

Comments About Acts 9

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Acts. This week, we will talk about chapter 9.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

Saul persecuted the church

As you recall in Acts 7 and 8, Saul was involved in persecuting disciples.

- The accusers of Stephen laid down their coats at the feet of Saul (Acts 7:58).
- Saul was consenting to Stephen's death (Acts 8:1).
- Saul caused havoc for disciples—dragging people out of their homes and casting them into prison (verse 3).

As chapter 9 begins, we see that Saul continued his assault upon disciples.

Acts 9:1-2—"Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem."

Road to Damascus

But something spectacular happened to Saul on the road to Damascus.

- There was a bright light from heaven (verse 3).
- A voice said: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (verse 4).
- When Saul asked about the identity of the voice, he learned that the speaker was Jesus (verse 5).
- The Lord told Saul to travel into Damascus (verses 6-8).
- For three days, Saul was without sight, food and water (verse 9).

Ananias baptized Saul

Once Saul arrived in Damascus, the Lord sent Ananias to see him.

- The Lord sent Ananias to Saul (verses 10-16).
- When Ananias laid hands upon Saul, Saul received sight and the Holy Spirit (verses 17-19).
- Saul is later identified as Paul—which is first noted in Acts 13:9.

Saul preached Christ

Chapter 9 shows that Saul began serving the Lord.

- Saul preached in the synagogue that Christ is the Son of God (verses 20-22).
- Shortly thereafter, Saul escaped a death threat from some Jews by being lowered in a large basket (verses 23-25).
- When Saul arrived at Jerusalem to join the disciples, he discovered that they were afraid of him—because of his past record of persecuting disciples (verse 26).
- Barnabas took Saul to the apostles and told them of about Saul's road-to-Damascus experience (verses 27-28).
- When Saul spoke boldly in the name of the Lord (verse 29), the brethren took him to Caesarea and sent him to Tarsus (verse 30).

Church prospered

Next came a few comments about blessings in the church at that time.

- The churches throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified (verse 31).
- By the spoken word of Peter, the Lord healed Aeneas—a paralyzed man in Lydda who had been bedridden for eight years (verses 32-35).
- Through the prayer of Peter, the Lord restored life to Tabitha—a woman in Joppa who fervently served the disciples (verses 36-41).
- Many people believed on the Lord in Joppa and Peter remained many days in Joppa (verses 42-43).