



APOSTLES

OF THE APOSTLES

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

ACTS 9:1-19

REMEMBER, **ACTS 1:8** is an outline for the entire book.

- **CHAPTERS 1-7** describe the *gospel being preached in Jerusalem*—under threat of death.
- **CHAPTER 8** shows believers *taking the good news of Jesus to Judea and Samaria*.
- **CHAPTER 9** records one of the most monumental events in the history of the church—the *conversion of Saul*.
- **CHAPTERS 10-28** show us how the *gospel reached the whole world*.

THE UNIQUENESS OF PAUL FOR THE GENTILES

- No one was better suited to the task than Paul, a “*real Jew if there ever was one.*” **PHILIPPIANS 3:5** NLT; see also **GALATIANS 1:14**
- Yet a native of Tarsus, thoroughly acquainted with Greek culture. **ACTS 17:22-31**
- A citizen of Rome. **ACTS 16:37**
- Trained in the tent-making trade so that he could support himself (**ACTS 18:3**) as he traveled/ministered.

GOD PUTS OUT THE ARREST WARRANT FOR SAUL OF TARSUS.

THE IMPACT OF PAUL

- Paul wrote thirteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament, or 31.57 percent of the text.
- Paul's most important contribution to Christian theology? Justification by FAITH—**THE BOOK OF ROMANS**.
- **ROMANS'** impact on Martin Luther: **THE REFORMATION**.
 1. *"Justification by faith"* was the point of difference that led to the Protestant break with the Roman Catholic Church.
 2. 95 theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany and The Diet of Worms
 3. The founding of the Protestant Evangelical Church

SAUL MET THE LORD JESUS **ACTS 9:1-9**

This is the first of four meetings the Apostle Paul has here in **ROMANS, CHAPTER 9**. God works God's way.

Why would the Jews in Jerusalem want to persecute Christians as far away as Damascus?

There are several possibilities why Paul was on the road:

1. To seize the Christians who had fled.
2. To prevent the spread of Christianity to other major cities.
3. To keep the Christians from causing trouble with Rome.

SAUL IS BLINDED BUT NOW HE SEES THE LIGHT

- Though the text does not overtly state that Saul saw Christ, that fact is implied *since seeing the resurrected Lord was a requirement of New Testament apostleship.*
1 CORINTHIANS 9:1; 15:8
- Saul suddenly found himself on the ground! **ACTS 9:4**
- Saul of Tarsus made some wonderful discoveries that day.
 - To begin with, he discovered to his surprise, that Jesus of Nazareth was actually alive!
 - Paul gets a lesson on religion vs. relationship.

WHAT TRANSFORMATION!

THEN PAUL MET ANANIAS **ACTS 9:10-19**

- Talk about Mission “Impossible.”
- “Not Paul, Lord—that’s impossible.” Imagine what it would be like to disciple the great Apostle Paul!
- By the power of God, his eyes were opened and he could see! He was also filled with the Holy Spirit and baptized, and then he ate some food.
- What a radical conversion and transformation!