ABOUT WORDS AND NAMES

Acts 18:14-15 (see also Acts 7:57-59, 4:17, Luke 11:52) *But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; but if there are questions* **about words and names** *and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters."*

     When reading in Acts we must always keep in mind who is the letter of Acts written to? Who was the intended audience?

     The person Luke wrote to in the book of Acts, Theophilus the High Priest, (in the year 34-31AD), was the same person that Luke wrote to in the book of Luke. He was writing to someone who knew all the temple services, a person who was familiar with the torah, tenakh, and the prophesies pointing to the coming of the Messiah. This letter was written to one particular person with whom he was sharing the acts of the apostles. He was not writing to the general public.

     Here we see the reason they tried to stone Paul three times. Paul and the other Nazarenes (like Stephen) were boldly speaking the name of the Most High. The Pharisees only heard the name of Yahveh spoken once a year by the High priest. For Paul and others to speak His name was the ONLY thing they considered blasphemous. **Acts 7:57-59** *But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. When they had driven him out of the city, they [began] stoning [him]; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. They went on stoning Stephen as* **he called on [Yahveh]** *and said,* **"Messiah Yeshua, receive my spirit!"** They covered their ears because Stephen spoke the NAME of the Almighty and His Son. They dared to say "Yahveh" out loud. That name was only spoken once a year by the High Priest at the Feast of Atonement. To them, this was an act of blasphemy. That is why Steven was stoned to death.
DASYD Ministry

Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Dec 7/16)