

THE BOOK OF
ACTS
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



Acts 9: 1-31

Message + Mission + Multiply

Acts 8: 39 NIV

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 8: 40 NIV

Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Acts 9:1 NIV

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples.

Question

What does murderous threats mean?

Acts 9:1 NIV

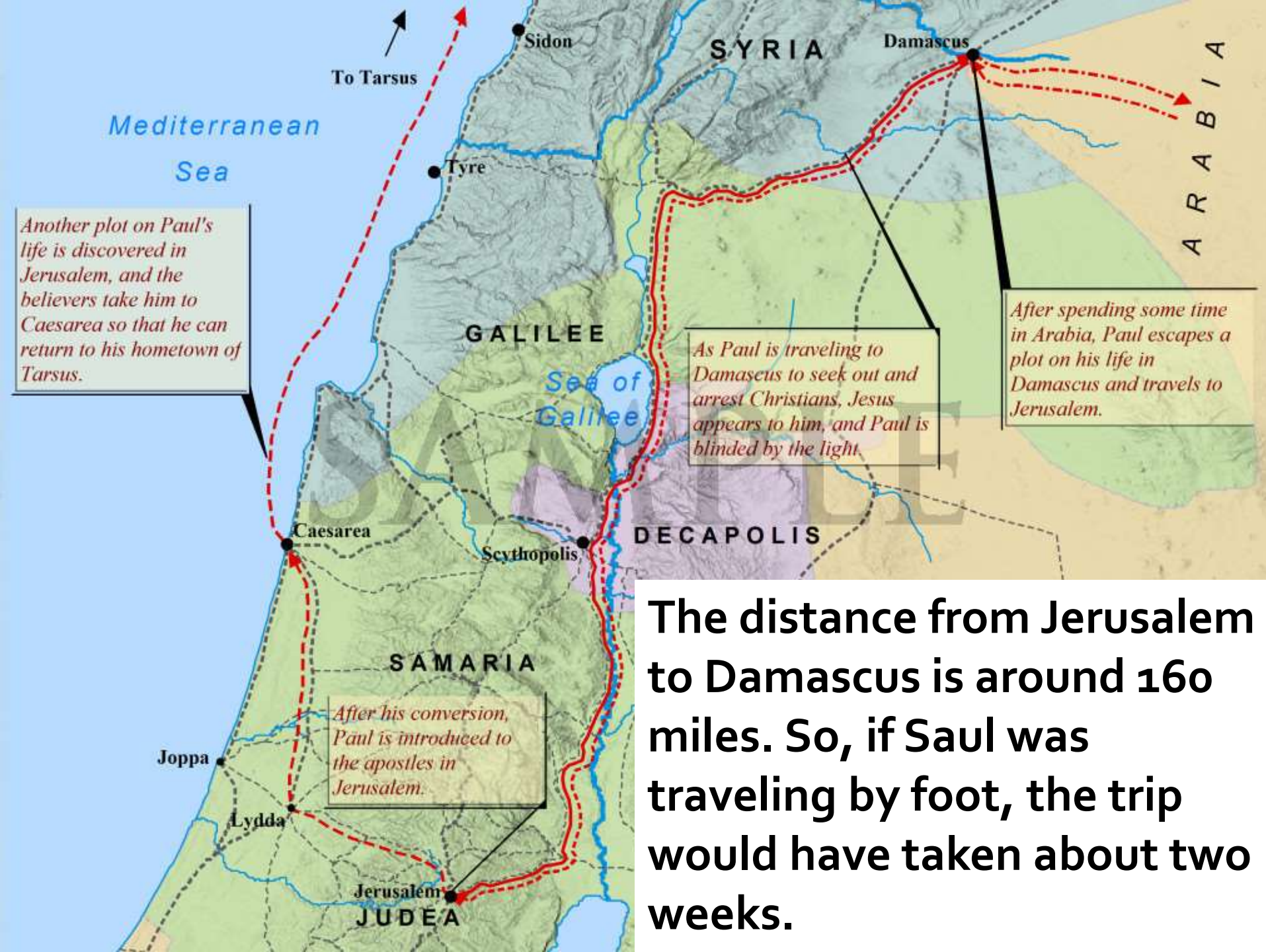
*Now Saul, still breathing
threats and murder
against the disciples of the
Lord*

Acts 9: 1-2 NIV

He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Acts 9: 2 NASB

*and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, **both men and women**, he might **bring them bound** to Jerusalem.*



Question

What does the fact that Paul was traveling all the way to Damascus to bring back Christian prisoners to Jerusalem say about his determination?

Since Saul was bringing
prisoners back he
probably had a large
entourage of people
going along with him.

Acts 9: 3 NIV

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

Acts 9: 4 NIV

He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Question

Why do you think Saul
fell to the ground?

Question

What is the significance of Saul's name being repeated?

In Luke's writings repetition of a name refers to a rebuke or a warning. For example Luke makes reference to "Martha, Martha," "Simon, Simon," or "Jerusalem, Jerusalem," and here, "Saul, Saul." All are a rebuke and/or warning.

Acts 9: 5 NIV

“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

Question

Who is Saul
persecuting?

*Please turn to
1 Corinthians 6: 17*

1 Corinthians 6: 17 NIV

*But whoever is united with
the Lord is one with him in
spirit.*

Powerful Truth

You persecute
Christians and you
persecute Jesus!

Acts 9: 5 NIV

“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

Question

How do you think Saul
feels now?

Acts 9: 6 NIV

“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

Question

Was Saul standing at
this point?

Acts 9: 7 NIV

*The men traveling with
Saul stood there
speechless; they heard the
sound but did not see
anyone.*

Question

What sound did Saul's
entourage hear?

Please turn to
John 12: 28-29

John 12: 28-29 NIV

*Father, glorify your
name!”*

*Then a voice came from
heaven, “I have glorified it,
and will glorify it again.”*

John 12: 28-29 NIV

The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Please turn to

Acts 22: 9

Acts 22: 9 NIV

My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

Acts 9: 8 NIV

*Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So **they** led him by the hand into Damascus.*

Question

When did Saul open his
eyes?

Acts 9: 8 NIV

*Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So **they** led him by the hand into Damascus.*

Question

Who led Saul into
Damascus?

Question

I wonder what they
were thinking was
going on?

Acts 9: 9 NIV

For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

Question

Why do you think
that Saul did not eat
or drink anything?

Acts 9:10 NIV

*In Damascus there was a
disciple named Ananias.
The Lord called to him in a
vision, "Ananias!"*

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

(Note he called Ananias only once)

Question

How do you think
Ananias felt having
the Lord visit him in a
vision?

Acts 9: 11-12 NIV

The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

Question

How do you think
Ananias feels now?

Acts 9: 13-14 NIV

“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

Question

How would you have
responded?

Acts 9:15 NIV

*But the Lord said to
Ananias, "Go!*

Acts 9:15 NIV

This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.

Acts 9:16 NIV

*I will show him how much
he must suffer for my
name.”*

Question

What kind of suffering did Paul experience for the Name of Jesus?

Acts 9:17 NIV

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Question

What does the fact
that Ananias called
Saul brother
demonstrate?

Acts 9:18 NIV

Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

Question

Why did Jesus send
Ananias to Paul?

Acts 9:18 NIV

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here— has sent me so that you may

1. see again and

2. be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 9:18 NIV

Immediately,

*1. something like scales
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Acts 9:18 NIV

Immediately,

*1. something like scales
fell from Saul's eyes, and
he could see again.*

*2. He got up and was
baptized,*

Question

What happens at
baptism?

Acts 2: 38 NIV

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 9:18 NIV

and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

Acts 9:19 NIV

and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

Acts 9: 20 NIV

At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Question

How quickly did Saul
begin teaching that
Jesus was the Son of
God?

Acts 9: 21 NIV

All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?"

Acts 9: 21 NASB

*All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem **destroyed** those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"*

Question

Why were the people
amazed?

Acts 9: 22 NASB

Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

Question

Why were the Jews
baffled?

Acts 9: 22 NASB

*Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus **by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.***

Question

How was Saul proving
that Jesus was the
Messiah?

Acts 9: 23-25 NIV

After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him.

Acts 9: 23-25 NIV

But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

*Please turn to
Galatians 1: 13-18*

Galatians 1: 13-18 NIV

For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

Galatians 1: 13-18 NIV

But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.

Galatians 1: 13-18 NIV

I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem...

Acts 9: 26 NIV

When he came to
Jerusalem, he tried to join
the disciples, but they
were all afraid of him, not
believing that he really
was a disciple.

Acts 9: 27 NIV

But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.

He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 9: 28 NIV

*So Saul stayed with them
and moved about freely in
Jerusalem, speaking
boldly in the name of the
Lord.*

Acts 9: 29 NIV

*He talked and debated
with the Hellenistic Jews,
but they tried to kill him.*

Acts 9: 30 NIV

When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 9: 31 NIV

*Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. **Living in the fear of the Lord** and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.*

Question

What does it mean to
live in fear of the
Lord?

Acts 9: 31 NIV

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Next Week

A study on the
Resurrection!