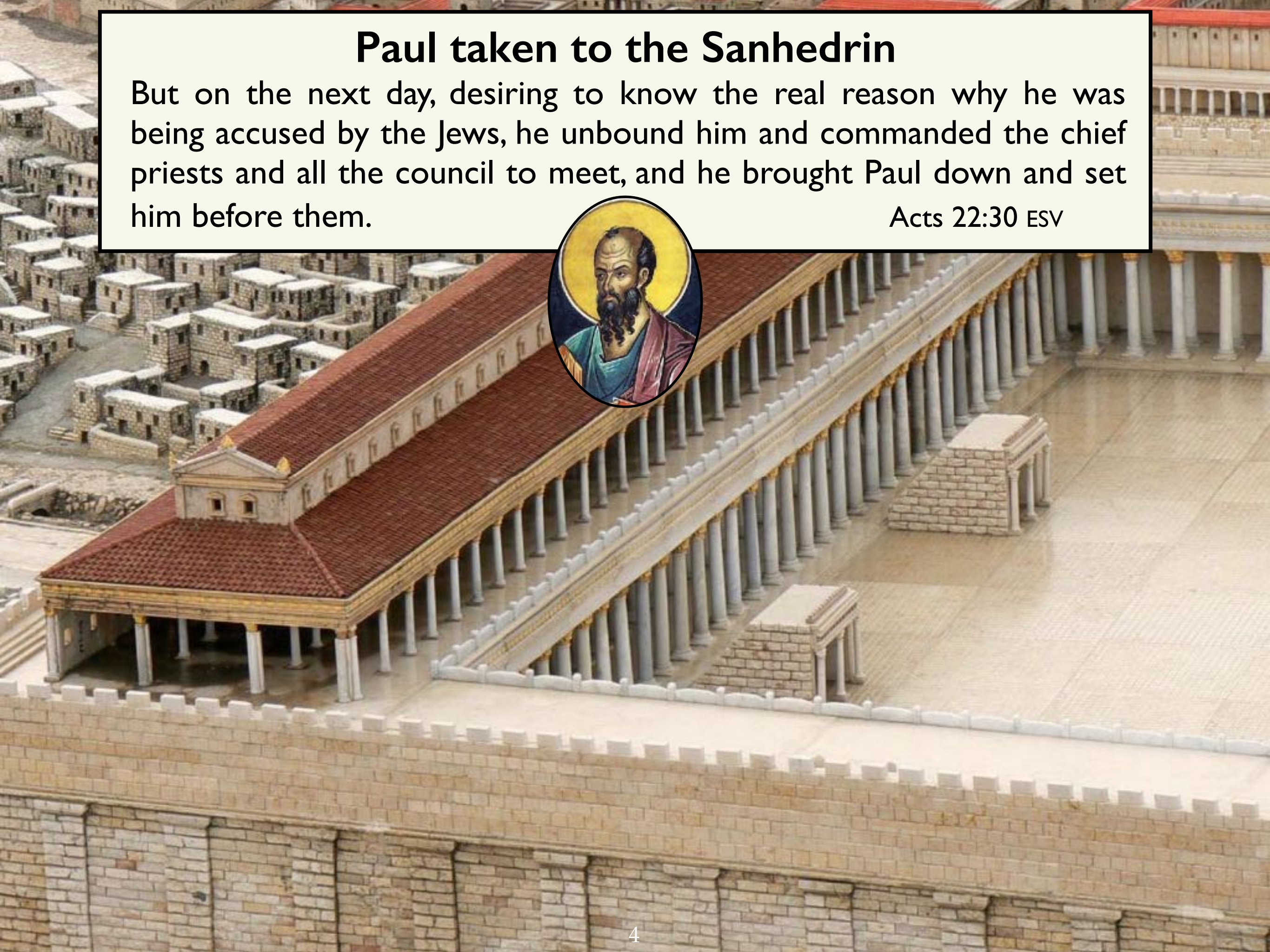
The Tribune

Fortress of Antonia

Paul taken to the Sanhedrin

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.

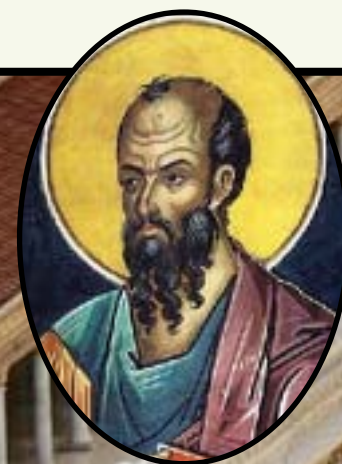
Acts 22:30 ESV



The Judge and Judged

And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.” And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.

Acts 23:1-2



Paul Strikes Back

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?” Those who stood by said, “Would you revile God’s high priest?” 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.’”

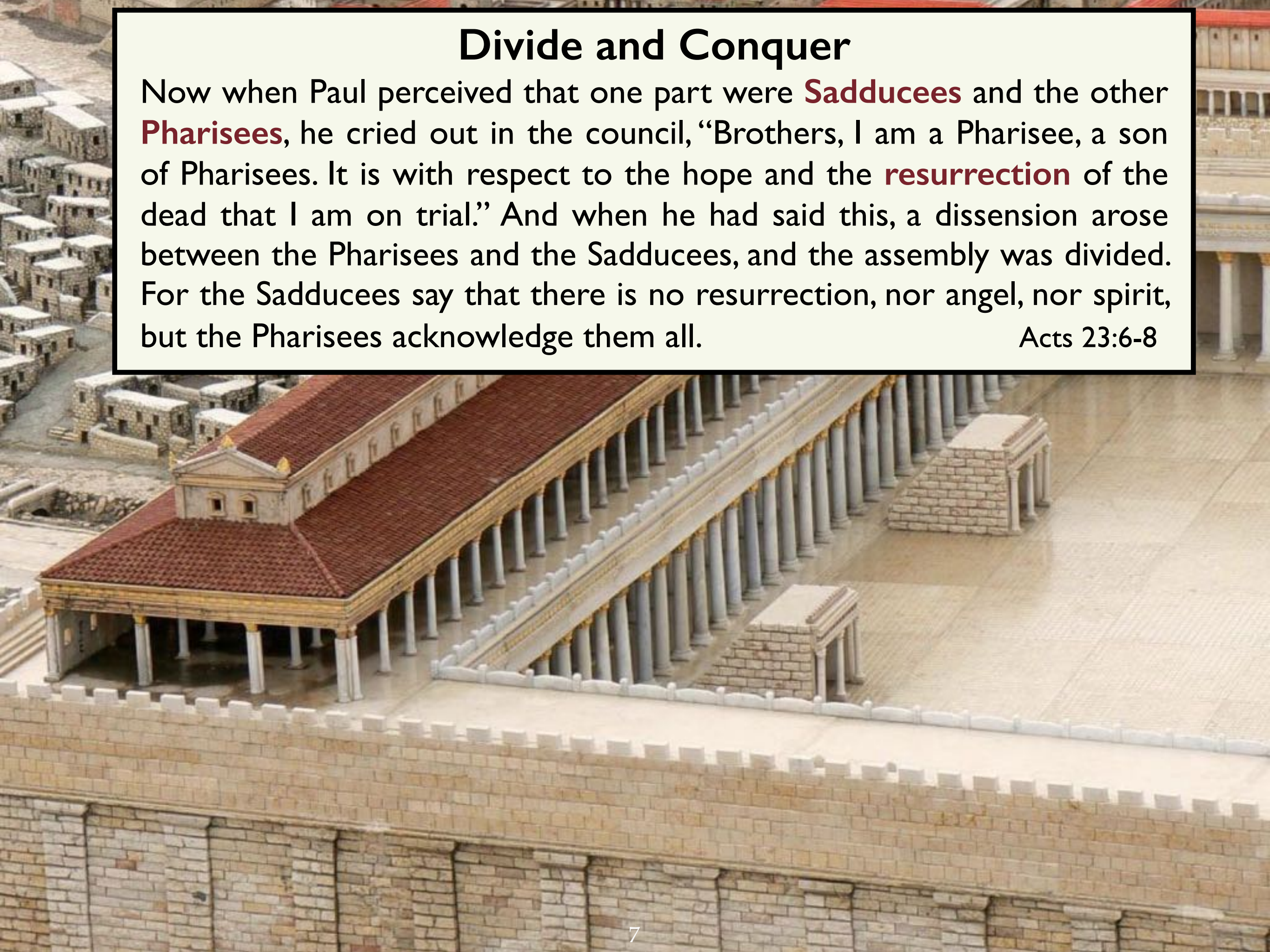
Acts 23:3-5



Divide and Conquer

Now when Paul perceived that one part were **Sadducees** 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.” And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

Acts 23:6-8



Riot #3

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?" 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.

Acts 23:9-10



The Lord Stands with Paul

The following night the Lord **stood** by him and said,
“Take courage,
for as you have solemnly testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem,
so you **must** testify also in Rome.”

Acts 23:11

“must” = (*dei*) “a divine necessity”

The Plot is Hatched

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. There were more than forty who made this **conspiracy**. 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. 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.” Acts 23:12-15



Paul's Nephew Intervenes

Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to tell him." 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."

Acts 23:16-18



The Nephew Before the Tribune

The **tribune** took him by the hand, and going aside asked him **privately**, “What is it that you have to tell me?” 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. 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.” So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, “**Tell no one** that you have informed me of these things.”

Acts 23:19-22



Centurions Dispatched

Then he called two of the centurions and said, “Get ready **200** soldiers, with **70** horsemen and **200** spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night. Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and bring him safely to Felix the governor.” And he wrote a letter to this effect:

Acts 23:23-25





CLAUDIUS LYSIAS

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR FELIX, GREETINGS.

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.** And desiring to know the charge for which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their council. I found that he was being accused about questions of their law, but charged with **nothing deserving death or imprisonment.** 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.

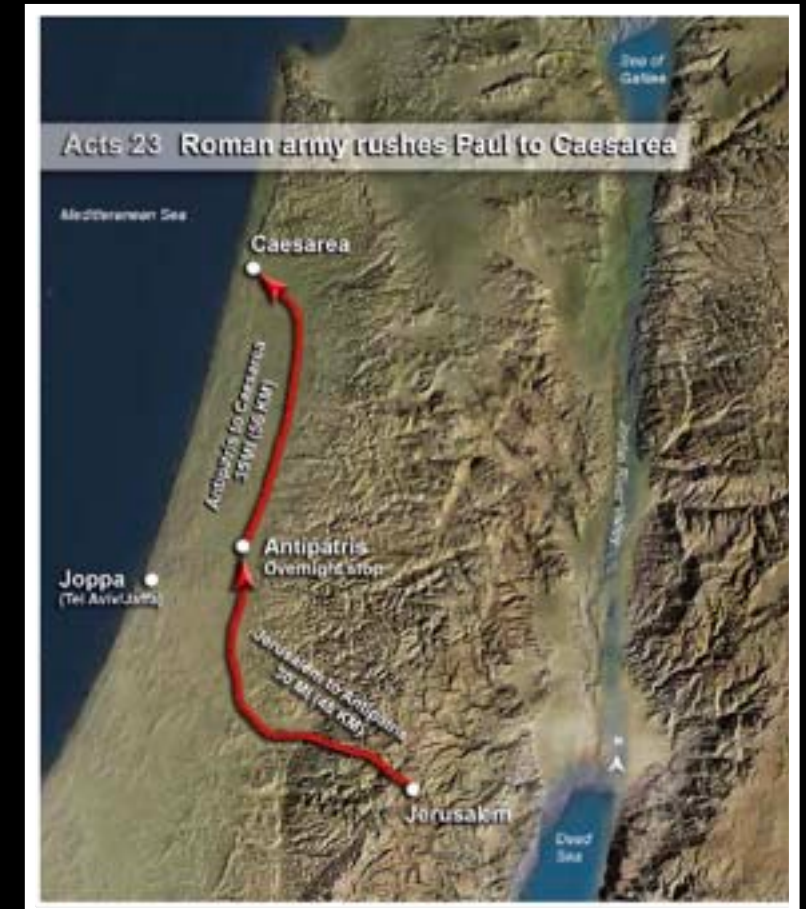
Acts 23:26-30



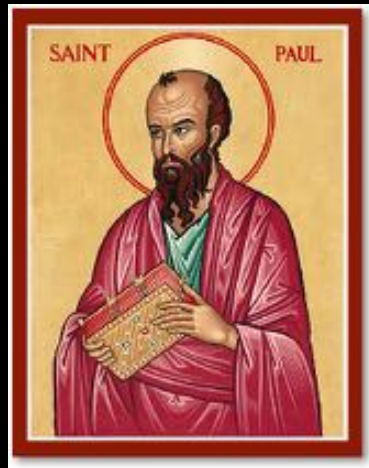
Paul Taken to Caesarea

So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. And on the next day they returned to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him. When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. On reading the letter, he asked what province he was from. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia, he said, "I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive." And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod's praetorium.

Acts 23:31-35



How Does the Kingdom of God Advance?



Paul



The Tribune



Paul's Nephew



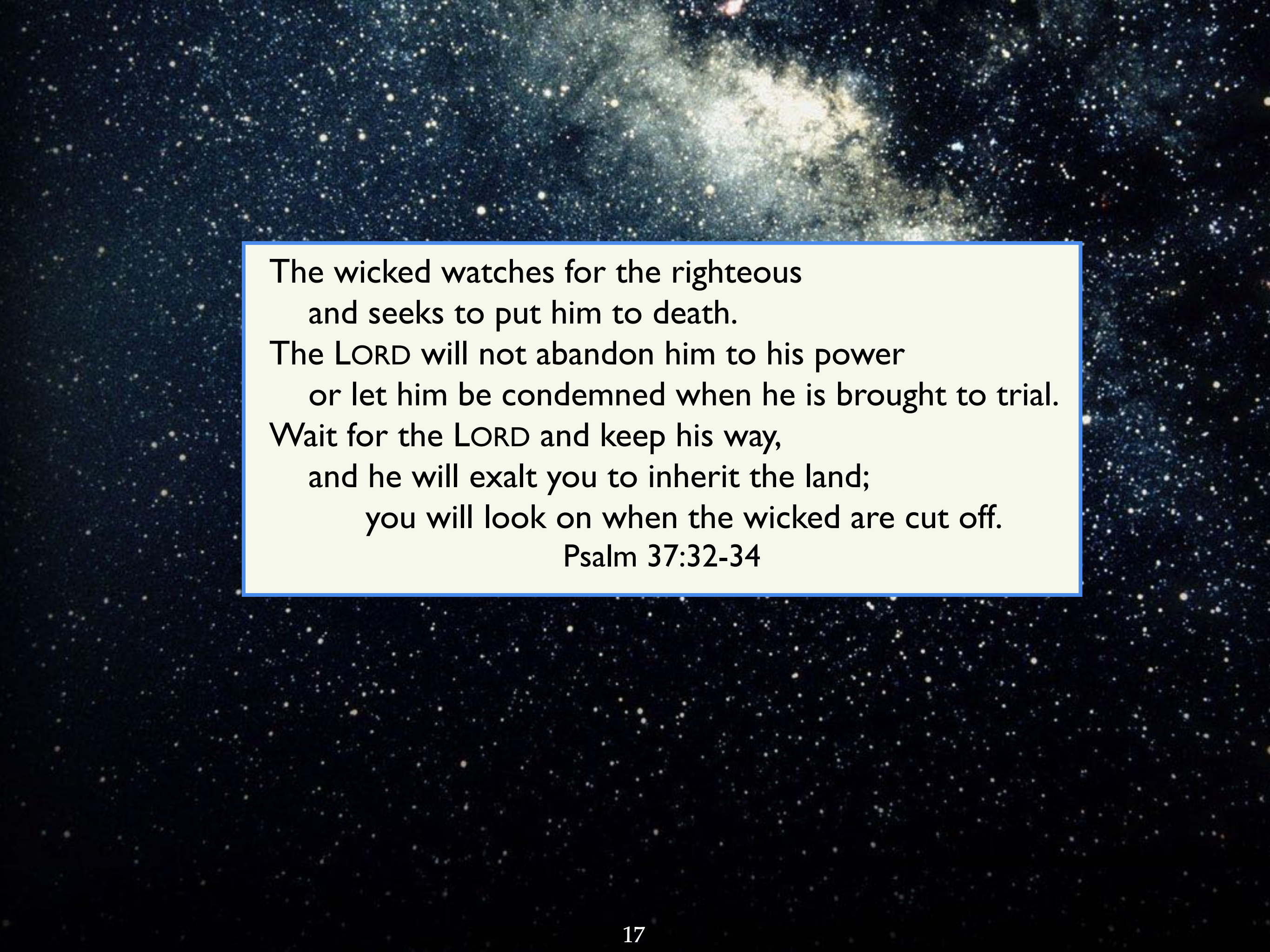
The Conspiracy



The High Priest



The Sanhedrin



The wicked watches for the righteous
and seeks to put him to death.
The LORD will not abandon him to his power
or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.
Wait for the LORD and keep his way,
and he will exalt you to inherit the land;
you will look on when the wicked are cut off.

Psalm 37:32-34