

God's Sovereign Setup

Acts 25:13-27

**Preparing the Platform for
The Gospel**



Joseph's Unexpected Promotion

38 Then Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom there is a divine spirit?" 39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you are.

Gen 41:38–41 (NASB)



Joseph's Unexpected Promotion

40 You shall be in charge of my house, and all my people shall be obedient to you; only regarding the throne will I be greater than you.”

41 Pharaoh also said to Joseph, “See, I have placed you over all the land of Egypt.”

Gen 41:38–41 (NASB)



God Uses Unlikely People

13 Now when several days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea, paying their respects to Festus. **14** And while they were spending many days there, Festus presented Paul's case to the king, saying,

Acts 25:13–14a (NASB)



Misunderstanding Opens Doors

“There is a man who was left as a prisoner by Felix; 15 and when I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him. 16 I replied to them that it is not the custom of the Romans to hand over any person before the accused meets his accusers face to face, and has an opportunity to make his defense against the charges.

Acts 25:14b–21 (NASB)



Misunderstanding Opens Doors

17 So after they had assembled here, I did not delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered that the man be brought. **18** When the accusers stood up, they did not begin bringing any charges against him of crimes that I suspected,

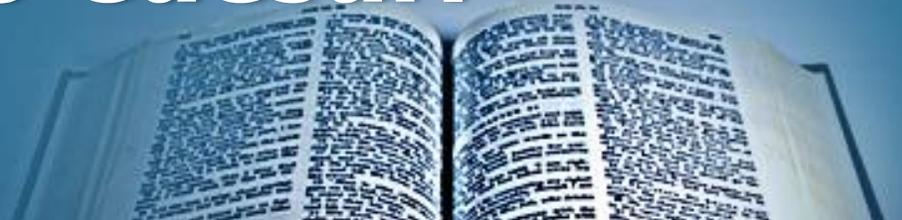
Acts 25:14b–21 (NASB)



Misunderstanding Opens Doors

19 but they simply had some points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a dead man, Jesus, whom Paul asserted to be alive. 20 And being at a loss how to investigate such matters, I asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and stand trial there on these matters. 21 But when Paul appealed to be held in custody for the Emperor's decision, I ordered that he be kept in custody until I send him to Caesar."

Acts 25:14b–21 (NASB)



Bureaucracy Advances the Gospel

22 Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I also would like to hear the man myself."

"Tomorrow," he said, "you shall hear him."

23 So, on the next day when Agrippa and Bernice came amid great pomp and entered the auditorium, accompanied by the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought before them.

Acts 25:22-27(NASB)



Bureaucracy Advances the Gospel

24 And Festus said, "King Agrippa, and all you gentlemen present with us, you see this man about whom all the people of the Jews appealed to me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. 25 But I found that he had committed nothing deserving death; and since he himself appealed to the Emperor, I decided to send him.

Acts 25:22-27(NASB)



Bureaucracy Advances the Gospel

26 Yet, I have nothing definite about him to write to my lord. Therefore, I have brought him before you all and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the investigation has taken place, I may have something to write.
27 For it seems absurd to me in sending a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him as well.”

Acts 25:22-27(NASB)



Trusting God's Setup

- **Where does red tape or confusion feel like a roadblock?**
- **How might God be staging that very scene for gospel advance?**

God is always in control



God's Faithful Completion

6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

He always finishes what He starts.



Divine Providence Illustrated

14 For if you keep silent at this time, liberation and rescue will arise for the Jews from another place, and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14 (NASB)



Suggested Prayer For All Of God's People

“LORD, OPEN MY EYES TO YOUR SOVEREIGN ARRANGEMENTS AND GIVE ME BOLDNESS TO PROCLAIM CHRIST WHERE YOU HAVE PLACED ME.”

