

<p>Acts 9:1-31 ESV</p> <p>(1) But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest</p> <p>(2) and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.</p> <p>(3) Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.</p> <p>(4) And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"</p> <p>(5) And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.</p> <p>(6) But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."</p> <p>(7) The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.</p> <p>(8) Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.</p> <p>(9) And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.</p> <p>(10) Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a</p>	<p>Acts 22:1-21 ESV</p> <p>(1) "Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you."</p> <p>(2) And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:</p> <p>(3) "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.</p> <p>(4) I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,</p> <p>(5) as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.</p> <p>(6) "As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me.</p> <p>(7) And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'</p>	<p>Acts 26:1-23 ESV</p> <p>(1) So Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:</p> <p>(2) "I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews,</p> <p>(3) especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.</p> <p>(4) "My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews.</p> <p>(5) They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee.</p> <p>(6) And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers,</p> <p>(7) to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king!</p> <p>(8) Why is it thought incredible by any of you that</p>	<p>Philippians 3:4-6 ESV</p> <p>(4) though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:</p> <p>(5) circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;</p> <p>(6) as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:8-9 ESV</p> <p>(8) Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.</p> <p>(9) For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.</p> <p>1 Timothy 1:12-17 ESV</p> <p>(12) I thank who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,</p> <p>(13) though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,</p>
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<p>vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."</p> <p>(11) And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,</p> <p>(12) 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."</p> <p>(13) But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.</p> <p>(14) And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."</p> <p>(15) But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.</p> <p>(16) For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."</p> <p>(17) So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."</p> <p>(18) And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was</p>	<p>(8) And I answered, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'</p> <p>(9) Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.</p> <p>(10) And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.'</p> <p>(11) And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.</p> <p>(12) "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,</p> <p>(13) came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.</p> <p>(14) And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;</p> <p>(15) for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what</p>	<p>God raises the dead?</p> <p>(9) "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.</p> <p>(10) And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them.</p> <p>(11) And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.</p> <p>(12) "In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.</p> <p>(13) At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me.</p> <p>(14) And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'</p> <p>(15) And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord</p>	<p>(14) and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>(15) The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.</p> <p>(16) But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.</p> <p>(17) To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.</p> <p>Galatians 1:10-24 ESV</p> <p>(10) For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.</p> <p>(11) For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.</p> <p>(12) For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus</p>
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<p>baptized;</p> <p>(19) and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.</p> <p>(20) And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."</p> <p>(21) And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?"</p> <p>(22) But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.</p> <p>(23) When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him,</p> <p>(24) but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him,</p> <p>(25) but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.</p> <p>(26) And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.</p> <p>(27) But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord,</p>	<p>you have seen and heard.</p> <p>(16) And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'</p> <p>(17) "When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance</p> <p>(18) and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'</p> <p>(19) And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you.</p> <p>(20) And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.'</p> <p>(21) And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"</p>	<p>said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.</p> <p>(16) But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,</p> <p>(17) delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles--to whom I am sending you</p> <p>(18) to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'</p> <p>(19) "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,</p> <p>(20) but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.</p> <p>(21) For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.</p> <p>(22) To this day I have had</p>	<p>Christ.</p> <p>(13) For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it.</p> <p>(14) And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.</p> <p>(15) But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,</p> <p>(16) was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;</p> <p>(17) nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.</p> <p>(18) Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days.</p> <p>(19) But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.(20) (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!)</p> <p>(21) Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.</p> <p>(22) And I was still unknown</p>
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<p>who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.</p> <p>(28) So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.</p> <p>(29) And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him.</p> <p>(30) And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.</p> <p>(31) So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.</p>		<p>the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass:</p> <p>(23) that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."</p>	<p>in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ.</p> <p>(23) They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."</p> <p>(24) And they glorified God because of me</p> <p>2 Corinthians 11:32-33 ESV At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 9:1 ESV (1) Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?</p> <p>1 Timothy 2:7 ESV (7) For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.</p>
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