

¹Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you.²(And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)³I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.⁴And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.⁵As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.⁶And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me.⁷And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?⁸And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.⁹And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.¹⁰And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.¹¹And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.¹²And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good

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¹إِنَّمَا الرَّجَالُ الإِخْوَةُ وَالْآبَاءُ، اسْمَعُوا اجْتِنَاجِي الْآنَ لِدَبِّكُمْ.²فَلَمَّا سَمِعُوا أَنَّهُ يُتَادِي لَهُمْ بِاللُّغَةِ الْعِبْرَانِيَّةِ أَغْطُوا سُكُونًا أُخَرَى. فَقَالَ: أَنَا رَجُلٌ يَهُودِيٌّ وَلِدْتُ فِي طَرَسُوسَ كِيلِيكِيَّةَ وَلَكِنْ رَبِّتُ فِي هَذِهِ الْمَدِينَةِ مُؤَدَّبًا عِنْدَ رَجُلِي عَمَلَايِيلَ عَلَى تَحْقِيقِ النَّامُوسِ الْأَبَوِيِّ، وَكُنْتُ غَيْرَ لِي كَمَا أَنْتُمْ جَمِيعُكُمْ الْيَوْمَ.⁴وَاصْطَلَهْتُ هَذَا الطَّرِيقَ حَتَّى الْمَوْتِ مُقَبِّدًا وَمُسَلِّمًا إِلَى السُّجُونِ رَجُلًا وَنِسَاءً،⁵كَمَا يَشْهَدُ لِي أَيْضًا رَئِيسُ الْكَهَنَةِ وَجَمِيعُ الْمَسِيحِيَّةِ، الَّذِينَ إِذْ أَخَذْتُ أَيْضًا مِنْهُمْ رِسَائِلَ لِلِإِخْوَةِ إِلَى دِمَشْقَ دَهَبْتُ لِأَتِي بِالَّذِينَ هُنَاكَ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ مُقَبِّدِينَ لِي بَعَاقِبُوا. فَحَدَّثَ لِي وَأَنَا دَاهِبٌ وَمُنْقَرَّبٌ إِلَى دِمَشْقَ أَنَّهُ تَحَوَّ يَصِفُ النَّهَارَ بَغْتَةً أَتْرَقَ خَوْلِي مِنَ السَّمَاءِ نُورٌ عَظِيمٌ،⁷فَسَقَطْتُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ وَسَمِعْتُ صَوْتًا قَائِلًا لِي: سَاوُلُ، سَاوُلُ، لِمَاذَا تَضْطَهْدُنِي؟⁸فَأَجَبْتُ: مَنِ أَنْتَ، يَا سَيِّدُ؟ فَقَالَ لِي: أَنَا يَسُوعُ النَّاصِرِيُّ الَّذِي أَنْتَ تَضْطَهْدُهُ.⁹وَالَّذِينَ كَانُوا مَعِيَ تَطَرُّوا النُّورَ وَارْتَعَبُوا وَلَكِنَّهُمْ لَمْ يَسْمَعُوا صَوْتَ الَّذِي كَلَّمَنِي.¹⁰فَقُلْتُ: مَاذَا أَفْعَلُ، يَا رَبُّ؟ فَقَالَ لِي الرَّبُّ: فَمُ وَادْهَبْ إِلَى دِمَشْقَ وَهُنَاكَ يُعَالِ لَكَ عَنْ جَمِيعِ مَا تَرْتَبِّبُ لَكَ أَنْ تَفْعَلَ.¹¹وَإِذْ كُنْتُ لَا أَبْصِرُ مِنْ أَجْلِ بَهَاءِ ذَلِكَ النُّورِ افْتَادَيْتُ بِيَدِي الَّذِينَ كَانُوا مَعِيَ فَجِئْتُ إِلَى دِمَشْقَ.

¹²ثُمَّ إِنَّ خَتَائِيَّ، رَجُلًا تَقِيًّا حَسَبَ النَّامُوسِ وَمَشْهُودًا لَهُ مِنْ جَمِيعِ الْيَهُودِ السُّكَّانِ،¹³أَتَى إِلَيَّ وَوَقَفَ وَقَالَ لِي: إِنَّمَا الْأَخُ سَاوُلُ، أَبْصِرْ. فَفِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ تَطَرُّتُ إِلَيْهِ¹⁴فَقَالَ: إِلَهُ آبَائِنَا اتَّخَذَكَ لِتَعْلَمَ مَسِيحِيَّتَهُ وَتُبْصِرَ النَّارَ وَتَسْمَعَ صَوْتًا مِنْ قِمْهِ،¹⁵لَأَنَّكَ سَتَكُونُ لَهُ شَهِيدًا لِجَمِيعِ النَّاسِ بِمَا رَأَيْتَ وَسَمِعْتَ. وَالْآنَ، لِمَاذَا تَتَوَاتَى؟ فَمُ وَاعْتَمِدْ وَاعْسِلْ خَطَايَاكَ دَاعِيَا بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ.

¹⁷وَحَدَّثَ لِي بَعْدَ مَا رَجَعْتُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ وَكُنْتُ أُصَلِّي فِي الْهَيْكَلِ أَنِّي حَصَلْتُ فِي غَيْبَةٍ¹⁸فَرَأَيْتُهُ قَائِلًا لِي: أَسْرِعْ وَاخْرُجْ عَاجِلًا مِنْ أُورُشَلِيمَ لِأَنَّهُمْ لَا يَقْبَلُونَ شَهَادَتَكَ عَنِّي.¹⁹فَقُلْتُ: يَا رَبُّ، هُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَحْيَسُ وَأَصْرَبُ فِي كُلِّ مَجْمَعِ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِكَ،²⁰وَجِئْتُ شَفِكَ دَمَ اسْتِغْنَاوَسَ، شَهِيدَكَ، كُنْتُ أَنَا وَاقِفًا وَرَاضِيًا بِقَتْلِهِ وَجَافِظًا ثِيَابَ الَّذِينَ قَتَلُوهُ.²¹فَقَالَ لِي: اذْهَبْ، فَإِنِّي سَأَرْسِلُكَ إِلَى الْأُمَمِ بَعِيدًا.

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report of all the Jews which dwelt there,¹³ Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.¹⁴ And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.¹⁵ For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.¹⁶ And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.¹⁷ And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;¹⁸ And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.¹⁹ And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee:²⁰ And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.²¹ And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.²² And they gave him audience unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live.²³ And as they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air,²⁴ The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him.²⁵ And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion

²² فَسَمِعُوا لَهُ حَتَّى هَذِهِ الْكَلِمَةِ ثُمَّ صَرَخُوا قَائِلِينَ: خُذْ مِثْلَ هَذَا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ لَا يَجُوزُ أَنْ يَعْيشَ. ²³ وَإِذْ كَانُوا يَصِيحُونَ وَيَطْرَحُونَ ثِيَابَهُمْ وَيَتْرَمُونَ عُتَارَةً إِلَى الْجَوِّ ²⁴ أَمَرَ الْأَمِيرُ أَنْ يُذْهَبَ بِهِ إِلَى الْمُعَشْكَرِ قَائِلًا: أَنْ يُفْخَصَ بِصُرَبَاتٍ لِيَعْلَمَ لِأَيِّ سَبَبٍ كَانُوا يَصْرُخُونَ عَلَيْهِ هَكَذَا.

²⁵ فَلَمَّا مَدَّوهُ لِلسَّيَاطِ قَالَ بُولُسُ لِقَائِدِ الْمِئَةِ الْوَاقِفِ: أَيْجُوزُ لَكُمْ أَنْ تَجْلِدُوا إِنْسَانًا رُومَانِيًّا غَيْرَ مَقْصِيٍّ عَلَيْهِ؟ ²⁶ فَإِذْ سَمِعَ قَائِدُ الْمِئَةِ ذَهَبَ إِلَى الْأَمِيرِ وَأَخْبَرَهُ قَائِلًا: انْظُرْ مَاذَا أَنْتَ مُرْمِعُ أَنْ تَفْعَلَ، لِأَنَّ هَذَا الرَّجُلَ رُومَانِيٌّ. ²⁷ فَجَاءَ الْأَمِيرُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: قُلْ لِي: أَأَنْتَ رُومَانِيٌّ؟ فَقَالَ: نَعَمْ. ²⁸ فَأَجَابَ الْأَمِيرُ: أَمَّا أَنَا فَبِمَبْلَغٍ كَبِيرٍ افْتَنَيْتُ هَذِهِ الرِّعَايَةَ، فَقَالَ بُولُسُ: أَمَّا أَنَا فَقَدْ وُلِدْتُ فِيهَا. ²⁹ وَلِلْوَقْتِ تَتَحَيَّ عَنْهُ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا مُرْمِعِينَ أَنْ يَفْخَصُوهُ وَاحْتَسَى الْأَمِيرُ لَمَّا عَلِمَ أَنَّهُ رُومَانِيٌّ وَلِأَنَّهُ قَدْ قَيَّدَهُ.

³⁰ وَفِي الْقَدِ إِذْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَعْلَمَ الْيَقِينَ لِمَاذَا يَسْتَكْبِي الْيَهُودُ عَلَيْهِ خَلَّ مِنَ الرِّبَاطِ وَأَمَرَ أَنْ يَخْضَرَ رُؤُسَاءُ الْكَهَنَةِ وَكُلُّ مَجْمَعِهِمْ فَأَخْضَرَ بُولُسَ وَأَقَامَهُ لَدَيْهِمْ.

that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?²⁶ When the centurion heard that, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman.²⁷ Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea.²⁸ And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born.²⁹ Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.³⁰ On the morrow, because he would have known the certainty wherefore he was accused of the Jews, he loosed him from his bands, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down, and set him before them.