

**Lesson Book:**

***Falsely Accused***

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## INTRODUCTION

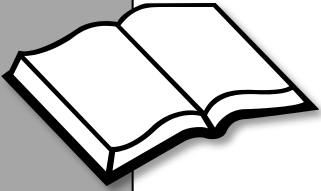
The purpose of this text is to aid the reader in a better understanding of various truths found in the Holy Scriptures and discovering for themselves how the Scriptures apply to their lives. It is the desire of this work that through this study of the Scriptures each learner will be brought closer in their relationship to their Creator as a result of these lessons.

Presented on the following pages is a series of one page lessons associated with the topic of “*Falsely Accused*”. Each lesson has been optimized to work best for use in a small group, but is also appropriate for individual review. In fact, if you plan to meet with others to work through this lesson book, it is highly recommend that you work through the lessons ahead of time to find answers in Scripture, as most lessons welcome discussion. When prompted for discussion, *opinions* should be heard and discussed, of course. However, a Scripture verse or passage should accompany discussions as the foundation for what the belief or opinion is based on. Study tools, such as a printed concordance or searchable Bible software to help you find the location of a Scripture that you may be having a hard time remembering, are encouraged for use with these lessons. Please remember always to study the Scriptures in context of the full passage to ensure that it properly accompanies the topic being discussed.

Concerning the source used for these lessons, please note that all Scripture quotations in this book are taken from the Modern King James Version of the Bible. The purpose in using this particular English translation is simply because of its wide acceptance and the fact that it is public domain in the United States, allowing the text to be freely quoted without copyright restriction. From the start, readers are encouraged to have his or her preferred translation of their Bible alongside for reference while reading along.

In addition, traditional Christian terms and names are *intentionally* used throughout this lesson book to reach a larger scope of readers and help those who may be beginners in this knowledge learn with ease. Occasionally, the need to employ the use of a Hebrew term or phrase may present itself for a clearer understanding of Scripture; when this occurs, the corresponding English meaning is always supplied.

# Paul was Falsely Accused



## **Scripture Highlights**

**Acts 21:27-29** And when the seven days were about to be completed, the Jews who were from Asia, having seen him in the temple, stirred up all the crowd and laid hands on him, crying out, Men, Israelites, help! This is the man who teaches all everywhere against the people and the Law and this place. And even he brought Greeks into the temple and has polluted this holy place. (For they had seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city before, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

**Acts 24:14** But I confess this to you, that after the Way which they call heresy, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things that are written in the Law and in the Prophets.

**17-18** And after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation. Among which certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, not with a crowd nor with tumult.

## **Hebraic Background**

The letters of Paul contain many verses that seemingly contradict The Law, known as The Torah, in Hebrew. That contradiction, however is entirely in the misunderstanding of Hebraic terms, idioms, culture, and the people to whom he addressed. This has caused many to turn away. Even Peter expressed how Paul's teachings to the Gentiles were being twisted. These were the Gentiles without the Hebraic background and understanding he was addressing. Please don't reject His Torah, His Law, by your false understanding of Grace.

**2 Peter 3:15-16** And think of the long-suffering of our Lord as salvation (as our beloved brother Paul also has written to you according to the wisdom given to him as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which the unlearned and unstable pervert, as also they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction).

## **Group Study and Discussion**

Please read Acts chapters 21-24. This passage of Scripture shows Paul teaching his disciples. He then arrives in Jerusalem and is confronted by some Jews who stir up the crowd in anger with false accusations based on a perception. They falsely accuse him of teaching everyone against The Law and he is arrested. See Acts 21:27-29 listed above.

The original false accusation dealt with bringing a man from Ephesus into the Temple, but it was actually four other men from Israel that were purified in the Temple with Paul (See Acts 21:23-24). They soon expand their anger to include his teaching everyone against The Law. Paul begs for an opportunity to speak. He begins with his history of persecuting the followers of Jesus then gives testimony of his conversion to "The Way". After his appeal to the Jews themselves, he is released, but subsequent evil plots begin all over again.

- 1) In Acts 24:14 listed above, Who is calling "The Way" heresy? Paul says he follows "The Way".
- 2) What does Paul say he believes about The Law and The Prophets?
- 3) In Acts 24:17-18, Why did Paul go to the Temple? Was he with a crowd causing a riot as they accuse him? He did indeed take four men from Jerusalem with him who were also followers of "The Way", but their false accusations are with a man from Ephesus (located in present day Turkey). Gentiles are not allowed into the Temple.

# Jesus was Falsely Accused

## Scripture Highlights

**Matthew 26:59-60** And the chief priests and the elders and all the Sanhedrin sought false witness against Jesus, in order to put Him to death. But they found none; yea, though many false witnesses came, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came up

**Psalms 119:142** Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your Law is the truth.

**Malachi 2:6** The Law of Truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips. He walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and turned away many from iniquity.

**2 Timothy 2:15** Study earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

**John 5:44-47** How can you believe, you who receive honor from one another and do not seek the honor that comes from God only? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you, Moses, in whom you trust. For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed Me, for he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how shall you believe My Words?

## Review

We have just seen Paul say “I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things that are written in the Law and in the Prophets.” Does this sound like Paul is saying the Law is done away with or has been replaced simply with a “Law of Love?” The confusion comes from a misunderstanding of what Paul is speaking of and to whom he speaks. The Law is known as The Torah in Hebrew. A more proper translation of Law is the word: Instructions. The Torah is His Instructions in righteousness. **Matthew 5:19** Therefore whoever shall relax one of these commandments, the least, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven. But whoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven. **Mark 7:13** making the Word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have delivered. And you do many such things.

## Group Discussion

We will now take a look at the false accusations against Jesus

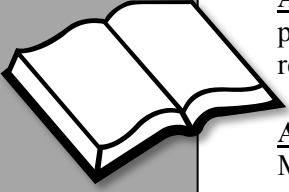
- 1) What does Matthew 26:59-60 tell us? Does there appear to be a personal or political motivation to accuse Jesus and have Him put to death? Read this full passage in Matthew 26:57-68.

Exerting control over people is nothing new. It is important to point out that attacks against Jesus, Paul, and all the disciples are not coming from all of the Jews, but only a segment of them. That point is frequently misunderstood as “The Jews killed Jesus”. This is not true.

- 2) In Psalms 119:142, what does it say about “Your Law”?  
Then in Malachi 2:6, we see a prophecy of Jesus. What does it say?  
Do we see this “Law of Truth” in Jesus’ mouth? According to those who wanted him put to death, he spoke blasphemy. Did Jesus speak blasphemy or did they falsely accuse Him? Refer back to Matthew 26:57-68.
- 3) You just read that God’s Law is the truth and this “Law of Truth” is in Jesus’ mouth. Now read the passage from John 5:44-47. Here we see Jesus say if you do not believe Moses’ writings, you won’t believe My words. Do you see the connection? Here it is: We see God’s Law (Instructions) is The Truth. This Law of Truth or “These Instructions of Truth” are in Jesus’ mouth. Now, Jesus speaks of The Torah of Moses and says if you can’t or won’t accept those words of Moses (which were spoken by God, The Father, for Moses to record as “The Law” or “The Torah”), then how can you say you believe what He (Jesus) speaks? What does 2 Timothy 2:15 tell you to do?

# Stephen was Falsely Accused

## Scripture Highlights



**Acts 6:8-10** And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. Then there arose certain of the synagogue...disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

**Acts 6:11-15** And they induced men to be saying, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God. And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes. And coming on, they seized him and brought him to the Sanhedrin. And they set up false witnesses, who said, This man does not cease speaking blasphemous words against this holy place and the Law. For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered to us. And looking intently at him, all those sitting in the Sanhedrin saw his face as if it were the face of an angel.

**1Peter 3:16** having a good conscience, that while they speak against you as evildoers they may be shamed, those falsely accusing your good behavior in Christ.

## Forwarding Thoughts

Stephen is the first follower of Jesus who was martyred for his faith. We see the exact same persecution come upon Stephen as Jesus and Paul encountered. You can read more about Stephen in Acts chapters 6-8.

**Matthew 5:10** Blessed are they who have been persecuted for righteousness sake! For theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

We also see in this next verse, the death of Stephen prompted many of the followers of Jesus to flee to other nations:

**Acts 11:19** Then, indeed, they who were scattered abroad by the persecution that rose about Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, preaching the Word to no one except the Jews.

It was Paul who persecuted and ordered the death of Stephen. He then had a personal encounter from Jesus himself and this resulted in a great transformation. He began preaching "The Way" and worked with the other original 12 disciples.

**Acts 22:20** And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was poured out, I also was standing by and consenting to his death, and holding the garments of those who killed him.

**Acts 22:7-15** And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me? And I answered, Who are you, lord? And he said to me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute. And they who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid. But they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me. And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Arise and go into Damascus. And there it shall be told you all things which are appointed for you to do. ... The God of our fathers has chosen you to know His will and to see the Just One, and to hear a voice out of His mouth. For you shall be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.

The disciples were sent to "The Lost Sheep of the House of Israel" as was Jesus himself. See Matthew 10:6 and Matthew 15:24. These are the 10 tribes of the Northern Kingdom. NOT the Gentiles. Paul, however, was sent to "all men" as we see in this prior verse.

People will come against you for following Jesus, our Messiah. You will be falsely accused just as Jesus, Paul, Stephen, the original disciples, and all the others who chose to follow after The Truth. Look up!

**Matthew 7:13** Go in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many there are who go in through it.