

Luke's purposes in writing his two books

Questions among the Gentiles:

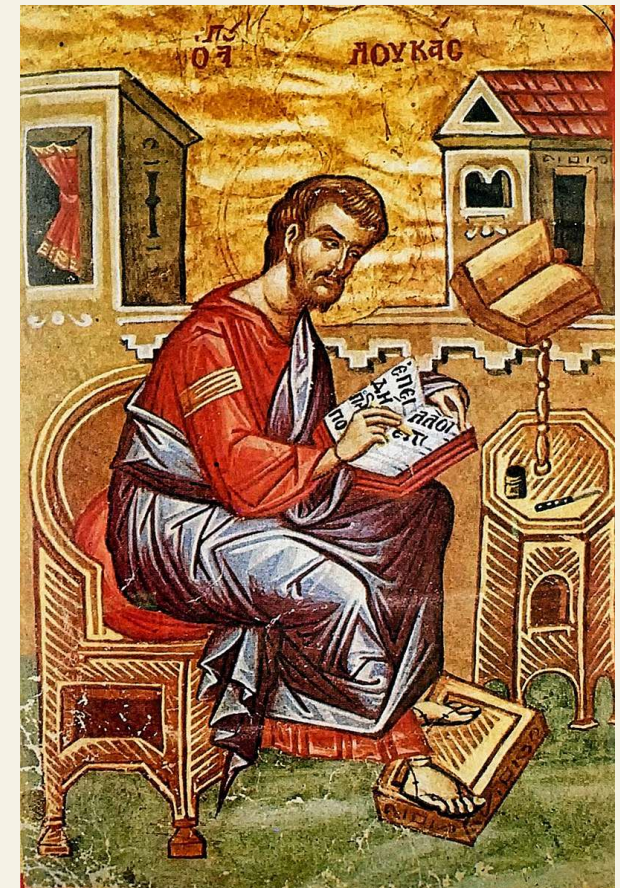
*Why did the Jews reject and crucify Jesus?
Why should we import your religion?*

Answers from Luke:

The true story of their rejection

:First of Jesus

:Then, similar rejection of Paul



Luke's purpose in writing his two books

A Temple Visit

Jesus goes into the temple (Luke 19:45-48).

Paul goes into the temple (Acts 21:26).

Opposed by Sadducees, Acknowledged by Pharisees

The Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection, oppose Jesus. Some Pharisees take a friendly attitude to Jesus (Luke 20:27-39).

The Sadducees do not believe in the resurrection, oppose Paul. Some Pharisees say they find nothing wrong with Paul's teaching (Acts 23:6-9).

Luke's purpose in writing his two books

Seized by a Crowd

A crowd seizes Jesus (Luke 22:54).

The people ran together; they seized Paul (Acts 21:30).

Slapped by the High Priest's Assistants

Jesus is slapped by the priest's assistants (Luke 22:63-64).

Paul is slapped at the high priest's command (Acts 23:2).

Luke's purpose in writing his two books

The Four Trials of Jesus and Paul

Jesus stands on "trial" four times (i.e., before the high priest and the council; Pilate; Herod; Pilate) (Luke 22:54; 23:1; 23:9; Luke 23:11).

In Acts, Paul stands on "trial" four times (Sanhedrin; Felix; Festus; Agrippa) (Acts 23; 24; 25; 26).

Three Times Declared Innocent by Roman Authorities

Pilate declares Jesus innocent three times (Luke 23:4, 14, 22).

Three times the pagan rulers (the king, the governor and Bernice; Festus; and Agrippa) declare Paul innocent (Acts 23:9; 25:25; 26:31).

God's wisdom when the accusers come in fury

1: Do not forget My mission for you

- Ch 22:21 "Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"*
- Ch 23:11 The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."*

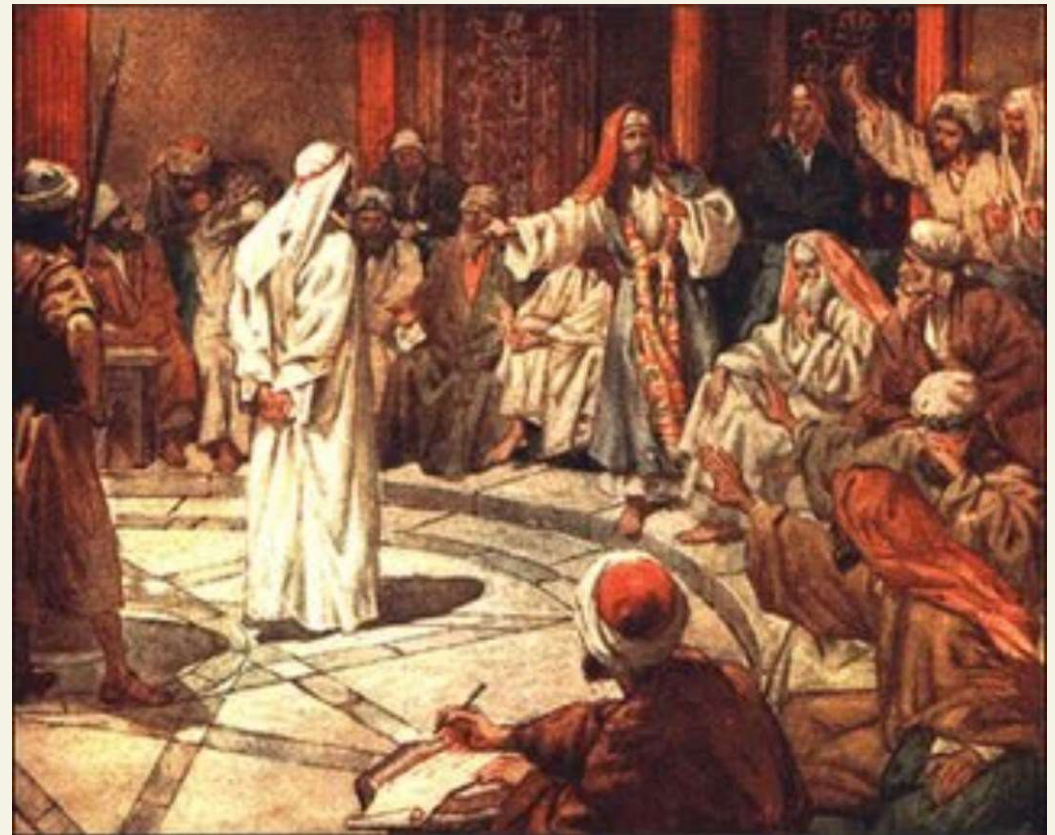


Acts 22:22- Ch 23

God's wisdom when the accusers come at you in fury

2: I have prepared you for what is ahead

- ***Including your defence..... and offence!***



What was the Apostle facing in his work for Jesus?

Roman Emperor Claudius

Governor

Felix

Governor/Procurator over Judea

Caesarea

Martima

Jerusalem

Commander

Claudius Lysias

Priesthood

Great Sanhedrin

The People

Centurion

High Priest Ananias

High Priest Ananias

Jewish nation

Soldiers

Priests

Chief Priests

Crowds

Political Parties

The Jews (From Syria)

Pharisees & Sadducees

The Christian Church

Apostle Paul



Bezetha (New City)

Josephus' 2nd North Wall

Tower of Psephinus

Fish Gate (Tower Gate)

Solomon's Quarries

Antonia Fortress

Struthion Pool

Sheep's Pools

Israel's Pool

Place of Stephen's Stoning (traditional location)

Golgotha (traditional location)

Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea

Towers Pool (Amygdalon Pool)

Tower of Hippicus

Tower of Phasael

Mishneh

Josephus' 1st North Wall

Xystus

Herod Antipas' Palace

Gennath Gate

Tower of Mariamne

Herod's Fortress

Upper City (Zion)

Praetorium

Herod's Palace

Theater

Hippodrome

Essene

Quarter

High Priest's House

Upper Room (traditional location)

Serpent's Pool

Area of ritual baths (Miqvaoth)

Essene Gate

Lower City

Valley Gate

Barclay's Gate

Robinson's Arch (Stairway)

City

Royal Portico

Huldah Gates

Ophel

Valley Gate

Water Gate

King's Pool

Sheep Gate

Golden Gate (Shushan Gate)

Women's Court

Holy Altar

Temple

Inner Court Temple

Warren's Gate

Men's Court

Court of the Gentiles

Beautiful Gate

Church of All Nations

Absalom's Pillar

Southeast Gate & Stairway

Pinnacle of the Temple (traditional location)

Hezekiah's Tunnel

Gibon Spring

Mt. of Offense

Mt. of Olives

5th Legion from Emmaus



Herod's Family Tomb



Actual Temple Site?
It is 600 feet south of Fort Antonia

Two aerial bridges connected the Temple precinct with Fort Antonia as reported by Josephus.

Steps where the Apostle Paul addressed an angry mob in Acts 21.

Western Wall

Praetorium

Smooth stones build from foundations to keep invaders from climbing up.

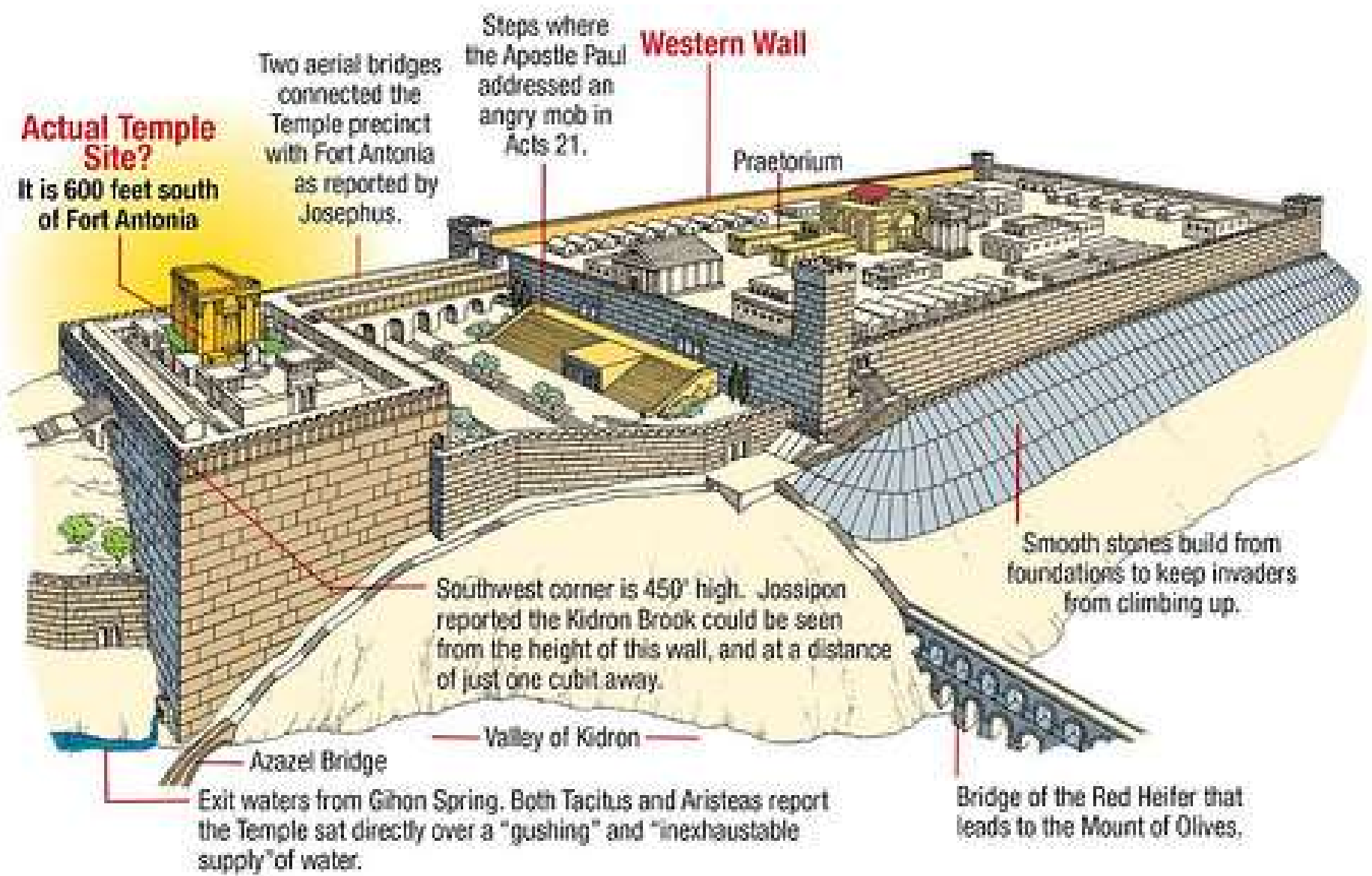
Southwest corner is 450' high. Jossipon reported the Kidron Brook could be seen from the height of this wall, and at a distance of just one cubit away.

Valley of Kidron

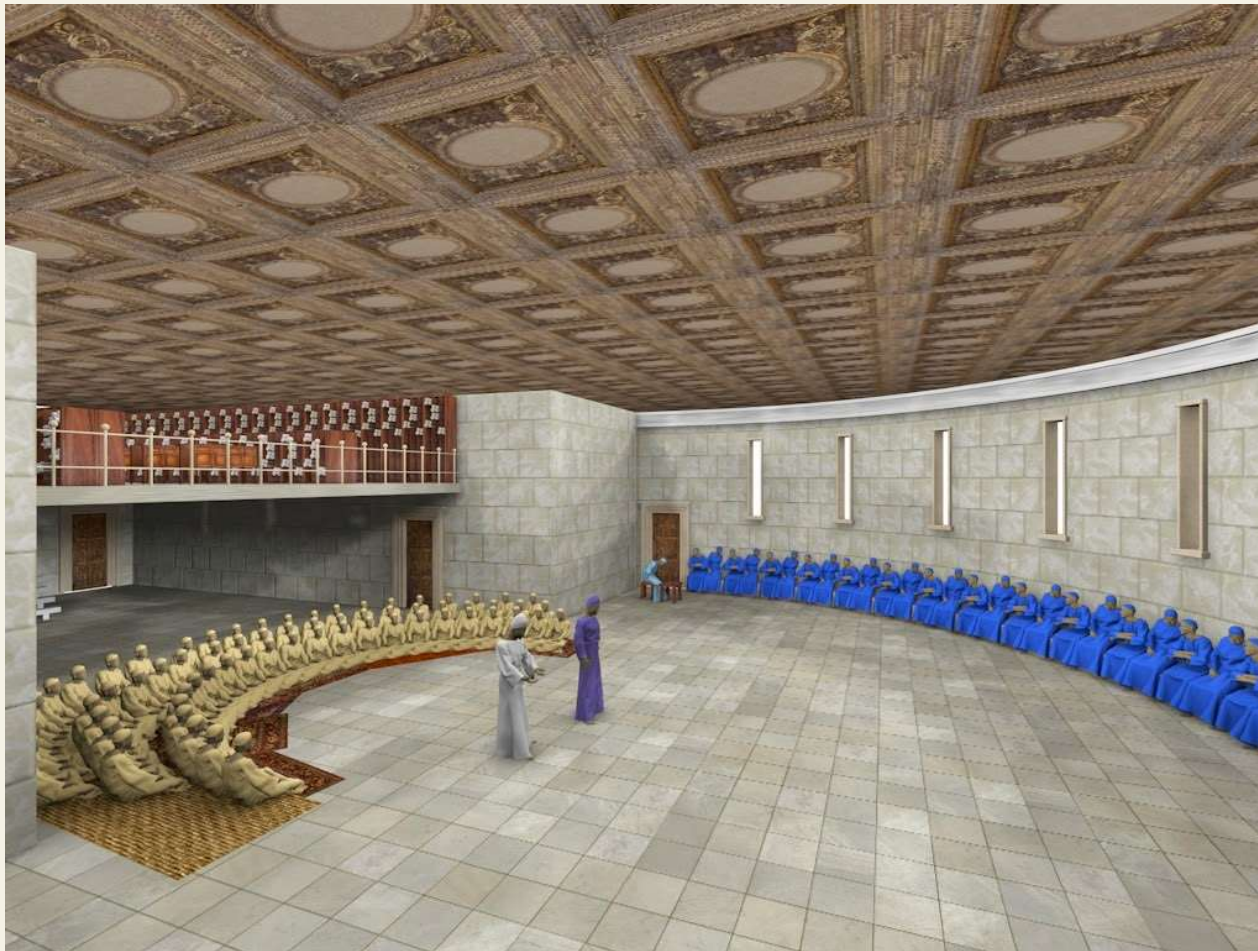
Azazel Bridge

Exit waters from Gihon Spring. Both Tacitus and Aristeas report the Temple sat directly over a "gushing" and "inexhaustable supply" of water.

Bridge of the Red Heifer that leads to the Mount of Olives.



The Sanhedrin AGAIN!



Paul's defense begins: there is a higher authority than you!

25 As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?"

26 When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. "What are you going to do?" he asked. "This man is a Roman citizen."

27 The commander went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes, I am," he answered.

28 Then the commander said, "I had to pay a big price for my citizenship." "But I was born a citizen," Paul replied.

29 Those who were about to question him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realised that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains.

30 The next day, since the commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

Paul's defense begins: there is a higher authority than you!

1 ¶ Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day."

2 At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth.

3 Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!"

4 Those who were standing near Paul said, "You dare to insult God's high priest?"

5 Paul replied, "Brothers, I did not realise that he was the high priest; for it is written: 'Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.'"

Paul's strategy: Divert and divide the accusers

6 ¶ Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. I stand on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead."

7 When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.

8 (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.)

9 There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. "We find nothing wrong with this man," they said. "What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?"

10 The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks.

11 The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

Paul's strategy: Divert and divide the accusers

12 The next morning the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul.

13 More than forty men were involved in this plot.

14 They went to the chief priests and elders and said, "We have taken a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul.

15 Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him before you on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about his case. We are ready to kill him before he gets here."

16 But when the son of Paul's sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul.

17 Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him."

18 So he took him to the commander. The centurion said, "Paul, the prisoner, sent for me and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you."

Paul's strategy: Divert and divide the accusers

19 The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside and asked, "What is it you want to tell me?"

20 He said: "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul before the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about him.

21 Don't give in to them, because more than forty of them are waiting in ambush for him. They have taken an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for your consent to their request."

22 The commander dismissed the young man and cautioned him, "Don't tell anyone that you have reported this to me."

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|----------------------|----------------|
| A Theater | E Lighthouse |
| B Palace | F Aqueduct |
| C Temple of Augustus | G Amphitheater |
| D Harbor (Sebastos) | H Hippodrome |

God protects Paul for the next steps

23 Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, "Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight.

24 Provide mounts for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix."

31 So the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul with them during the night and brought him as far as Antipatris.

32 The next day they let the cavalry go on with him, while they returned to the barracks.

33 When the cavalry arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him.

34 The governor read the letter and asked what province he was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia,

35 he said, "I will hear your case when your accusers get here." Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod's palace.

God protects Paul for the next steps

25 He wrote a letter as follows:

26 Claudius Lysias, To His Excellency, Governor Felix:
Greetings.

27 This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him, but I came with my troops and rescued him, for I had learned that he is a Roman citizen.

28 I wanted to know why they were accusing him, so I brought him to their Sanhedrin.

29 I found that the accusation had to do with questions about their law, but there was no charge against him that deserved death or imprisonment.

30 When I was informed of a plot to be carried out against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also ordered his accusers to present to you their case against him.

God's wisdom when the accusers come in fury

- 1: Do not forget My mission for you*
- 2: I have prepared you for what is ahead*
- 3: I am in control of every situation*
- 4: Don't forget my Word,...*
- 5: ..and that I am always with You, even in the fire*
- 6: I will give you the strategies and the words to speak*