

# ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

## Conversion of Paul

**9** <sup>1</sup>Meanwhile Saul considered nothing but violence and death for the disciples of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>He went to the High Priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus that would authorize him to arrest and bring to Jerusalem anyone he might find, man or woman, belonging to the Way.

<sup>3</sup>As he traveled along and was approaching Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him:

—Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?

<sup>5</sup>And he asked:

—Who are you, Lord?

The voice replied:

—I am Jesus whom you persecute. <sup>6</sup>Now get up and go into the city; there you will be told what you are to do.

<sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood there speechless: they had heard the sound, but could see no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground and, opening his eyes, he could not see. They took him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. <sup>9</sup>He was blind and he did not eat or drink for three days.

<sup>10</sup>There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias, to whom the Lord called in a vision:

—Ananias!

He answered:

—Here I am, Lord!

<sup>11</sup>Then the Lord said to him:

—Go at once to Straight Street and ask, at the house of Judas, for a man of Tarsus named Saul. You will find him praying, <sup>12</sup>for he has just seen in a vision that a man named Ananias has come in and placed his hands upon him, to restore his sight.

<sup>13</sup>Ananias answered:

—Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and now he is here with authority from the High Priest to arrest all who call upon your name.

<sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him:

—Go! This man is my chosen instrument to bring my name to the pagan nations and their kings, and the people of Israel as well. <sup>16</sup>I myself will show him how much he will have to suffer for my name.

<sup>17</sup>So Ananias left and went to the house. He laid his hands upon Saul and said:

—Saul, my brother, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me to you so that you may receive your sight and be filled with Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he could see; he got up and was baptized. <sup>19</sup>Then he took food and was strengthened.

For several days Saul stayed with the disciples at Damascus, <sup>20</sup>and he soon began to proclaim in the synagogues that Jesus was the Son of God. <sup>21</sup>All who heard were astonished and said:

—Is this not the one who cast out in Jerusalem all those calling upon this Name? Did he not come here to bring them bound before the chief priests?

<sup>22</sup>But Saul grew more and more powerful, and he confounded the Jews living in Damascus when he proved that Jesus was the Messiah.

<sup>23</sup>After a fairly long time, the Jews conspired together to kill him. <sup>24</sup>But Saul became aware of their plan: Day and night they kept watch at the city gate in order to kill him. <sup>25</sup>So his disciples took him one night and let him down from the top of the wall, lowering him in a basket.

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U.P. P.O. Box 4, diliman 1101 Quezon City, Philippines

TE: 921-3984 • FAX: 921-6502

Email [mailto: cci@claret.org](mailto:cci@claret.org) Website: <http://www.bible.claret.org/>

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