

الرَّسُول بولس أمام الوالي فستوس

¹ فَلَمَّا قَدِمَ قَيْسُوسُ إِلَى الْوَلَايَةِ صَعَدَ بَعْدَ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ مِنْ قَيْصَرِيَّةَ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ. ² فَعَرَضَ لَهُ رَئِيسُ الْكَهَنَةِ وَوُجُوهُ الْيَهُودِ صِدَّ بُولُسَ، وَاتَّمَسُوا مِنْهُ طَالِبِينَ عَلَيْهِ مِثَّةً، أَنْ يَسْتَحْضِرَهُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ، وَهُمْ صَانِعُونَ كَيْمِينَ لِيَقْتُلُوهُ فِي الطَّرِيقِ. ⁴ فَأَجَابَ قَيْسُوسُ، أَنْ يُخَرَسَ بُولُسُ فِي قَيْصَرِيَّةَ وَأَنَّهُ هُوَ مُزْمِعٌ أَنْ يَنْطَلِقَ عَاجِلًا. ⁵ وَقَالَ: فَلْيَنْزِلْ مَعِيَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ يَبْتَئِكُمْ مُقْتَدِرُونَ، وَإِنْ كَانَ فِي هَذَا الرَّجُلِ شَيْءٌ فَلْيَسْتَكُوا عَلَيْهِ.

⁶ وَبَعْدَ مَا صَرَفَ عَنْهُمْ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ عَشْرَةِ أَيَّامٍ انْحَدَرَ إِلَى قَيْصَرِيَّةَ، وَفِي الْعَدِ جَلَسَ عَلَى كُرْسِيِّ الْوَلَايَةِ وَأَمَرَ أَنْ يُؤْتَى بِبُولُسَ. فَلَمَّا حَضَرَ وَقَفَ حَوْلَهُ الْيَهُودُ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا قَدْ انْحَدَرُوا مِنْ أُورُشَلِيمَ وَقَدَّمُوا عَلَى بُولُسَ دَعَاوِي كَثِيرَةً وَثِقِيلَةً لَمْ يَقْدِرُوا أَنْ يُبْرِهِنُوهَا. ⁸ إِذْ كَانَ هُوَ يَحْتَجُّ: أَنِّي مَا أَخْطَأْتُ بِشَيْءٍ لَا إِلَى تَامُوسَ الْيَهُودِ وَلَا إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ وَلَا إِلَى قَيْصَرَ. وَلَكِنْ قَيْسُوسُ إِذْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُودِعَ الْيَهُودَ مِثَّةً قَالَ لِبُولُسَ: أَتَشَاءُ أَنْ تَصْعَدَ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ لِنُحَاكَمَ هُنَاكَ لَدَيَّ مِنْ جِهَةِ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ؟ ¹⁰ فَقَالَ بُولُسُ: أَنَا وَاقِفٌ لَدَى كُرْسِيِّ وَلَايَةِ قَيْصَرَ حَيْثُ يَتَّبِعِي أَنْ أَحَاكَمَ. أَنَا لَمْ أَظْلِمَ الْيَهُودَ بِشَيْءٍ كَمَا تَعْلَمُ أَنْتَ أَيْضًا جَدِيدًا. ¹¹ لَئِنْ إِنْ كُنْتُ أَنِمًا أَوْ صَنَعْتُ شَيْئًا يَسْتَحِقُّ الْمَوْتَ فَلَسْتُ أَسْتَغْفِي مِنَ الْمَوْتِ، وَلَكِنْ إِنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ شَيْءٌ مِمَّا يَشْتَكِي عَلَيَّ بِهِ هَؤُلَاءِ فَلَيْسَ أَخَذُ يَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ يُسَلِّمَنِي لَهُمْ. إِلَى قَيْصَرَ أَنَا رَافِعٌ دَعَاوِي. ¹² جَبِينِي تَكَلِّمْ قَيْسُوسُ مَعَ أَرْبَابِ الْمَشُورَةِ فَأَجَابَ: إِلَى قَيْصَرَ رَفَعْتُ دَعَاوِي، إِلَى قَيْصَرَ تَذْهَبُ.

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¹³ وَبَعْدَ مَا مَضَتْ أَيَّامٌ أَقْبَلَ أَغْرِيْبَاسُ الْمَلِكُ وَتَرَنِيكِي إِلَى قَيْصَرِيَّةَ لِيُسَلِّمًا عَلَى قَيْسُوسَ. ¹⁴ وَلَمَّا كَانَا يَصْرَفَانِ هُنَاكَ أَيَّامًا كَثِيرَةً عَرَضَ قَيْسُوسُ عَلَى الْمَلِكِ أَمْرَ بُولُسَ قَائِلًا: يُوجَدُ رَجُلٌ تَرَكَهُ فِيلِكُسُ أَسِيرًا ¹⁵ وَعَرَضَ لِي عَنْهُ رُؤَسَاءُ الْكَهَنَةِ وَمَشَايِخُ الْيَهُودِ لَمَّا كُنْتُ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ طَالِبِينَ حُكْمًا عَلَيْهِ. ¹⁶ فَأَجَبْتُهُمْ: أَنْ لَيْسَ لِلرُّومَانِيِّينَ عَادَةٌ أَنْ يُسَلِّمُوا أَحَدًا لِلْمَوْتِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَكُونَ الْمَشْكُوكُ عَلَيْهِ مُوَاجَهَةً مَعَ الْمُسْتَكِينِ فَيَحْضُلَ عَلَى فُرْصَةٍ لِلْإِحْتِجَاجِ عَنِ السَّكْوَى. ¹⁷ فَلَمَّا اجْتَمَعُوا إِلَيَّ هُنَا جَلَسْتُ مِنْ دُونِ إِمْهَالٍ فِي الْعَدِ عَلَى كُرْسِيِّ الْوَلَايَةِ وَأَمَرْتُ أَنْ يُؤْتَى بِالرَّجُلِ. ¹⁸ فَلَمَّا وَقَفَ الْمُشْتَكُونَ حَوْلَهُ لَمْ يَأْتُوا بِعِلَّةٍ

¹ Now when Festus was come into the province, after three days he ascended from Caesarea to Jerusalem. ² Then the high priest and the chief of the Jews informed him against Paul, and besought him, ³ And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to kill him. ⁴ But Festus answered, that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself would depart shortly thither. ⁵ Let them therefore, said he, which among you are able, go down with me, and accuse this man, if there be any wickedness in him. ⁶ And when he had tarried among them more than ten days, he went down unto Caesarea; and the next day sitting on the judgment seat commanded Paul to be brought. ⁷ And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove. ⁸ While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all. ⁹ But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me? ¹⁰ Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest. ¹¹ For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar. ¹² Then Festus, when he had

وَاجِدَةً مِمَّا كُنْتُ أَطْلُبُ،¹⁹ لَكِنْ كَانَ لَهُمْ عَلَيْهِ مَسَائِلُ مِنْ جِهَةِ دِيَاتِهِمْ وَعَنْ وَاحِدٍ، اسْمُهُ يَسُوعُ، قَدْ مَاتَ وَكَانَ بُولُسُ يَقُولُ إِنَّهُ حَيٌّ.²⁰ وَإِذْ كُنْتُ مُرْتَاباً فِي الْمَسْأَلَةِ عَنْ هَذَا قُلْتُ: أَلَعَلَّهُ يَنْشَأُ أَنْ يَذْهَبَ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ وَيُحَاكَمَ هُنَاكَ مِنْ جِهَةِ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ؟²¹ وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا رَفَعَ بُولُسُ دَعْوَاهُ لِكَيْ يُحَقِّطَ لِفَحْصِ أَوْعُسْطُسَ أَمَرْتُ بِحِفْظِهِ إِلَى أَنْ أُرْسِلَهُ إِلَيَّ قَبِصَرً.²² فَقَالَ أَغْرِيْبَاسُ لِقِسْتُوسَ: كُنْتُ أَرِيدُ أَنَا أَيْضاً أَنْ أَسْمَعَ الرَّجُلَ. فَقَالَ: عَدَا تَسْمَعُهُ.²³ فَمِنِ الْعَدِّ لَمَّا جَاءَ أَغْرِيْبَاسُ وَتَرْزِيكِي فِي اخْتِقَالٍ عَظِيمٍ وَدَخَلَ إِلَى دَارِ الْإِسْتِمَاعِ مَعَ الْأَمْراءِ وَرِجَالِ الْمَدِينَةِ الْمُقَدَّمِينَ، أَمَرَ قِسْتُوسُ قَائِمِي بُولُسَ. فَقَالَ قِسْتُوسُ: أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ أَغْرِيْبَاسُ وَالرَّجَالُ الْخَاصِرُونَ مَعَنَا أَجْمَعُونَ، أَنْتُمْ تَنْظُرُونَ هَذَا الَّذِي تَوَسَّلَ إِلَيَّ مِنْ جِهَتِهِ كُلُّ جُمُهورِ الْيَهُودِ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ وَهُنَا صَارِخِينَ، أَنَّهُ لَا يَنْبَغِي أَنْ يَعِيشَ بَعْدُ.²⁵ وَأَمَّا أَنَا فَلَمَّا وَجَدْتُ أَنَّهُ لَمْ يَفْعَلْ شَيْئاً يَسْتَحِقُّ الْمَوْتَ وَهُوَ قَدْ رَفَعَ دَعْوَاهُ إِلَى أَوْعُسْطُسَ عَزَمْتُ أَنْ أُرْسِلَهُ.²⁶ وَلَيْسَ لِي شَيْءٌ يَقِينٌ مِنْ جِهَتِهِ لِأَكْتُبَ إِلَى السَّيِّدِ، لِذَلِكَ أَتَيْتُ بِهِ لَدَيْكُمْ وَلَا سَبِيماً لَدَيْكَ، أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ أَغْرِيْبَاسُ، حَتَّى إِذَا صَارَ الْفَحْصُ يَكُونُ لِي شَيْئاً لِأَكْتُبَ. لِأَنِّي أَرَى حَقَاقَةً أَنْ أُرْسِلَ أَسِيرًا وَلَا أَشِيرَ إِلَى الدَّعَاوِي الَّتِي عَلَيْهِ.

conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go.¹³ And after certain days king Agrippa and Bernice came unto Caesarea to salute Festus.¹⁴ And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix:¹⁵ About whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have judgment against him.¹⁶ To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have licence to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him.¹⁷ Therefore, when they were come hither, without any delay on the morrow I sat on the judgment seat, and commanded the man to be brought forth.¹⁸ Against whom when the accusers stood up, they brought none accusation of such things as I supposed:¹⁹ But had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.²⁰ And because I doubted of such manner of questions, I asked him whether he would go to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these matters.²¹ But when Paul had appealed to be reserved unto the hearing of Augustus, I commanded him to be kept till I might send him to Caesar.²² Then Agrippa said unto Festus, I would also hear the man myself. To morrow, said he, thou shalt hear him.²³ And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice, with great pomp, and was entered into the place of

hearing, with the chief captains, and principal men of the city, at Festus' commandment Paul was brought forth.²⁴ And Festus said, King Agrippa, and all men which are here present with us, ye see this man, about whom all the multitude of the Jews have dealt with me, both at Jerusalem, and also here, crying that he ought not to live any longer.²⁵ But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and that he himself hath appealed to Augustus, I have determined to send him.²⁶ Of whom I have no certain thing to write unto my lord. Wherefore I have brought him forth before you, and specially before thee, O king Agrippa, that, after examination had, I might have somewhat to write.²⁷ For it seemeth to me unreasonable to send a prisoner, and not withal to signify the crimes laid against him.