

## Notes on Acts 9

Acts 9:1-9 – Saul and Jesus on the Road to Damascus

Narratively, what do we know about Saul? (See Acts 7:58, 8:1, 3)

Saul as a beast (Acts 8:3 and Psalm 80:13)

Christianity as the Way (also Acts 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22) – What is this Way? (see Acts 18:25ff. and 16:17, also John 14:6 and Deut. 30:15ff.)

Saul's conversion stories: Acts 22:6-21, 26:12-18; Gal. 1:11-16; 1 Cor. 15:3-9, Phil. 3:4-7, 1 Tim. 1:12-16

What is exceptional about Saul's experience? What is common about it?

How would you summarize his state of mind before his encounter with Jesus?

A flash of light and the voice of Jesus: You are persecuting ME! (Luke 10:16)

Those traveling with Saul heard a voice, but saw no one

Saul blinded; enters into Damascus as commanded and fasts for 3 days (praying (9:11))

Is this Saul's conversion? Or does it come in the following story?

Three days? – Like the disciples who sit in darkness for 3 days between Good Friday and Easter

Acts 9:10-19a – Ananias welcomes Saul into the church in Damascus

A disciple named Ananias in Damascus (Ananias:Saul :: Philip:Ethiopian eunuch?)

A second vision, now to Ananias: Go to Saul of Tarsus

"I have heard how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem!"

Christians as "(your) saints" (Acts 9:32, 41; 26:10; cf. 20:32; 26:18) and those "who call upon your name" (cf. Acts 2:21; Rom 10:13)

"Go! He is a chosen instrument of mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel" (cf. Acts 1:8 and 22:16, also Rom 1:16 and 1 Cor. 1:2)

"*Brother* Saul..." – a word of forgiveness!

"Be filled with the Holy Spirit" – did this include charismatic gifts?

Laying hands (Luke 4:40; Acts 6:6), baptized (Acts 2:38), fed, and strengthened

Acts 9:19b-22 – Saul proclaims Jesus as the Son of God in synagogues of Damascus!

## Notes on Acts 9

A transformed Saul: a new reverence for God, a new relationship to the church

People were amazed (cf. Gal 1:13, 23)

Saul confounded the Jews in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ! (cf. Acts 6:10)

Acts 9:23-25 – Saul’s life threatened, escapes from Damascus to Jerusalem

“When many days passed” – is this the three years of Gal. 1:17-18?

Reminder that Acts is not a biography of Saul/Paul. What is Acts about??

The Jews were keeping an eye out on Saul to kill him (9:23-24, cf. 2 Cor. 11:32f.), but the disciples snuck Saul out of the city

Acts 9:26-30 – Saul in Jerusalem (cf. Gal. 1:18-20), more fear of Saul

Saul attempts to join the disciples, but they’re afraid; Barnabas takes Saul to the apostles and witnesses to Saul’s conversion

Saul’s courage and a Christ-centered witness: Saul preaches boldly in Jesus’ name in Jerusalem

Saul disputes with the Hellenists (Greek-speaking Jews, cf. Acts 6:1) who seek to kill him (the cost Saul must pay)

Saul sent off to Tarsus (his native town, Acts 9:11) via Caesarea

(Saul exits the narrative until Acts 11:25, which is a several years later when Barnabas comes to get him)

Acts 9:31 – The church multiplied!

The church in Judea...Galilee... Samaria had PEACE and was being BUILT UP ...

Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit ...

The church (sg.) multiplied – not churches?