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Called to Proclaim Christ

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Acts 9:10-20

Introduction: This chapter, Acts 9, commences a very important part of the Acts of the Apostles the **conversion** and **labors** of **Saul of Tarsus**. The remainder of the book is chiefly occupied with an account of his labors and trials in the establishment of churches, and in spreading the gospel through the Gentile world. As the fact that the gospel was to be thus preached to the Gentiles was a very important fact, and as the toils of the **apostle Paul** and his **fellow-laborers** for this purpose were of an exceedingly interesting character, it was desirable to preserve authentic record of those labors; and that record we have in the remainder of this book. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bnb/acts-9.html>)

Acts 9:10, And there was a **certain disciple** at **Damascus**, named **Ananias**; and to him said the Lord in a **VISION**, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

NOTE: A certain disciple - named Ananias - A general opinion has prevailed in the Greek Church that this Ananias was one of the seventy-two disciples, and that he was **martyred**; and they celebrate his martyrdom on the first of October. It has been farther stated that his house was turned into a church, which remains to the present day, though now occupied as a Turkish mosque; but even the **Mohammedans** (follower of Mohammed, the founder of Islamism) have the tradition, and treat his Memory with **great RESPECT**.

Acts 22:12, And one **Ananias**, a **devout (well-reverent** [impressed with reverence]) man according to the law, having a GOOD report of all the Jews which dwelt there...

...said the Lord in a vision - It is very probable that the whole **took place in a DREAM**. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/acc/acts-9.html>)

NOTE: But why were NOT **some** of the **apostles** from Jerusalem **sent** for upon this great occasion, or **Philip** the evangelist, who had lately baptized the eunuch, and might have been fetched hither by the Spirit in a little time? Surely, because **Christ would employ variety of hands** in eminent (high) services, that the honours might NOT be monopolized nor engrossed by a few--because he would put work into the hands, and thereby put HONOUR upon the heads, of those that were mean (low in rank) and obscure (unknown), to **encourage** them... (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/acts-9.html>)

Acts 9:11-14, And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called **Straight**, and enquire in the house of **Judas** for one called **Saul**, of **Tarsus**: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath **SEEN** in a **VISION** a man named **Ananias** coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then **Ananias** answered, Lord, I have **heard** by many of this man, **how much evil** he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath **authority** from the chief priests to bind all that **CALL ON thy NAME (authority)**.

Thought 1. Ananias completely missed the part that Saul had received a VISION from God! And that he saw himself receiving his sight after a man named Ananias laid hands on him.

Acts 9:15-16, But the Lord SAID unto him, **Go thy way:** for he is a **CHOSEN vessel** unto ME, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how **great things** he **must (should) SUFFER** for **MY name's sake**.

Thought 1. Paul told Timothy how had he'd suffered, and was delivered out of persecution.

2 Timothy 3:10-12, But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, **PERSECUTIONS, afflictions**, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what PERSECUTIONS I endured: but OUT of them ALL the Lord delivered me. Yea, and ALL that **will (desire) live godly IN Christ (Messiah) Jesus (Yahshua) SHALL (NOT MUST)** suffer persecution.

Acts 9:17, And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and **putting his hands** on him said, **Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus**, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and **be FILLED** with the Holy Ghost.

Filled defined 4130, influence (a flowing forth of spiritual STRENGTH or ENERGY).

Thought 1. Verse 17 proves there are TWO experiences with God's Spirit. On the Damascus road, Saul was "BORN" of the Spirit and baptized (WASHED by) the Spirit, which is the ONE baptism that SAVES. So, Ananias called him "Brother Saul."

Acts 1:5, For John truly **baptized** with **water** BUT ye shall be **baptized (WASH)** WITH the **Holy Ghost** NOT many days hence (from this time).

Ephesians 4:4-5, There IS one body, and one Spirit... ..One Lord, one faith, **ONE baptism** (great sanctification [act of making holy {PURE: CLEAN in heart}])...

Thought 2. Three days after being born again, Saul was FILLED by the Spirit for work as a witness and minister. Even Jesus was born of the Spirit, then FILLED to do work!

Luke 4:17-18, And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The SPIRIT of the Lord is **UPON me**, because **HE** hath **ANOINTED** me to **PREACH** the **gospel** to the poor...

Acts 1:8, But ye shall receive **POWER (force, miraculous power, strength)**, after that the Holy Ghost is **come UPON** you: and ye shall be WITNESSES unto me...

Acts 9:18-19, And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been **scales**: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was **baptized**. And when he had received **meat (food)**, he was strengthened. Then was **Saul** certain days with the **disciples** which were at Damascus.

NOTE: This was real: he had been so dazzled with the brightness of the light that we may suppose the globe of the eye, and particularly the cornea, had suffered considerable injury. The structure of the cornea was doubtless much disturbed, and the whole of that humor would be rendered **opaque** (not transparent), and incapable of permitting the rays of light to pass through the different humours to the retina, where all the images of things transmitted through the lenses, or humours, are distinctly painted. In the **miraculous cure** the **membrane** was **restored** to its **primitive state**, and the opaque matter separated from the cornea, in the form of thin laminae or **scales**.

And arose, and was baptized - That he was **baptized** by **Ananias** there is every reason to believe; as he appears to have been the chief Christian at Damascus.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/acts-9.html>)

Thought 1. Saul fellowshiped with the disciples. But, no one, including Peter, had a clear understanding about whether “physical circumcision” was still necessary for salvation.

Acts 15:1-2, 6-11 ...certain men which came down from Judea **TAUGHT** the brethren, and said, Except ye **be circumcised** after the manner of Moses, **ye cannot be saved**. When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension (disagreement in opinion) and **disputation (mutual questioning, reasoning)** with them, they determined that **Paul** and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the **APOSTLES** and **elders** about this question.

...And the apostles and elders **came TOGETHER** for to **consider** of this matter. And when there had been much **disputing**, **Peter** rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the **Gentiles** by my mouth should **hear the word** of the gospel, and **BELIEVE**. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even **as he did unto us**; and put no difference between us and them, **purifying** their hearts **by FAITH**. Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But **we believe** that through the **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall **be saved**, even as they.

Ephesians 2:8-10, For by **GRACE** are ye saved **through FAITH**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created **IN** Christ Jesus (Yahshua) **UNTO good WORKS**, which God hath before ordained that we should **WALK** in them.

Titus 3:14, And let ours also learn to **MAINTAIN good WORKS** for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

Thought 2. When it came to the Gentiles being included in salvation, Paul said he received this knowledge by revelation from Jesus (Yahshua), by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 3:1-6, For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you **Gentiles**, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that **by REVELATION** he **made known unto me the mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now **revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the SPIRIT**; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the SAME BODY, and partakers of **his promise** in Christ by the gospel...

Acts 9:20-22, And **straightway** he **preached Christ** in the **synagogues**, that he is the **Son** of God. But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But **Saul increased** the more in strength, and **confounded** the **Jews** which dwelt at Damascus, **PROVING** that this is very **Christ (Messiah)**.

Thought 1. Notice the **HUMILITY** of Saul to immediately accept his ministry and preach.

Acts 26:16-17, 19-20, But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this PURPOSE, to make thee a **MINISTER** and a **WITNESS** both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; **Delivering** thee **from the people**, and **from the Gentiles**, unto whom now **I send** thee...

... Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was **NOT disobedient** unto the **heavenly vision**: But shewed first unto them of **Damascus**, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and **DO WORKS meet (suitable (as if drawing praise))** for **repentance**.

NOTE: The great question to be determined, for the conviction of the Jews, was that Jesus (Yahshua) was the Son of God. That the **Christ**, or **Messiah**, was to be the Son of God, they all believed. Saul was now CONVINCED that Jesus, whom they had crucified, and who had appeared to him on the way, was the **Son of God**, or **Messiah**; and therefore as such he proclaimed him.

Is not this he that destroyed them - The verb πορθεῖν has three acceptations in the Greek writers: To treat one as an enemy, to spoil him of his goods.

- To lead away captive, to imprison.
- To slay. Paul was properly πορθητὴς, a destroyer, in all these senses. He acted as the most determined ENEMY of the Christians: Being exceedingly mad against them, he **persecuted them** to strange cities, Acts 26:11.

- He shut up many of the saints in prison, Acts 8:3; Acts 9:14; Acts 26:10.

- He **persecuted them** unto death - gave his voice against them that they might be destroyed, and was a principal instrument in the martyrdom of Stephen. He breathed threatenings and slaughter. See Acts 7:58; Acts 8:1; Acts 9:1; Acts 26:10, Acts 26:11.

Confounded the Jews - Overwhelmed them so with his arguments that they were obliged to blush for the weakness of their own cause.

Proving that this - This person, viz. Jesus (Yahshua), is very Christ; Is the Christ, or Messiah. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/acts-9.html>)

Acts 9:23, And after that **many days** were fulfilled, the **Jews** took counsel to **KILL him**....

NOTE: It is obvious that Luke did not here stress the exact **chronology** of the events narrated. Boles gave, as the probable chronology of the events in view here, the following: Saul was struck down on the Damascus road (Acts 9:3-8).

Three days of blindness and prayer (Acts 9:8).

Sight restored, baptized and received (endowed with [BY]) the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:10-19).

Preached Christ and confounded the Jews (Acts 9:19-22).

Made a sudden **departure** to **Arabia** for further study and communion with God (Galatians 1:17, 18).

Came back to Damascus and renewed his preaching with such force that the Jews decided to kill him (Acts 9:23). (This was **three years after his baptism**.)

The plot to kill Paul was discovered, and he escaped to Jerusalem (Acts 9:24,25).

The Christians were afraid of him (Acts 9:26).

Barnabas took up his cause and recommended him (Acts 9:27-29).

Paul began preaching where Stephen left off (Acts 9:29).

There was another plot to **kill him** (Acts 9:29).

The Jerusalem church sent him to Tarsus (Acts 9:30). **ENDNOTE:** ^[22] H. Leo Boles, op. cit., p. 149. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/acts-9.html>)

Acts 24-25, But their **laying await** was known of Saul. And they **watched** the gates day and night to kill him. Then the disciples took him **by night**, and let him down by the wall in a **basket**.

NOTE: At this time, Damascus was under the government of **Aretas**, **king of Arabia**, who was now at war with Herod, his son-in-law, who had put away his daughter in order to marry Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. As Herod was supported by the Romans, Saul's enemies might intimate (suggest obscurely or indirectly) that he was in league with them or Herod; and, as the gates of the city were constantly watched and shut, that **no spy might enter**, and **no fugitive get away**, they thought it would be easy to apprehend him; and doubtless got orders for the different officers at the gates to be on the look-out that he might not be permitted to escape.

Let him down, by the wall - Favoured, probably, by a house built against or upon the wall, through the window of which they could lower him in a basket; and by this means he made his escape. His escape was something similar to that of the **spies** at **Jericho**, Jos. 2:15. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/acts-9.html>)

Joshua 2:15, Then she let them down by a **cord (rope)** through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

Acts 9:26, And when **Saul** was come to Jerusalem, he **assayed (attempt)** to **join** himself to the disciples: but they were ALL **afraid of him**, and believed NOT that he was **a disciple**.

NOTE: Dummelow thought it strange "that after his arduous (HARD) work in Damascus, the church of Jerusalem should **still doubt** the fact of **Paul's conversion**"; but it was doubtless due to the lack of adequate communications in those days, and also to the reluctance of those Christians whose loved ones and friends had been **imprisoned, scourged, and even put to death** by Saul of Tarsus, to *believe* that his conversion was sincere. The more remarkable thing, it seems to this writer, is that there was found one, the noble **Barnabas**, who dared to BELIEVE it fully and to undertake his recommendation to the whole church.

Assayed to JOIN himself ... As noted earlier, such an expression as this makes "**JOINING** the church" a legitimate concept, provided the **uniting** with a **given congregation** is **understood** by it. ENDNOTE: ^[25] J. R. Dummelow, Commentary on the Holy Bible (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1937), p. 831.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/acts-9.html>)

Acts 9:27, But **Barnabas** took him, and **brought him** to the **apostles**, and **declared** unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he **had preached boldly** at **Damascus** in the **name (authority)** of Jesus (Yahshua).

NOTE: It is probable that Barnabas had been at Damascus, and had there related to him, the whole account of Saul's conversion and entrance on the ministry, which he gives a particular relation of, as follows:

...**how he had seen the Lord in the way**; he told the apostles, Peter and James, how that Christ had appeared to him in person, as he was on his way to Damascus:

...**he had spoken to him**; and expostulated (discuss) with him about his persecution of him in his members, and bid him go into the city, where it should be told him what he should do... (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/acts-9.html>)

Acts 9:28-30, And he was with them **coming in** and **going out** at Jerusalem. And he spake **BOLDLY** in the **name (authority)** of the Lord Jesus (Yahshua), and disputed against the **Grecians**: but they went about to **slay him**. Which when the brethren **knew**, they brought him down to Caesarea, and **sent him forth** to Tarsus.

NOTE: The same class of **Jews** who had **raised the persecution** against **Stephen** now sought the **death** of **Saul**. By the aid of the brethren he was taken to the seaport of Cæsarea and sailed for his old home at Tarsus. Some think, however, from Galatians 1:21, that the journey was made by land through Syria. It is more likely that he sailed from Cæsarea to Seleucia in Syria, and from thence made his way to Tarsus. **Four or five years** pass before the next mention of Saul in Acts (Acts 12:25), an interval passed in preaching Christ (Galatians 1:23), and resulting in the planting of churches in Cilicia (Acts 15:23, 41). (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/pnt/acts-9.html>)

Acts 9:31, Then had the **churches REST** throughout all **Judaea** and **Galilee** and **Samaria**, and were **edified** (improved in literary, moral or religious knowledge); and walking in the **FEAR** (reverence) of the Lord, and in the **COMFORT** of the **Holy Ghost**, **were multiplied**.

NOTE: The Roman emperor, **Caligula**, had ordered his statue to be placed in the **temple** at Jerusalem for worship, a desecration of the temple, and the Jews were too much engaged in their efforts to prevent this to **persecute** the church.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/pnt/acts-9.html>)