

The background consists of several concentric circles in shades of blue, creating a tunnel-like effect that draws the eye towards the center. The circles are centered on the text.

the book of
ACTS

The account of the growth of the Church



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The account of the growth of the Church

Chapter 22- Paul is taken by Roman soldiers in order to protect him from the mob in Jerusalem who are seeking to kill him.

Chapter 23- Paul speaks for the Jewish High Council, again the Roman soldiers must rescue Him. The Roman authorities learn there is a plot to kill Paul so they take him to Caesarea Marittima where the Roman Governor Felix will hear his case.

Caesarea Maritima

Jerusalem



Chapter 24- Paul appears before Governor Felix, who puts off deciding the case for two years because Felix wanted to curry favor with the Jewish authorities. Festus replaces Felix as governor of Judea.

Chapter 25- Governor Festus wishing to please the Jewish authorities asks Paul if he will be willing to be tried in Jerusalem. Paul says no and based upon his rights as a Roman citizen appeals to Caesar to hear his case. But before going to Rome, Festus must write a reason for his trial before Caesar. When King Agrippa II, Rome's client King over the area outside of Judea pays a visit to Festus, he invites Agrippa to hear Paul's defense in order that he might gain insight on how to write Caesar.

ACTS 25:9

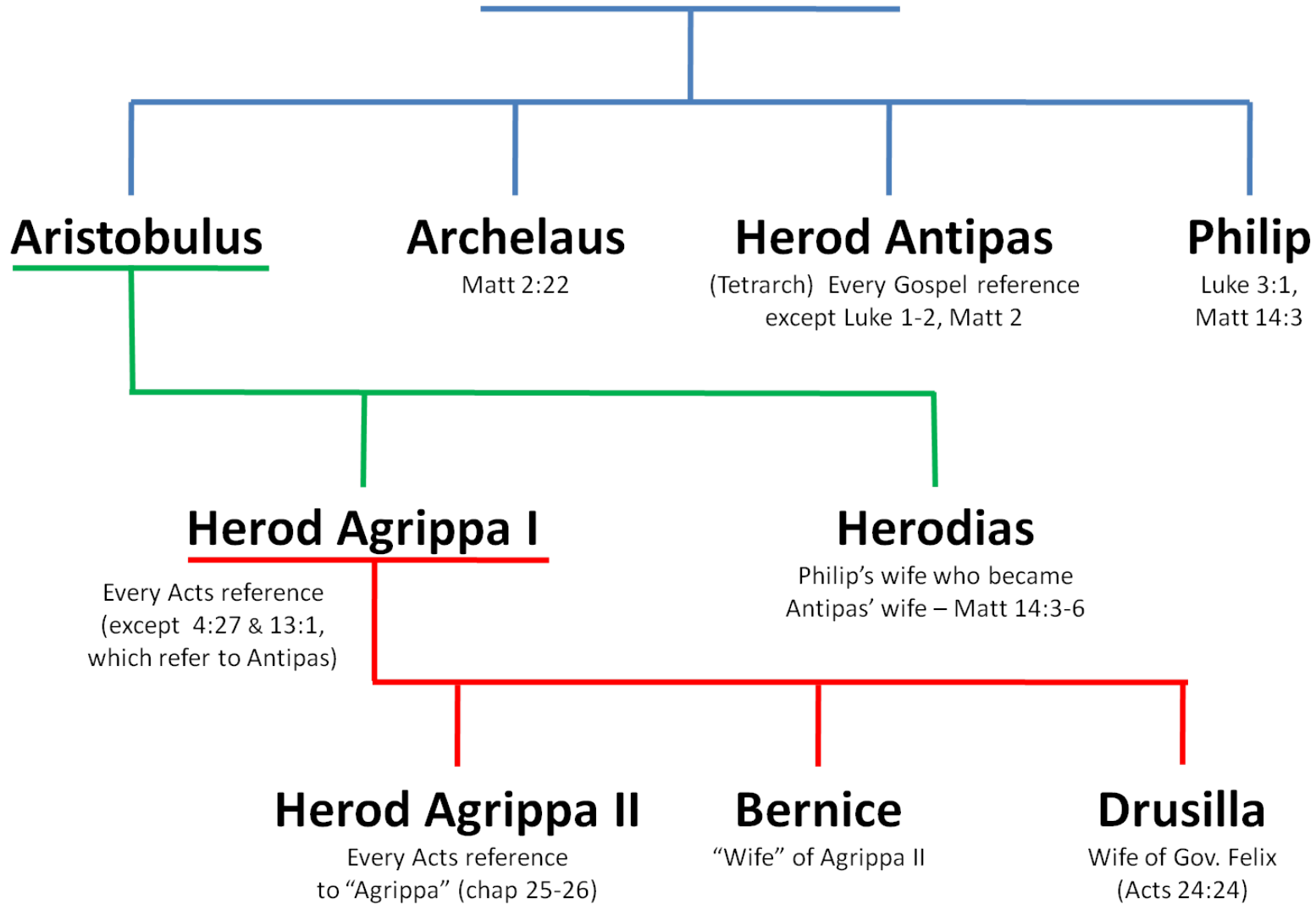
⁹ “Very well! You have appealed to Caesar, and to Caesar you will go!”

ACTS 25:26

26“But what shall I write the emperor? For there is no clear charge against him. So I have brought him before all of you, and especially you, King Agrippa, so that after we examine him, I might have something to write.

Herod the Great

Luke 1-2, Matt 2



*Chapter 26- Agrippa said to Paul,
"You may speak in your defense." Acts 26:1*

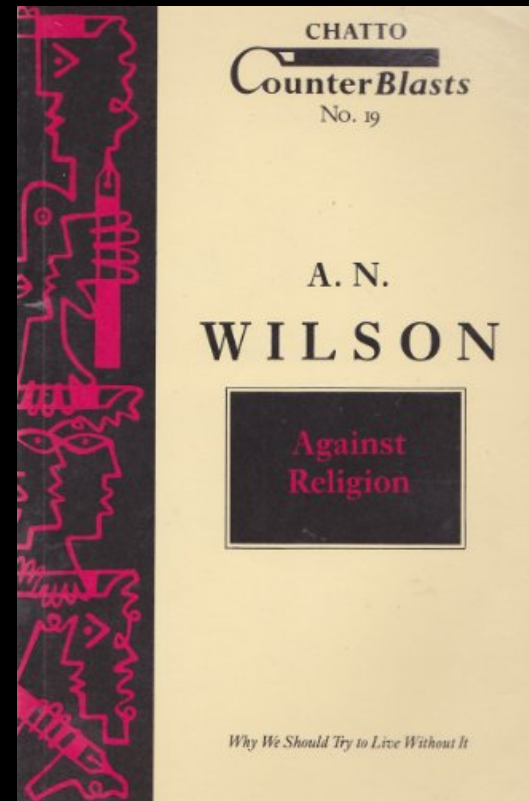
Acts 26:2-21 Paul details his journey from Pharisee to Christ follower and how Jesus appeared to him while traveling to Damascus to arrest Christians, but instead converted and followed Christ call for his life.

ACTS 26:28,29

²⁸ Agrippa interrupted him. “Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly? ²⁹Paul replied, “Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains.”



A.N. Wilson



Long reads | 2 April 2009 | updated 27 Sep 2015 2:57am

A N Wilson: Why I believe again

A N Wilson writes on how his conversion to atheism may have been similar to a road to Damascus experience but his return to faith has been slow and doubting.



By A N Wilson



"(Religious conversion) was not a matter of argument alone. It involves the whole person. Therefore I was drawn, over and over again, to the disconcerting recognition that so very many of the people I had most admired and loved, either in life or in books, had been believers."



A.N. Wilson

"My faith that there is no God forces me to actually say things about humanity that I know deep in my heart aren't true."



A.N. Wilson



"But one thing that finally put the tin hat on any aspirations to be an unbeliever was writing a book about the Wagner family and Nazi Germany, and realizing how utterly incoherent were Hitler's neo-Darwinian ravings, and how potent was the opposition, much of it from Christians; paid for, not with clear intellectual victory, but in blood."



A.N. Wilson

"Read Pastor Bonheoffer's book 'Ethics', and ask yourself what sort of mad world is created by those who think that ethics are a purely human construct, and then contrast that with Bonheoffer's serenity before he was hanged, even though he was in love and had everything to look forward to."



A.N. Wilson



I. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE RATIONALLY

²⁰First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea,
and then to the Gentiles, ...

Acts 26:20

I. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE RATIONALLY

22 I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen — **23** that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God's light to Jews and Gentiles alike."

Acts 26:23

I. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE RATIONALLY

²⁴ You've gone crazy, Paul! You've read one book too many and have gone insane!

Acts 26:24

I. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE RATIONALLY

25"With all respect, Festus, Your Honor, I'm not crazy. I'm both accurate and sane in what I'm saying. **Acts 26:25**

I. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE RATIONALLY

²⁶The king understands what I'm talking about, which is why I could speak so freely to him. None of these things have been covered up and hidden away in a corner, so I'm sure none of these things have escaped his notice. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do—” **Acts 26:26,27**



I. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE RATIONALLY

28 Paul, have you so quickly moved on from defending yourself to trying to persuade me to become a Christian? **Acts 26:28**

I. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE RATIONALLY

29 Paul replied, “Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains.”

Acts 26:29

I. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE RATIONALLY

³⁰Then the king, the governor, Bernice, and all the others stood and left.³¹ As they went out, they talked it over and agreed, “This man hasn’t done anything to deserve death or imprisonment.”

³² And Agrippa said to Festus, “He could have been set free if he hadn’t appealed to Caesar.”

Acts 26:30–32

I. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE RATIONALLY

15 “And the Lord replied, . . . **16** I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. Tell people that you have seen me, and tell them what I will show you in the future. **Acts 26:15,16**

II. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE EMOTIONALLY

14 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? You are hurting yourself by kicking against the goads.'

Acts 26:14

II. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE EMOTIONALLY

21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. **22** I love God's law with all my heart.

23 But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. **Romans 7:21–23**

II. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE EMOTIONALLY

Paul in **Romans 7:21-23** came to understand in his personal battle for righteousness through obedience to the law of Moses, that it wasn't working, but he didn't know it until Jesus revealed his grace to him.

II. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE EMOTIONALLY

You won't be able to actually resolve this tension of what you really are versus what you want others to see you are until you have this encounter with the risen Christ, as well.

II. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE EMOTIONALLY

What you really are is a lost sinner in every way.

What you want others to see you are?

Is some facsimile of self-righteousness.



II. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE EMOTIONALLY

⁴Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe.

2 Corinthians 4:4

II. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE EMOTIONALLY

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. **John 14:6**

III. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE BIBLICALLY

22 I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen
— **23** that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead,
and in this way announce God's light to Jews and Gentiles alike."

Acts 26:22,23

III. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE BIBLICALLY

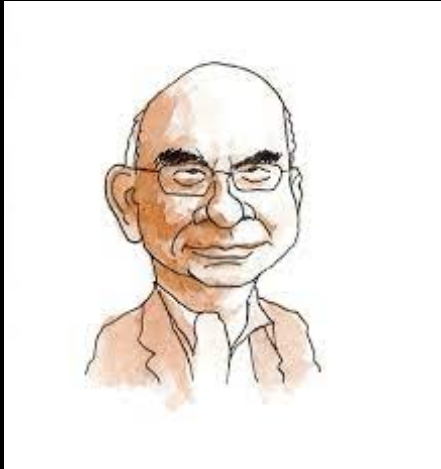
²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do——” vs 27

III. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE BIBLICALLY

27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do——” **vs 27**

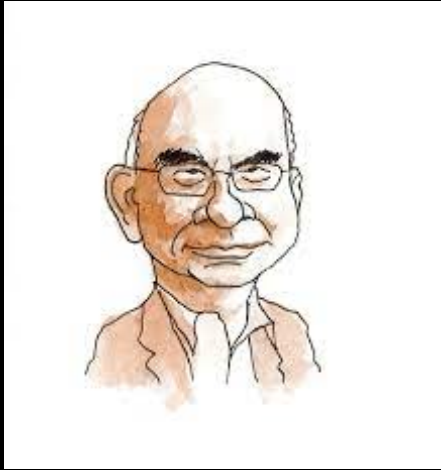
the prophets? That's a rational appeal.

I know you do? That's an emotional appeal.



Tim Keller :

“On one hand you marvel at this incredible life of Jesus, but on the other hand you’re moved to think, wow, nobody could have ever thought this up, this is amazing.”



Tim Keller :

“I challenge you to read any of the gospels in their entirety, and then give me an account what kind of person could have said these things, done these things, other than He is who He said he is.”

III. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE BIBLICALLY

12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Hebrews 4:12

III. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE BIBLICALLY

17 For Yes, I am (Jesus) sending you to the Gentiles **18** to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.' **Acts 26:17,18**

III. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE BIBLICALLY

² I go to prepare a place for you, ³ and I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:2,3

III. PAUL'S ARGUMENT MAKES SENSE BIBLICALLY

⁵⁸ The foxes have holes the birds have nests, but the Son of Man has
NO PLACE to lay his head. Luke 9:58



The background of the slide features a series of concentric circles in various shades of blue, creating a sense of depth and movement. The circles are centered and overlap, with the innermost circle being the lightest shade and the outermost being the darkest.

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The account of the growth of the Church