

# Acts.

**\$2.5-3 BILLION**

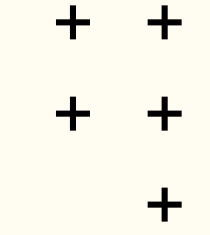
**\$4 BILLION on beer and wine**

**Estimated 68,000,000 cases of beer**



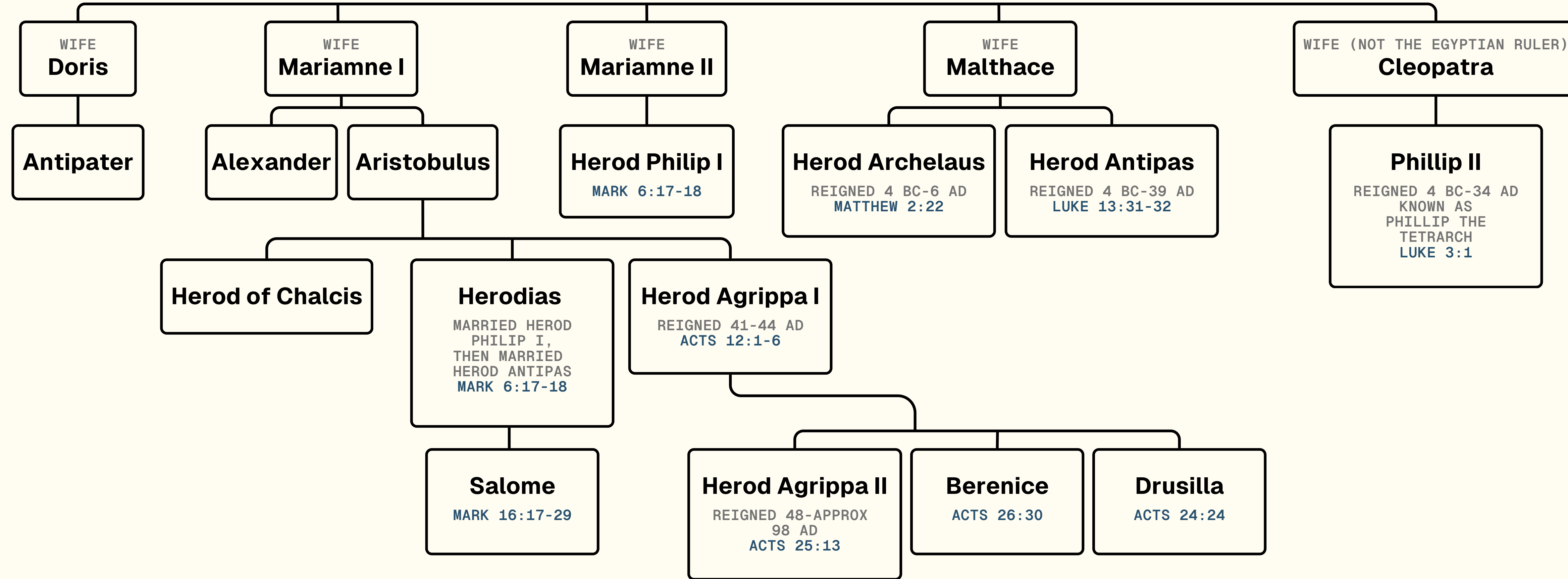
Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I would like to hear this man myself.” He replied, “Tomorrow you will hear him.”

ACTS 25:22 NIV



# Herod the Great

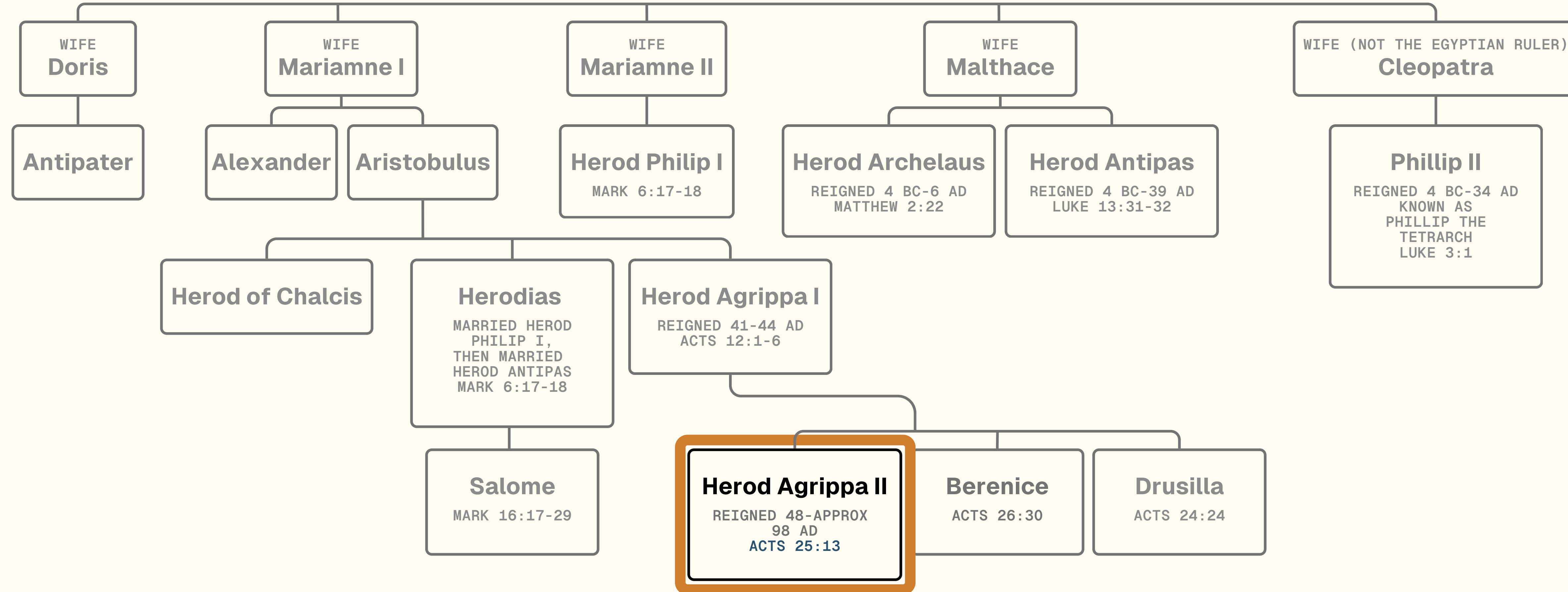
REIGNED 37 BC, MATTHEW 2



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# Herod the Great

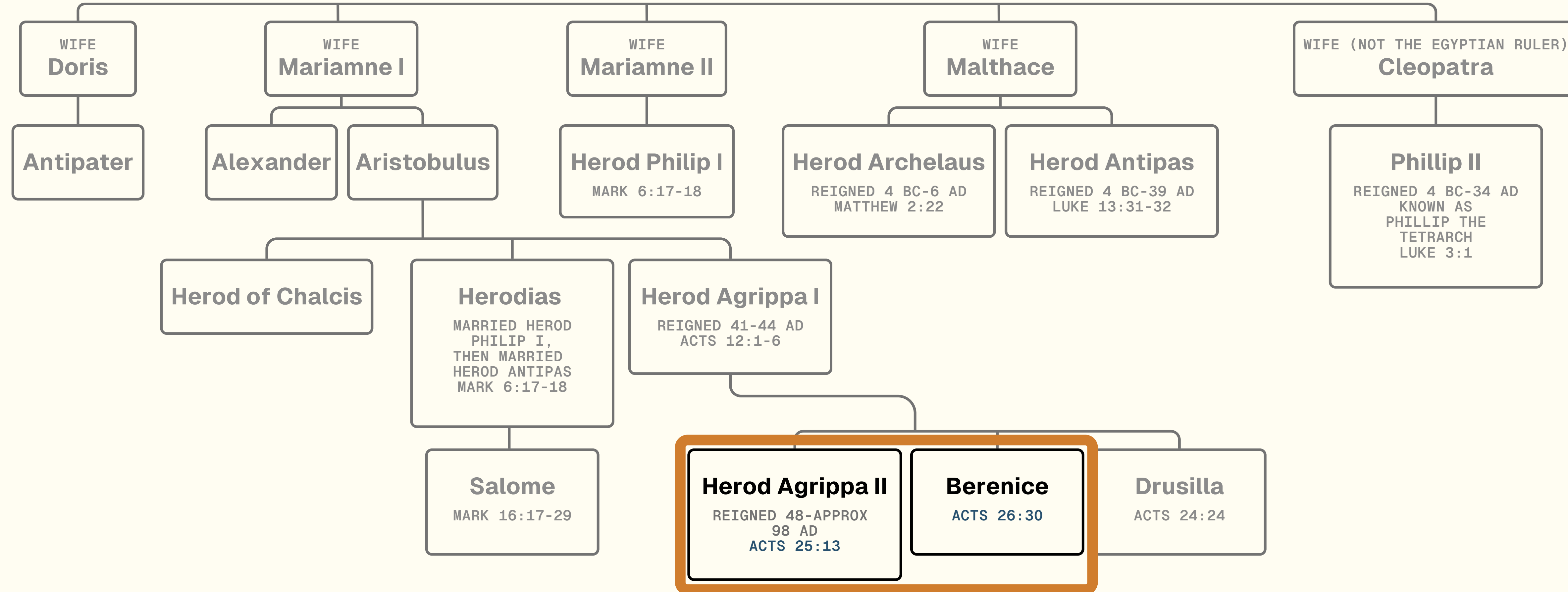
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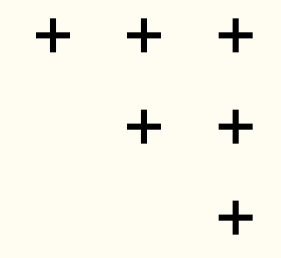
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# Herod the Great

REIGNED 37 BC, MATTHEW 2



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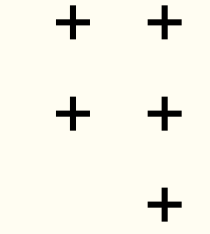
Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I would like to hear this man myself.” He replied, “Tomorrow you will hear him.”

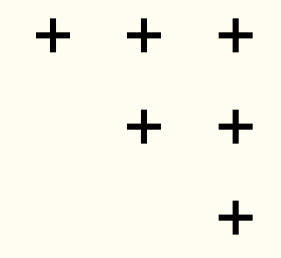
ACTS 25:22 NIV



The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with **great pomp** and entered the audience room with the high-ranking military officers and the prominent men of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.

ACTS 25:23 NIV





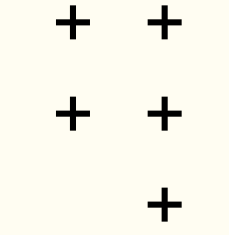
“But I have nothing definite to write to His Majesty about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that as a result of this investigation I may have something to write. <sup>27</sup> For I think it is unreasonable to send a prisoner on to Rome without specifying the charges against him.”

ACTS 25:26-27 NIV



So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense...

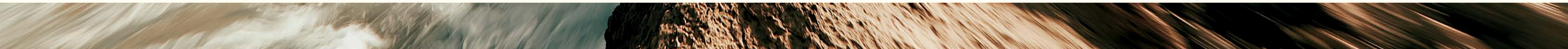
ACTS 26:1b NIV

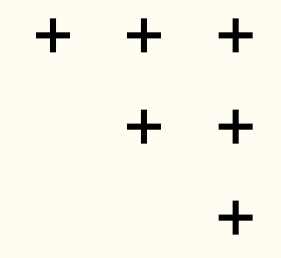


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# Courage Before Kings

+ ACTS 25:23-26:32





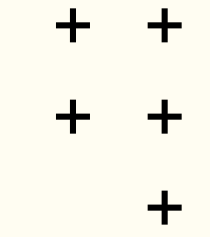
“I found he had done nothing deserving of death, but because he made his appeal to the Emperor I decided to send him to Rome.”

ACTS 25:25 NIV



“... ‘I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and **a place** among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’”

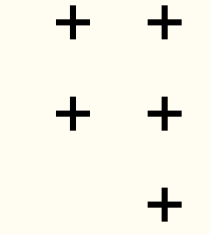
ACTS 26:17b-18 NIV

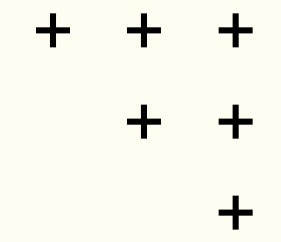




But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ...

PHILIPPIANS 3:20 NIV





But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ...

PHILIPPIANS 3:20 NIV

+ JEREMIAH 29:1-11



# **Being Present in a Nation:**

As Citizens

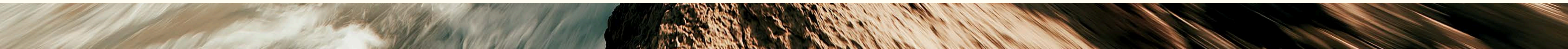
As Tourists

As Exiles (or Resident Aliens)

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# Courage Before Kings

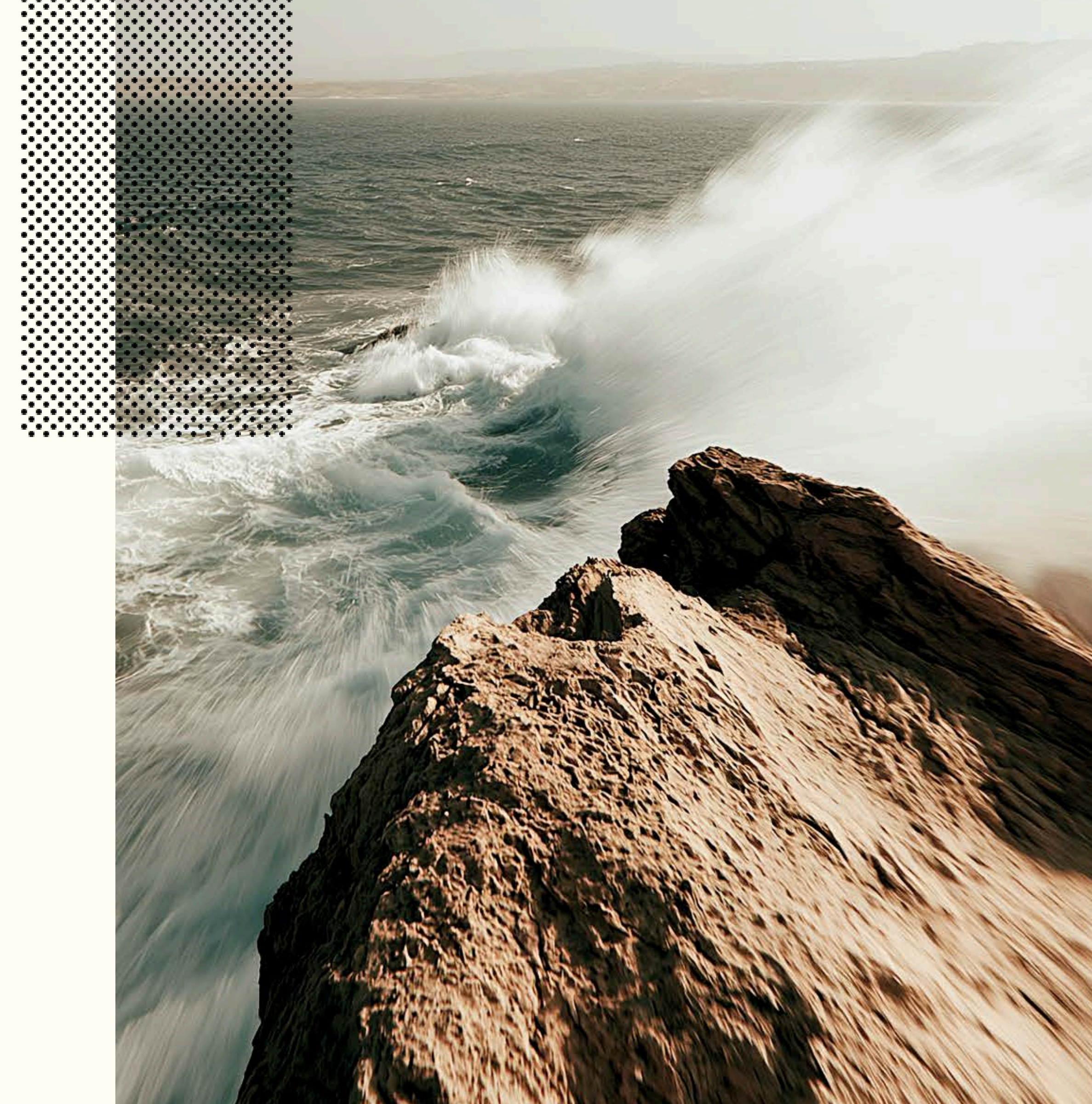
We appreciate our country  
but don't give it our ultimate allegiance.

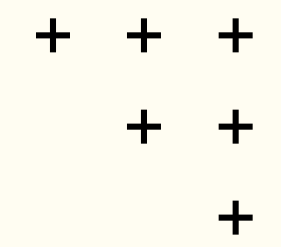


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The best way to serve both God and country is to remember which is which.

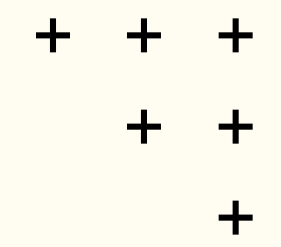
- RUSSELL MOORE





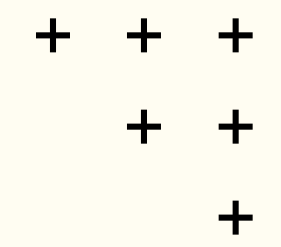
So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense: <sup>2</sup> “King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I **make my defense** against all the accusations of the Jews...”

ACTS 26:1b-2 NIV



So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense: <sup>2</sup> “King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews, <sup>3</sup> and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently.”

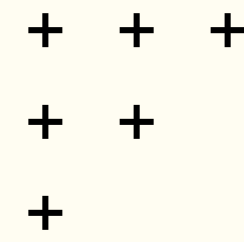
**ACTS 26:1b-3 NIV**



At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

<sup>25</sup> "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable."

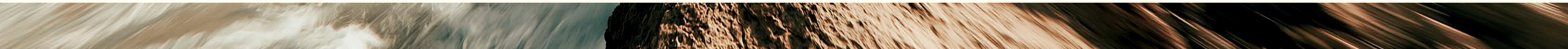
ACTS 26:24-25 NIV

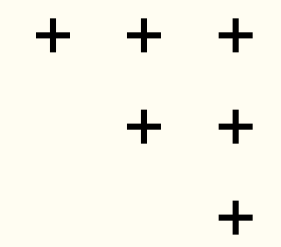


# Courage Before Kings

We appreciate our country  
but don't give it our ultimate allegiance.

We defend the truth  
but are not defensive.





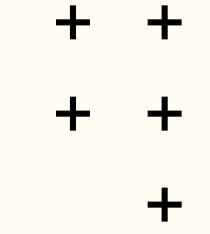
“...I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen—<sup>23</sup> that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

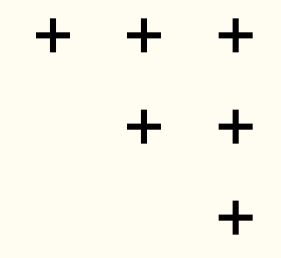
ACTS 26:22b-23 NIV



At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

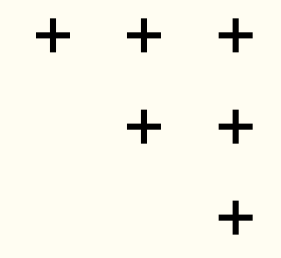
ACTS 26:24 NIV





Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

ACTS 26:28 NIV



Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

<sup>29</sup> Paul replied, “Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.”

**ACTS 26:28-29 NIV**

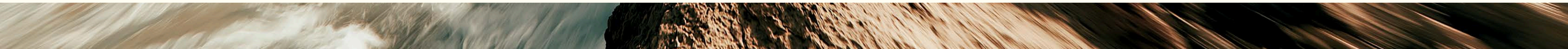
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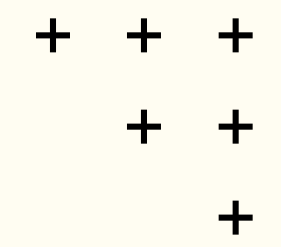
# Courage Before Kings

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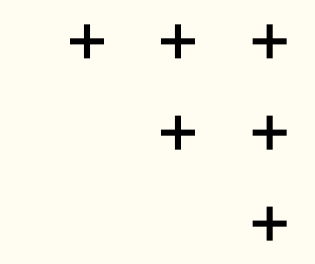
We expect people to think we're weird  
but expect Jesus to keep changing lives.





“And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. <sup>7</sup> This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that these Jews are accusing me.”

ACTS 26:6-7 NIV



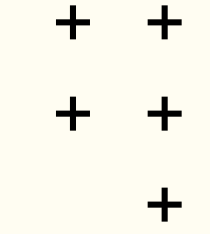
“And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. <sup>7</sup> This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that these Jews are accusing me. <sup>8</sup> **Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead? ”**

ACTS 26:6-8 NIV



“I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth.<sup>10</sup> And that is just what I did in Jerusalem.”

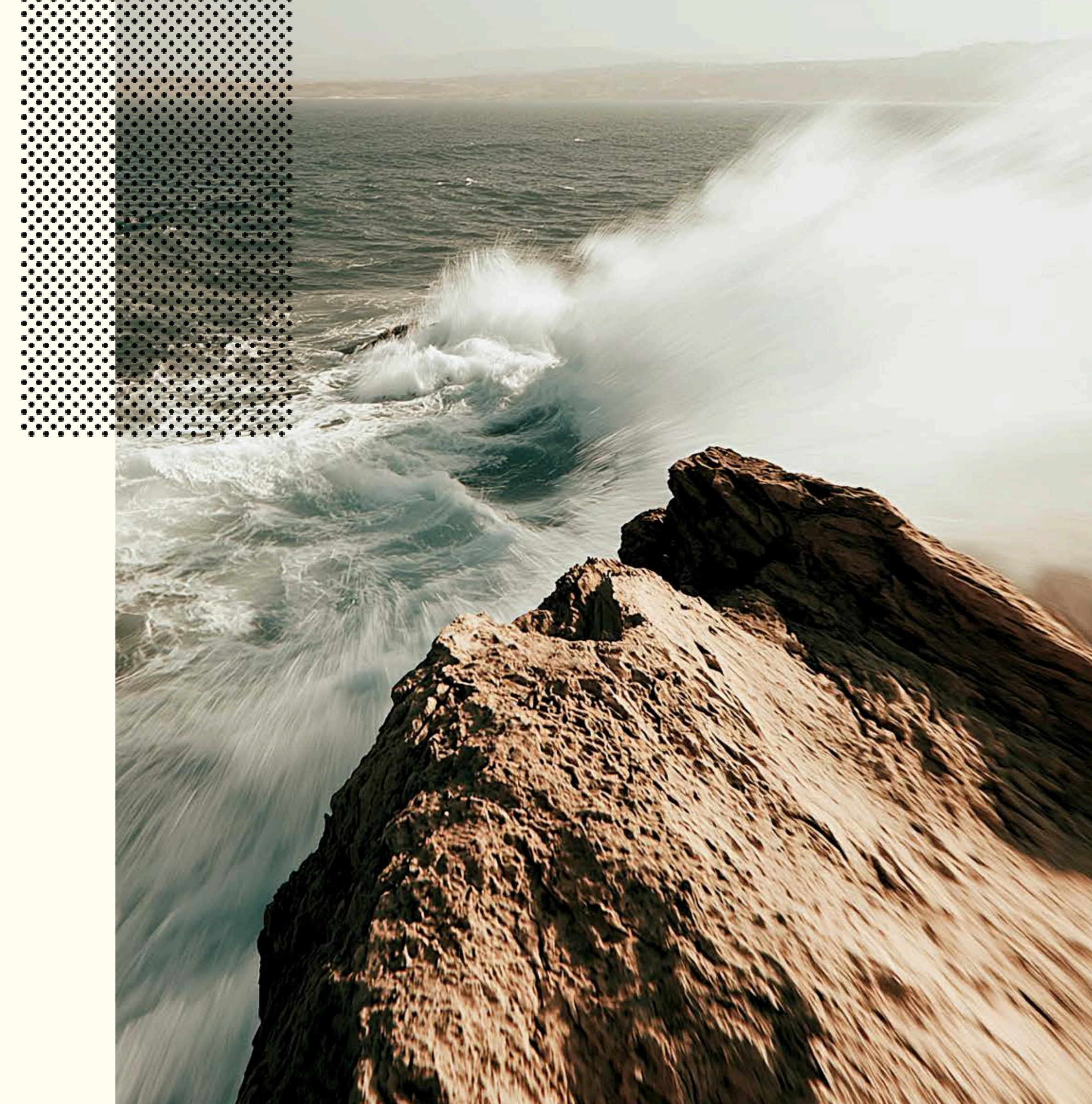
ACTS 26:9-10a NIV

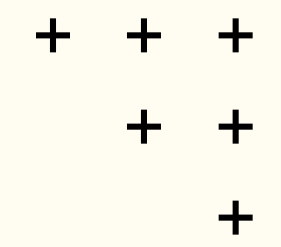


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The early Christians did not invent the story of the empty tomb and the meetings or sightings of the risen Jesus... Nobody was expecting this kind of thing; no kind of conversion experience would have invented it, no matter how guilty (or forgiven) they felt, no matter how many hours they poured over the Scriptures. To suggest otherwise is to stop doing history and enter into a fantasy world of our own.

- N.T. WRIGHT, THE RESURRECTION OF THE SON OF GOD



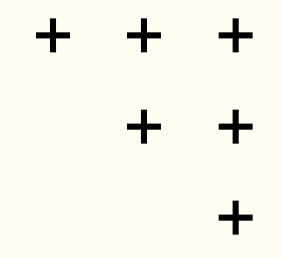


“We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

<sup>15</sup> “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

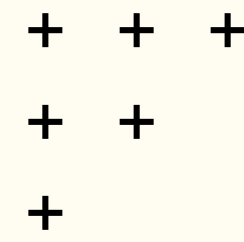
“‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. <sup>16</sup> ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you...’”

ACTS 26:14-16a NIV



“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”

**1 PETER 3:15 NIV**



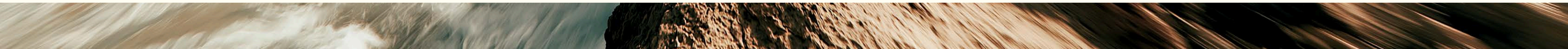
# Courage Before Kings

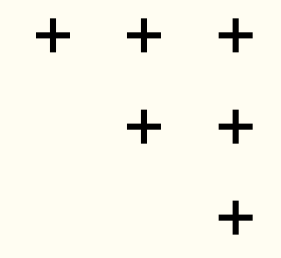
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We defend the truth  
but are not defensive.

We expect people to think we're weird  
but expect Jesus to keep changing lives.

**We not only know what we believe  
but we can demonstrate it in word and in deed.**

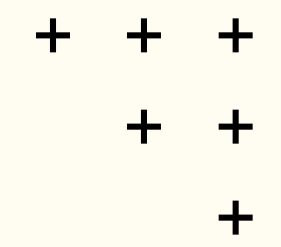




“Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. <sup>16</sup> ‘Now get up and stand on your feet.’”

**ACTS 26:15-16a NIV**



‘I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup> to **open** their eyes and **turn** them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may **receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

ACTS 26:17-18 NIV

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The gospel of Jesus points us and indeed urges us to be at the leading edge of the whole culture... in story and music and art and philosophy and education and poetry and politics and theology... leading the way with joy and humor and gentleness and good judgment and true wisdom. I believe if we face the question, "if not now, then when?" and if we are grasped by this vision, then we may also hear the question, "if not us, then who?" And if the gospel of Jesus is not the key to this task, then what is?

- N.T. WRIGHT, THE CHALLENGE OF JESUS

