

# Witnesses

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**Before Gentiles, Kings, and the Children  
of Israel | Acts 21:37-40**



**HOW DOES GOD USE HIS WITNESSES  
TO TESTIFY ABOUT JESUS?**

**OUR LIVES ARE FORMED BY GOD IN  
UNIQUE WAYS TO ALLOW US TO  
TESTIFY TO HIM**

**Acts 21:37-39a**

37 As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, "May I say something to you?" And he said, "Do you know Greek? 38 Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?" 39 Paul replied, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city.

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**ACTS 21:37–39A**

# A Specifically Qualified Witness

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**ACTS 21:37**

# A Specifically Qualified Witness

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*38 Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?"*

**ACTS 21:38**

# ASSASSINS

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from the word for a dagger  
*dagger-men; terrorists*

Source: A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature

# A Specifically Qualified Witness

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**ACTS 21:38**

# A Specifically Qualified Witness

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*39 Paul replied, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city.*

**ACTS 21:39A**

## ACTS 22:25-29

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

# ACTS 22:25-29

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

# A Specifically Qualified Witness

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**ACTS 21:37–39A**

**OUR LIVES HAVE SPECIFIC PURPOSES  
TO CARRY OUT IN TESTIFYING  
ABOUT JESUS**

**Acts 21:39b-40**

39... I beg you, permit me to speak to the people.” 40  
And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing  
on the steps, motioned with his hand to the people.  
And when there was a great hush, he addressed them  
in the Hebrew language, saying:

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**ACTS 21:39B-40**

# Fulfills a Particular Calling

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*39... I beg you, permit me to speak to the people.” 40 And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the steps, motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying:*

**ACTS 21:39B-40**



Holyland Model of Jerusalem  
Public domain

# ACTS 9:15

15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he [Paul] is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.”

# The Rest of Acts

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- Preaches to Israel in the temple court — Acts 22
- The Sanhedrin — Acts 23
- Felix the governor — Act 24
- Festus the governor — Acts 25
- King Agrippa — Acts 26
- Paul ultimately goes to Caesar — Acts 27-28

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# APPLICATION



**1. PRAISE GOD THAT HIS WITNESSES  
REACHED ALL THE WAY TO US**

The background is a detailed, aged map with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. The map is rendered in a sepia or brownish tone, giving it an antique appearance. Faint labels for continents and oceans are visible, such as 'AMERICA', 'EUROPA', 'AFRICA', 'ASIA', 'MEXICANA', 'EUROPAE', 'AFRICA', 'ASIA', 'MEXICANA', 'EUROPAE', 'AFRICA', 'ASIA'. The text is centered and reads: 

**2. REMEMBER WE ALSO ARE  
SPECIFICALLY QUALIFIED WITNESSES**

The background is a textured, aged map with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. Faint labels like 'MEX. GULF', 'MEX. PAC.', and 'MEX. GULF' are visible. A compass rose is partially visible in the bottom left corner, showing degrees from 20 to 40.

# 3. FULFILL YOUR PARTICULAR CALLING

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So do all who live to see such times.  
But that is not for them to decide. All  
we have to decide is what to do with  
the time that is given us.

*The Fellowship of the Ring*

”

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