

~BERNICE (167)

(Ber-ni'ce) [from a root meaning conquer]

- Daughter of Herod Agrippa I by his wife Cypros, born about 28 C.E, sister of Drusilla and Herod Agrippa II. Bernice and her brother Agrippa visited Governor Festus at Caesarea in 58 C.E, where the two of them, at the invitation of Festus, came with much pompous show and entered into the audience chamber together with military commanders as well as men of eminence in the city.
- The prisoner Paul was then brought in and allowed to make his powerful and eloquent defense before all these dignitaries.
- Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived in Caesarea for a visit of courtesy to Festus. (Acts of Apostles 25:13)
- Therefore, on the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with much pompous show and entered into the audience chamber together with military commanders as well as men of eminence in the city, and when Festus gave the command, Paul was brought in. (Acts of Apostles 25:23)
- Agrippa said to Paul; You are permitted to speak in behalf of yourself. Then Paul stretched his hand out and proceeded to say in his defense. (Acts of Apostles 26:1)
- Concerning all the things of which I am accused by Jews, King Agrippa, I count myself happy that it is before you I am to make my defense this day. (Acts of Apostles 26:2)
- Especially as you are expert on all the customs as well as the controversies among Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently. (Acts of Apostles 26:3)
- Indeed, as to the manner of life from youth up that I led from the beginning among my nation and in Jerusalem, all the Jews (Acts of Apostles 26:4)
- That have been previously acquainted with me from the first know, if they but wish to bear witness, that according to the strictest sect of our form of worship I lived a Pharisee. (Acts of

Apostles 26:5)

- **And yet now for the hope of the promise that was made by God to our forefathers I stand called to judgment. ([Acts of Apostles 26:6](#))**
- **Whereas our twelve tribes are hoping to attain to the fulfillment of this promise by intensely rendering him sacred service night and day. Concerning this hope I am accused by Jews, O king. ([Acts of Apostles 26:7](#))**
- **Why is it judged unbelievable among you men that God raises up the dead? ([Acts of Apostles 26:8](#))**
- **I, for one, really thought within myself I ought to commit many acts of opposition against the name of Jesus the Nazarene. ([Acts of Apostles 26:9](#))**
- **Which, in fact, I did in Jerusalem, and many of the holy one's I locked up in prisons, as I had received authority from the chief priests, and when they were to be executed, I cast my vote against them. ([Acts of Apostles 26:10](#))**
- **And by punishing them many times in all the synagogues I tried to force them to make a recantation, and since I was extremely mad against them, I went so far as to persecuting them even in outside cities. ([Acts of Apostles 26:11](#))**
- **Amid these efforts as I was journeying to Damascus with authority and a commission from the chief priests. ([Acts of Apostles 26:12](#))**
- **I saw at midday on the road, O king, a light beyond the brilliance of the sun flash from heaven about me and about those journeying with me. ([Acts of Apostles 26:13](#))**
- **And when we had all fallen to the ground I heard a voice say to me in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? To keep kicking against the goads makes it hard for you. ([Acts of Apostles 26:14](#))**
- **But I said; Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said; I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ([Acts of Apostles 26:15](#))**

- Nevertheless, rise and stand on your feet. For to this end I have made myself visible to you, in order to choose you as an attendant and a witness both of things you have seen and things I shall make you see respecting me. ([Acts of Apostles 26:16](#))
- While I deliver you from this people and from the nations, to whom I am sending you. ([Acts of Apostles 26:17](#))
- To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, in order for them to receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by their faith in me. ([Acts of Apostles 26:18](#))
- Wherefore, King Agrippa, I did not become disobedient to the heavenly sight. ([Acts of Apostles 26:19](#))
- But both to those in Damascus first and to those in Jerusalem, and over all the country of Judea, and to the nations I went bringing the message that they should repent and turn to God by doing works that befit repentance. ([Acts of Apostles 26:20](#))
- On account of these things Jews seized me in the temple and attempted to slay me. ([Acts of Apostles 26:21](#))
- However, because I have obtained the help that is from God I continue to this day bearing witness to both small and great, but saying nothing except things the Prophets as well as Moses stated were going to take place. ([Acts of Apostles 26:22](#))
- That the Christ was to suffer and, as the first to be resurrected from the dead, he was going to publish light both to this people and to the nations. ([Acts of Apostles 26:23](#))
- Now as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice; You are going mad, Paul! Great learning is driving you into madness! ([Acts of Apostles 26:24](#))
- But Paul said; I am not going mad, Your Excellency Festus, but I am uttering sayings of truth and of soundness of mind. ([Acts of Apostles 26:25](#))
- In reality, the king to whom I am speaking with freeness of speech well knows about these things, for I am persuaded that not one of these things escapes his notice, for this thing has not

been done in a corner. (**Acts of Apostles 26:26**)

- Do you, King Agrippa, believe the Prophets? I know you believe. (**Acts of Apostles 26:27**)
- But Agrippa said to Paul; In a short time you would persuade me to become a Christian. (**Acts of Apostles 26:28**)
- At this Paul said; I could wish to God that whether in a short time or in a long time not only you but also all those who hear me today would become men such as I also am, with the exception of these bonds. (**Acts of Apostles 26:29**)
- And the king rose and so did the governor and **Bernice** and the men seated with them. (**Acts of Apostles 26:30**)

See Also HEROD 4

- Secular history tells of the immoral life of this shameless woman. She was married first to Marcus, son of Alexander Lysimachus. After the death of Marcus she married her uncle Herod, king of Chalcis. By him she had two boys before he died in **48 C.E.**
- She then incestuously lived with her brother until public scandal pressured her into marrying Polemo the king of Cilicia. Soon, however, she deserted him and again became her brothers consort, and it was during this time that she and Agrippa visited Caesarea.
- Though **Bernice** attempted to defend the Jews in **66 C.E.**, she did not hesitate to take an oath of allegiance to the Roman emperor Vespasian. She later became the mistress of Vespasian's son Titus.