

Acts 9:1-31



Description

Image

My Notes

Acts 9. Saul went to the High Priest and asked for papers giving him permission to go to Damascus and arrest any belonging to 'The Way' (as Christians were known).



The papers were handed to Saul and he set off to Damascus, making murderous threats about those who believed Jesus was 'The Way' to God.



As he got near to the city, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him and he fell to the ground. He heard a voice: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'



'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the voice replied. 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'



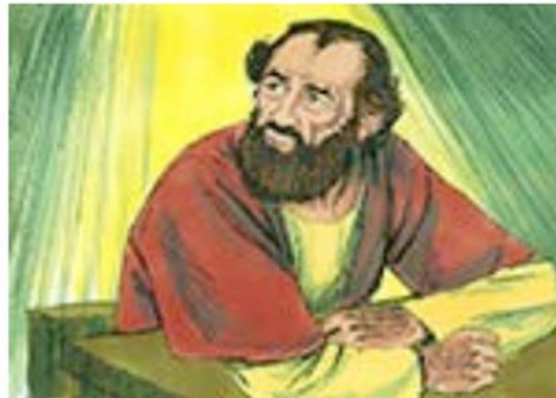
The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless. They heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing.



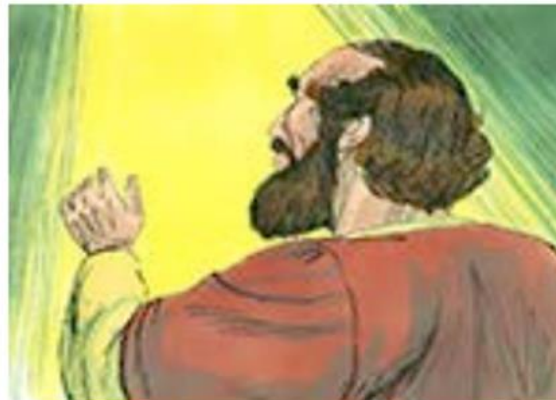
So they led Saul by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.



In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered.



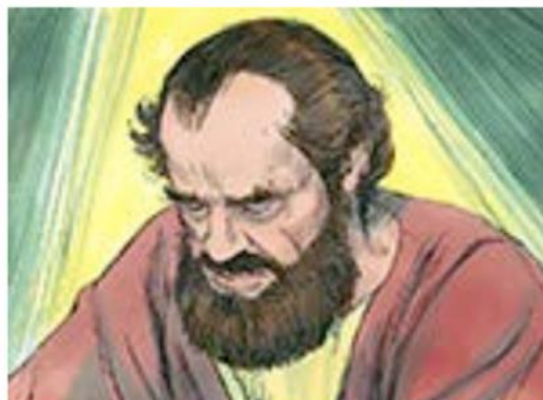
'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man named Saul. He is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.'



'Lord,' Ananias answered, 'This man has harmed your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.'



But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! I have chosen Saul to proclaim my Name not only to Jews but Gentiles (non-Jews) and their kings. I will also show him how much he must suffer for me.'



Ananias went to the house and placed his hands on Saul. 'Brother Saul, Jesus-- who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see.



Saul got up and was baptised, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.



Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus – the very people he had come to arrest.



Immediately Saul began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.



Those listening were astonished and asked, 'Isn't he the man who caused so much trouble for Christians in Jerusalem and came here to arrest them?'



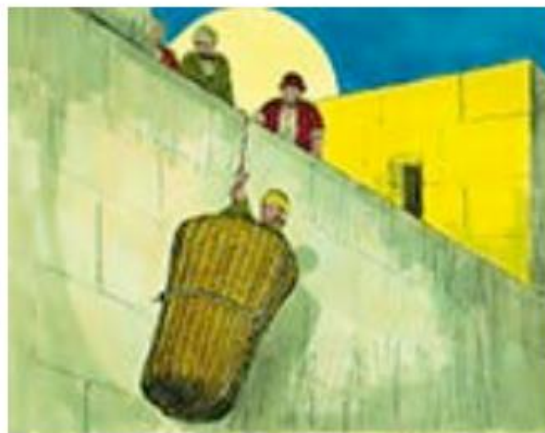
Saul powerfully explained to them that Jesus is the Messiah. A few days later some Jews who were against Jesus plotted to kill Saul.



They kept watch at the city gates hoping to kill him. But Saul learnt of their plans.



Saul's followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall so he could escape.



Saul returned to Jerusalem where he tried to join the disciples. But they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.



However Barnabas explained that Saul was now a Christian, and how he had preached in Damascus that Jesus is the Son of God. So the Apostles welcomed Saul who started speaking boldly about Jesus in Jerusalem



However when he started telling Jews who had adopted Greek language and culture about Jesus they tried to kill him.



To protect Saul the believers took him to the port of Caesarea and sent him back to his home city of Tarsus.

Saul was his a Jewish name but as a Roman citizen he also had the Latin name of 'Paul'.



The church in Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, grew in numbers.



Acts 9:32-35



Peter travelled around the country visiting those who had believed in Jesus.



He went to Lydda on the route from Jerusalem to the coast.



He met with the Christians in Lydda to encourage them.



Peter met a paralysed man called Aeneas who had been unable to get up from his bed mat for 8 years.



'Aeneas,' said Peter, 'Jesus Christ heals you.'



'Get up and roll up your mat.'



Immediately Aeneas got up.



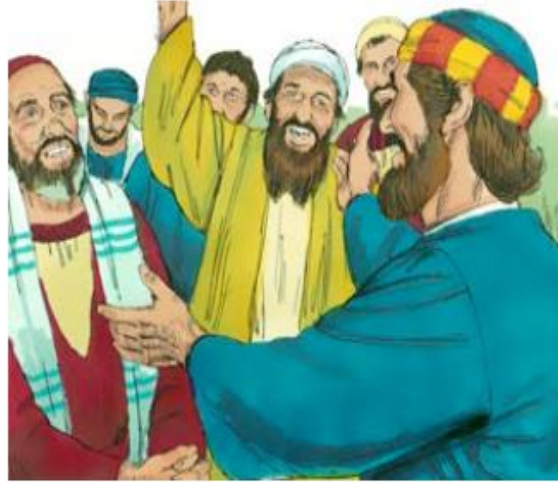
When those living in Lydda and the surrounding area saw Aeneas had been healed in the name of Jesus, they too believed in Jesus.



Acts 9:36-43



After Aenaes, a paralysed man, had been healed in the name of Jesus, news of the event spread around the area.



This miracle had taken place in a town called Lydda.



Nearby on the coast lived a kind follower of Jesus called Tabitha. (That was her Jewish name, in Greek she was known as Dorcas). She was always doing good and helping the poor.



Tabitha lived in the sea port town of Joppa (modern day Jaffa) not far from Lydda where Peter was staying.



At that time, Dorcas became sick and died. Her dead body was washed and laid in an upstairs room.



Knowing that Peter was in the area, two men rushed to find him. 'Please come at once!' they begged.



Peter went with them to Joppa.



When Peter arrived, he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made for the poor while she was alive.



Peter sent them all out of the room. Then, he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, 'Tabitha, get up.'



Tabitha opened her eyes and sat up. Peter took her by the hand and helped her to her feet.



He called for the followers of Jesus to come into the room and showed Tabitha to them. This miracle became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

Peter stayed on in Joppa, living at the house of Simon who was a tanner.

