

Acts 9: 1 - 19

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1. What was Saul doing against the Lord's disciples? (9:1-2)

Acts 9: 1-2

1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,

2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

1. "Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord"
2. Saul asked for letters from the high priest to the synagogues at Damascus
3. He was searching for men and women belonging to the Way so that he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.



The Holy Land in the Time of Christ

“The Way” - Acts 9: 2;19: 9, 23; 22: 4; 24: 14, 22.

The following titles or names given to Jesus Christ and His teachings:

1. The Way of Salvation (Acts 16: 17)
2. The Way of the Lord (Acts 18: 25)
3. The Way of Peace (Luke 1: 79; Rom. 3: 17)
4. The Way of Truth (2 Peter 2: 2)
5. The Way of Righteousness (2 Peter 2: 21)

2. What happened to Saul as he approached Damascus? (9:3-6)

Acts 9: 3-6

- 3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;
- 4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”
- 5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,
- 6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”

1. Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him
2. Paul fell to the ground
3. Paul heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”
4. Paul said, “Who are You, Lord?”
5. He *said*, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,
6. Get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”

1. The light appeared suddenly, out of nowhere, unexpectedly.

2. The light was from heaven. It was supernatural and miraculous, from God Himself. God is the source and giver of the light.

3. The light and sight of the heavenly figure struck Paul to the ground.

4. There was the charge of terrible sin, of opposing and persecuting the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus called Saul by his name, “Saul, Saul.” Calling the name twice shows two things.

a. It showed tenderness, love, concern and an appeal to listen and heed.

b. It showed rebuke and warning.

5. Saul knew that he was being confronted by a heavenly being. Saul—fell down, was humbled, convicted and frightened—cried out in desperation, “Who art thou, Lord?”

a. It was the Lord – Jesus.

The 3 Account of the Conversion of Saul

Acts 9

V3... bright light from heaven shone round about.

V7...says the men with Paul, heard a voice but saw no man.

V4...Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice: "Saul, Saul, Why do you persecute me?"

V5... "Who are you, Lord?" the reply: " I am Jesus whom you persecute!"

Acts 22

V6..bright light from heaven shone round about noon.

V9.. Says others saw the light but heard not the voice.

V7.. "I fell to the ground and heard a voice: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

V8.. "Who are you, Lord?" the reply: "I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you persecute!"

Acts 26

V13...at midday a bright light above the brightness of the sun shone round about. "we" saw the light.

V14.. "we" were all fallen to the ground, and "I" heard a voice: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Paul adds: 'It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

V15.. " Who are you, Lord?" the reply: " I am Jesus whom you persecute!"

The 3 Account of the Conversion of Saul

Acts 9

v.6... “Lord, what will you have me do?” the reply: “Arise, go into the city and it will be told to you what, you must do.”

Acts 22

v.10... “Lord, what will you have me do?” the reply: “Arise, go into the city and it will be told to you all things that are appointed for you to do.”

Acts 26.

vv.16-18... “Stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you to make you a servant and witness to the things seen and to that which I will appear to you. Delivering you from the (Jews) and from the gentiles, to whom I send you, to enlighten them and turn them from darkness to light – from the power of Satan to God, for forgiveness of sins and have a share among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

3. What did Saul's traveling companions experience when Saul met the risen Christ? (9:7)

Acts 9: 7

7 The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

1. The men traveling with Saul were speechless.

2. They heard the voice and they saw no one.

4. How did Saul get to Damascus after his meeting with the Lord? (9:8)

Acts 9: 8

8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.

Paul's companions led him by the hand to Damascus.

5. What did the Lord instruct Ananias to do? (9:9-12)

Acts 9: 9-12

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”

11 And the Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,

and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight.”

1. And the Lord *said* to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.

2. He has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight.”

Saul was praying. He was broken, trembling, stricken and apprehensive.

1. His was blinded by the light.
- 2. He was opposing God Himself.**
- 3. His sin was against God Himself.**
- 4. He was lost and doomed to eternal separation from God.**
- 5. His life was a total wreck, being totally deceived and misdirected, bent on utter destruction.**

Saul needed help.

1. Ananias was God's selected person to help Saul.
2. Ananias was apprehensive.
3. Ananias was willing to face a difficult assignment.
4. Ananias was willing to be the answer to prayer.
5. Ananias was willing to obey God.

6. Why was Ananias reluctant to do as the Lord asked? (9:13-14)

Acts 9: 13-14

- 13 But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem;
14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

1. “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem.

2. He has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

7. How did God persuade Ananias that it was all right to go to Saul? (9:15-16)

Acts 9: 15-16

15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

1. “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

2. I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

1. God chose Saul to bear the Lord's name.

a. He needed to know that he was to bear the Lord's name in his heart, in his behavior and actions.

i. He was to deny self and take up his cross daily.

ii. He was to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts; to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present world.

iii. He was to present his body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

iv. He was not to forsake the assembling of himself with other believers, but to seek their fellowship.

2. God chose Saul to suffer for the sake of the Lord's name.

2 Cor. 11: 23-28

23 Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.

8. To what service had Saul been called? (9:15-16)

Acts 9: 15-16

15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

Saul is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

9. How did Ananias do the Lord's bidding? (9-17)

Acts 9: 17

17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

“Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

10. What did Saul do when his vision returned? (9:18-19)

Acts 9: 18-19

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;

19 and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,

1. Saul got up and was baptized.
2. Saul took food and was strengthened.
3. Saul was with the disciples who were at Damascus.

Saul joined the other believers at Damascus. His old nature, the old man, had died. He had a new life in Christ.

Saul wanted to openly and publicly declare that he was:

1. A new creature in Christ Jesus
2. A follower of the Way which he opposed and persecuted
3. A true disciple of the Lord Jesus

Saul joined the saints at Damascus so that the world might know that he was Christian.

Saul wanted to share in:

- 1. Their companionship and fellowship**
- 2. Their love, concern and care**
- 3. Their beliefs and principles**
- 4. Their study of the Word**
- 5. Their growth in Christ**
- 6. Their edifying and building up of each other**
- 7. Their witness and service**