



# REPENTANCE IS NEVER CONVENIENT

Acts 24

# THEOPHILUS NEEDS TO KNOW:

- If Jesus is the Messiah promised in the Scriptures why did the Jews reject Him?
- If Jesus is the Messiah of the Old Testament what does that have to do with me as a Gentile?
- If Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God why do I hear all these bad things about His followers?

## BACKGROUND EVENTS: (21 – 23)

1. Paul has returned to Jerusalem to help needy saints (Rom.15:25-26; Acts 24:17).
2. In an effort to accommodate brethren and correct misconceptions, Paul, upon ceremonially purifying himself, made offerings in the temple (21:17-27; 24:17).
3. Asian Jews assaulted and attempted to murder Paul (21:31; 24:18-19).

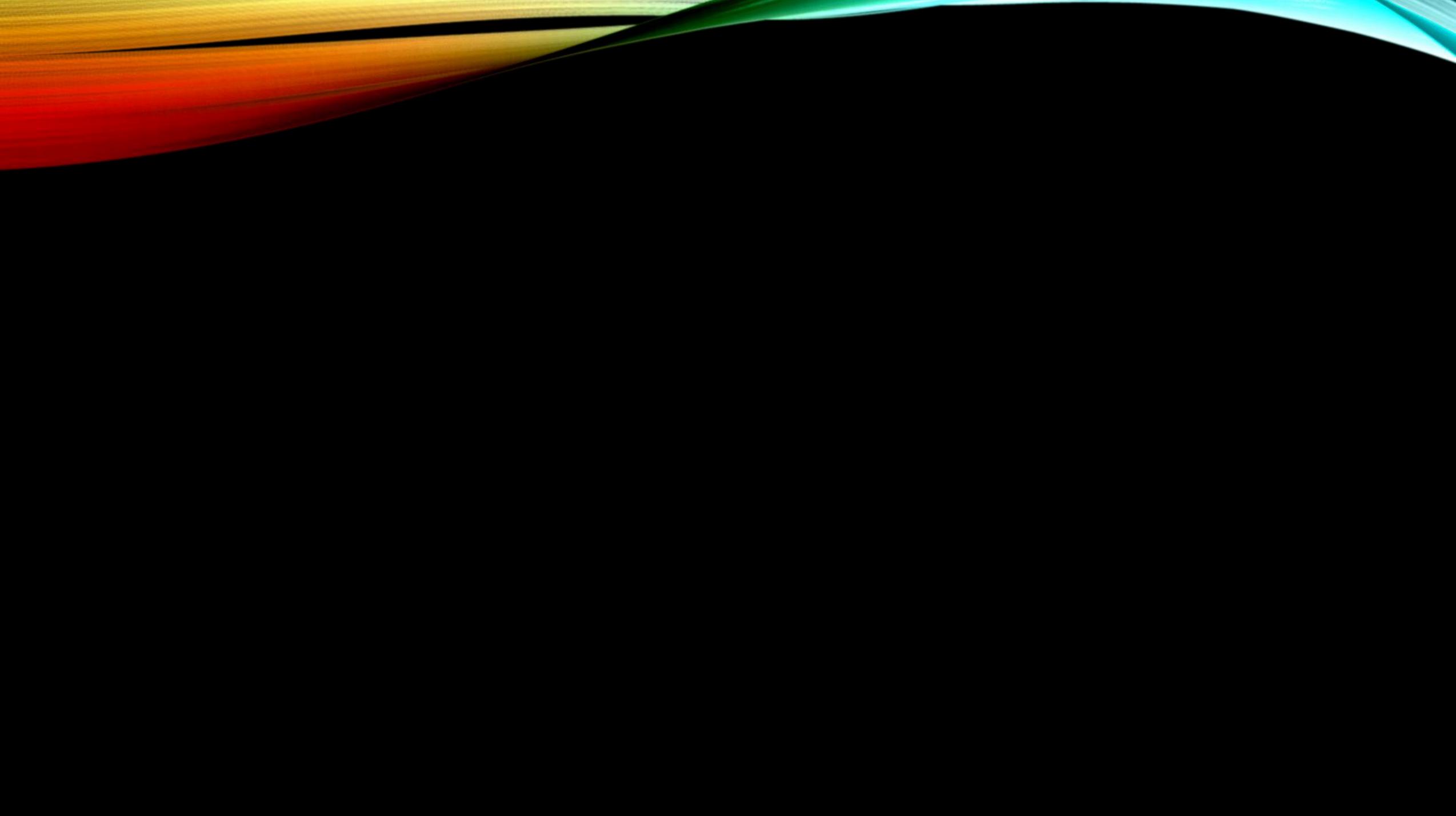
## BACKGROUND EVENTS: (21 – 23)

4. Romans intervene (21:32ff.)
5. Paul appears before the Sanhedrin Council - controversy over resurrection (23:1-11)
6. Jewish conspiracy to kill Paul is thwarted by Claudius Lysias, (commander of the fortress Antonia in Jerusalem) by sending him to Felix in Caesarea (23:12-33).

# FELIX: THE MAN (ACTS 24:22 -23)

- Notoriously corrupt and brutal man
- A former slave that gained position through his brother, Pallas.
- Became procurator of Judea (52 – 60)
- The Roman historian, Tacitus (55 - 120 AD), in his contempt reported that he (Felix) “thought he could commit every sort of iniquity and escape the consequences” and that he was “a master of cruelty and lust who exercised the powers of a king in the spirit of a slave.” (*Histories* 5:9).





# FELIX' RESPONSE TO GOOD NEWS

- 24 "After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.
- Act 24:25 And as he reasoned about **righteousness** and **self-control** and the **coming judgment**, Felix was **alarmed\*** and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you." (convenient season – KJV)
- Act 24:26 At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him."

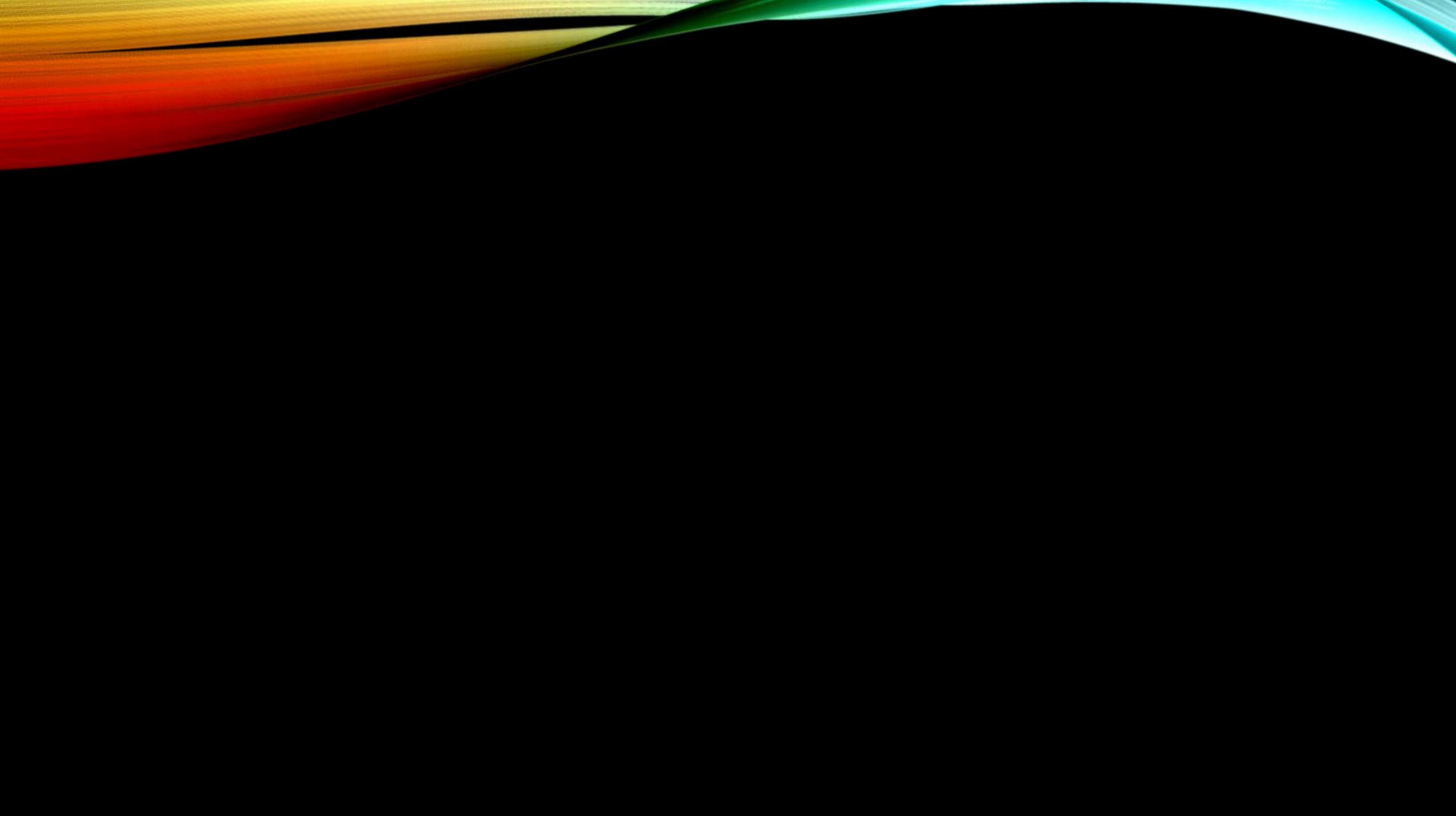
\*"becoming terrified" - *Em phobos* (*en* and *phobos*)

# WHAT DID WE LEARN?

- Decisive opportunities are often brief and fleeting.
- We often plead with folks year after year to repent, while others have never heard the gospel.
- The need to repent is anesthetized by the false promise "I'll change later."
- Do you see the arrogance of telling God "no" or "maybe later"?

# SKETCH OF DRUSILLA'S FAMILY

- Her great grandfather, Herod the Great, slaughtered the babies of Bethlehem.
- Her great uncle, Herod Antipas, murdered John the Baptist.
- Her father, Agrippa I, had executed James (Acts 12) and imprisoned Peter and then died at God's hand when she was about six years old.



# MT. VESUVIUS

- The eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79 destroyed the Roman cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum, Oplontis, Stabiae, and several other settlements. The eruption ejected a cloud of stones, ashes and volcanic gases to a height of 33 km (21 mi), erupting molten rock and pulverized pumice at the rate of  $6 \times 10^5$  cubic metres ( $7.8 \times 10^5$  cu yd) per second.<sup>[5]</sup> More than 1,000 people are thought to have died in the eruption, though the exact toll is unknown. The only surviving eyewitness account of the event consists of two letters by Pliny the Younger to the historian Tacitus.<sup>[6]</sup>



## “A CONVENIENT SEASON”

- Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you."
- Act 24:26 At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.
- Act 24:27 When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison. (NIV)

# NO "CONVENIENT" SEASON

- Why should we expect the change to be easy and painless when we have spent our time learning to sin?
- **"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them" (Eccl.12:1).**
- Do you care about righteousness, and self – control?
- Judgment is coming!