

## **THE GREAT ESCAPES**

**Acts 22:22-23:1-31**

**The sovereignty of God** – how He directs, sustains and protects the church as well as the individual believer.

### **1<sup>st</sup> RESCUE: OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE (21:27-40)**

- The Asian Jews saw Paul inside the Temple.
- They accused him of blasphemy and defiling the temple.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> RESCUE: FROM FLOGGING (22:22-29)**

- Paul was taken up into the Roman Barracks (The Antonia Fortress) where he was to be flogged.
- Paul questioned a centurion standing by if it was lawful for a Roman citizen to be flogged “uncondemned”?
- He used his citizenship as a means to escape the illegal flogging.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> RESCUE: BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN 22:30-23:11**

- The high priest commanded a soldier to smite Paul.
- Paul predicted that God would smite him. (V.3)
- The Sadducees and the Pharisees begin to squabble.

### **4<sup>th</sup> RESCUE: FROM A PLOT TO KILL HIM (23:12-22)**

- 40 men took an oath not to eat or drink until Paul was dead! (V.12)  
They planned to assassinate him.
- Paul was delivered once again.

### **CLOSE: WHAT CAN WE MAKE OF ALL THIS?**

God is in control! Ps 31:15, Lu 4:30

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## HOME BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why was Paul accused of blasphemy? And why did they want to kill him? (21:27-31)
2. Read 22:22-23. What did these gestures signify?
3. Why did the Jews become enraged in 22:22?
4. Why was Paul being flogged and describe the severity of this flogging or “flagellum”. (How different was this from being beaten with rods?)
5. Had Paul been legally tried in any of these instances? What privilege did a Roman citizen enjoy over a non-citizen? What was the difference between the commander’s citizenship and Paul’s?
6. Why did the high priest command a soldier to smite Paul? Was this lawful? Why did Paul respond the way he did? Was he apologizing for what he said to the high priest? (v30-5)
7. How did the Sadducees and the Pharisees differ in their beliefs? Why did the Pharisees become more sympathetic to Paul?
8. How did the Jews plot to kill Paul?
9. How was Paul saved from this plot?
10. What does all of this teach us? Who is in control of our lives? John 19:11, Job 23:12-14, Job 14:4

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