

Acts 9

King James Version (KJV)

9 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, (Saul hated the Christians. He persecuted them zealously. He hadn't killed any of them yet, but that was just a matter of time)

NOTES: (No true religion tells people to commit murder for God. You see it even today in the evil Muslim cult. Their way is – join us or die. Try to leave the cult and we will kill you)

(Jesus taught – who so ever will follow Me and believe in the Word of God, the same shall be saved and live forever in paradise. Quite a difference from all the other so called religions)

²And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. (Saul was arresting Christians to bring them to Jerusalem. There, the priests would stone them to death. Great religion, right?)

³And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: (Divine intervention – God protects His own. HE is about to give Saul an attitude adjustment. Don't mess with God, unless you are looking for real trouble)

⁴And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? (Persecute the Christians and you persecute God. God is going to give Saul a chance to change his ways and repent; but He's not being too gentle about it. Saul had willingly made himself an enemy of Jesus)

NOTE: (The Muslims need to learn that lesson. They persecute Christians around the world)

⁵And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. (The pricks are the center point in a protractor. God's perfect circles <His plans> are being disturbed by Saul) see Proverbs-8:27-32

(Also the pricks could be from a cattle prod or a goad; and Saul is kicking against it, and only hurting himself)

⁶And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. (Saul thought that he was doing God's work. Now he is realizing that he wasn't. God will lead him to do the right thing. All he has to do is obey Him and follow His commands)

⁷And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. (They were witnesses. Saul wasn't imagining things. Saul spoke 5 languages)

(It is believed God spoke in a language that Saul's companions didn't know, because the message was specifically for Saul)

⁸And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. (He was blinded. He was lucky that God didn't kill him. Instead, God will recruit Saul to preach God's Word to the Gentiles)

⁹And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. (God gave Saul 3 days to think about what he had been doing)

NOTE: (This is a type for when Jesus went into the grave for 3 days, before resurrecting. Also, in the end days, the two witnesses will be dead for 3 days at the hand of the antichrist, before resurrecting)

¹⁰And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. (Ananias = gracious gift of God)

¹¹And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, (You can bet he was praying. Now blind, he had just received a wake up call from God. Maybe his spiritual eyes were finally opening)

¹²And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

¹³Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: (By now, Saul has a bad reputation for persecuting Christians. Ananias was thinking – Are you sure that you want me to help this guy?)

¹⁴ And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. (Saul was trying his best to bring Christians to their death at the hand of the priests. Why help him?)

¹⁵ But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: (Paul was one of the Elect. He was chosen, not called) see Romans-8:26->on, Matthew-22:14

NOTE: (He was called to teach 3 groups - Gentiles, and kings and Israelites. God can intervene in the Elects' lives because they are already judged worthy. They earned that privilege because they stood with God against Satan in the First Age, when Satan rebelled against God) see <Katabole – Satan's rebellion>

¹⁶ For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. (Now, God would get Saul on the right track to do His work)

¹⁷ And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. (God is forgiving Saul for what he has done. Now, he will get the chance to straighten out and do the right thing. He's getting a second chance)

NOTE: (Paul's life, going forward, was very difficult. He suffered a great deal at the hands of the synagogue and at the hands of the Romans. He was a tough guy. He never let them dissuade him from carrying out God's plan. He is a role model to all Christians today)

¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. (Saul became a Christian – his physical eyes and his spiritual eyes were open)

¹⁹ And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. (Saul became one of the most successful Bible teachers in history. The Holy Spirit gave him great strength and the wisdom to do it)

²⁰ And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. (Begotten of God – not "son"; Jesus is God in the flesh; Immanuel = God with us) Isaiah-7:14

NOTE: (There is only One God. HE has many offices)

²¹ But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? (The chief priest was a Kenite, appointed by the Roman governor, not appointed by God)

(Beware of organized "religion". It is usually all about making money. Now, Saul would have to earn the trust of the people; before they would believe him)

²² But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. (Saul was a scholar of the Bible. He had studied with Gamiel all his life. He just didn't know that the Messiah had arrived as Jesus. The Jews today are still waiting for their messiah. They still don't know)

²³ And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: (These are the Kenites <the House of Recab>, not Jews. This is their M.O. just like their father – Cain; and his father - Satan)

Jeremiah-35 (Many Kenites moved into Judah for protection from their enemies. They used deceit and manipulation to worm their way into Jewish society. They are still around today, in every Christian country. Jesus said – You will know them by their deeds)

²⁴ But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. (Kenites- this is their MO. They will try to kill Paul, many more times)

²⁵ Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket. (They're beginning to trust Paul as a brother. God re-named him Paul. He became a new man)

NOTE: (That is what God's salvation brings to all of us who repent and change our ways. We become a new person with a fresh start)

²⁶ And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. (They believed that he was trying to trick them into capture. Trust takes time; it must be earned)

²⁷ But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. (He vouched for Paul; and eventually they accepted him. The year is approx 35 AD; 2 years after the crucifixion of Jesus)

²⁸ And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. (They finally accepted him)

²⁹ And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. (Grecians - Israelites who spoke Greek. There were also Kenites mixed into the bunch. They trafficked in slaves)

³⁰ Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus. (That was his home)

³¹ Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied. (fear = reverence – it's the same word in Hebrew)

NOTE: (When people finally learn the truth of God's Word, most of us believe. We have a conscience and we have intuitive knowledge that God's Word makes sense, and is believable. What we do after that is up to us)

³² And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

³³ And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. (Paralyzed)

³⁴ And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately. (God healed him; not Peter. Peter asked God to heal him in the name of Jesus)

³⁵ And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord. (Like Jesus' miracles, the apostles used miracles by God, to convert people into Christianity. People need to know that there is a God in heaven. Christianity is reality; not just another religion)

³⁶ Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. (Tabitha = gazelle; She was a teacher of God's Word. She was a preacher)

(False preachers today teach that women cannot be pastors. It's not Biblical. It's the false doctrine of men)

See Joel-2 (Both sons and daughters will prophecy and teach)

³⁷ And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. (They were getting her ready for burial)

³⁸ And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. (They called for Peter with urgency)

³⁹ Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

⁴⁰ But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. (God wanted her to continue to teach His Word. Her work on earth was not done yet)

Note: (We see this even today, when people have a "near death experience". Some people were dead for many minutes. They tell us of their experience)

⁴¹ And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. (The Bible is full of proofs that God is real, and that this is His Word. Countless prophecies have been fulfilled, and many more are to come in the end days of this Age)

⁴² And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord. (These miracles were done by God in order to convert many people. Only God, Himself, can give life. This was proof to the people that Christianity is God's Word)

⁴³ And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner. (Peter stayed to help with the teaching of God's Word)