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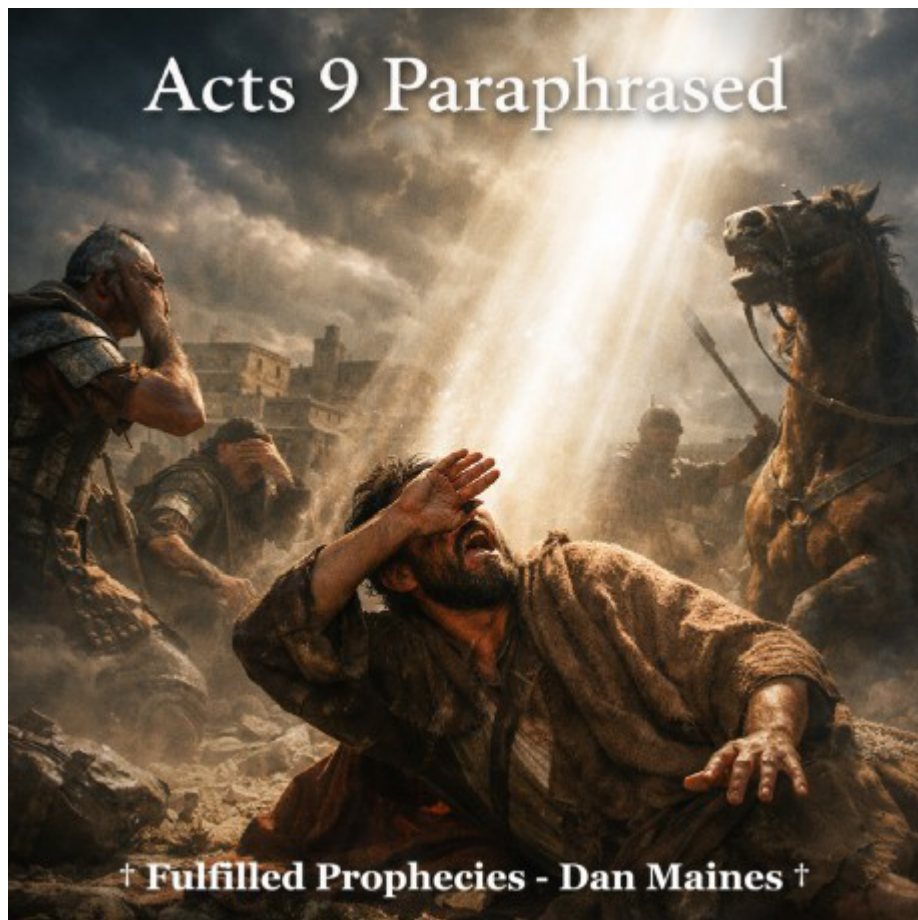
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## Acts 9 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Acts 9 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† This chapter shows Saul's turning from persecutor to messenger, proving Christ was already reigning and calling people into His kingdom

† This is fulfillment happening in real time, not something future, exactly as Jesus said it would happen in that generation (Matthew 16:27-28)

† The power of Christ is seen in transforming the very enemy of the church into its witness

## **Acts 9:1**

Saul was still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, and he went to the high priest

† Saul represents the old covenant system attacking the new

† This persecution fulfills what Jesus said would happen before the end of that age (Matthew 24:9)

† The kingdom was already present and provoking opposition

## **Acts 9:2**

He asked for letters to the synagogues in Damascus so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem

† The Way shows the identity of believers walking in fulfillment

† Authority from the high priest shows the old system trying to maintain control

† This is a direct clash between covenants

## **Acts 9:3**

As he traveled and approached Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him

† The light shows divine interruption

† God reveals Himself in power and authority

† Christ is actively reigning

## **Acts 9:4**

He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me

† Jesus identifies with His people

† Persecution of believers is persecution of Christ

† This proves His present authority

## **Acts 9:5**

He said, Who are You, Lord, and He said, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting

† Saul immediately recognizes authority

† Christ reveals Himself as living and active

† This is not future kingship, it is present

### **Acts 9:6**

But get up and enter the city, and it will be told to you what you must do

† Obedience follows revelation

† Christ directs His people personally

† Transformation begins instantly

### **Acts 9:7**

The men traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the sound but seeing no one

† This confirms the event was real

† Witnesses validate what happened

† God reveals selectively

### **Acts 9:8**

Saul got up from the ground, though his eyes were open he could see nothing, so they led him by the hand into Damascus

† His blindness shows his former spiritual state

† God humbles him completely

† The persecutor becomes dependent

### **Acts 9:9**

For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank

† This marks a complete break from his old life

† A period of transformation is happening

† He is being prepared for new purpose

### **Acts 9:10**

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias, and he said, Here I am, Lord

† God uses ordinary believers

† Ananias responds in obedience

† The body of Christ is active

### **Acts 9:11**

The Lord said, Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying

† Saul is already changed

† Prayer shows submission

† God directs everything precisely

### **Acts 9:12**

He has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay hands on him so that he might regain his sight

† God prepares both men

† This is divine coordination

† Restoration is planned

### **Acts 9:13**

But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints in Jerusalem

† Fear is real

† Saul's reputation was well known

† The church understood the danger

### **Acts 9:14**

And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name

† The old system still claimed authority

† Those calling on the name show covenant identity

† This highlights the transition period

### **Acts 9:15**

But the Lord said, Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel

† Saul is chosen directly by Christ

† The mission includes the nations

† This fulfills God's promise to include all

### **Acts 9:16**

For I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake

† Suffering is part of the calling

† This matches Jesus' warnings

† The kingdom advances through endurance

### **Acts 9:17**

So Ananias went and entered the house, and laying his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit

† Saul is accepted immediately

† The Spirit is active in that time

† Restoration and empowerment happen together

### **Acts 9:18**

Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized

† Clarity replaces blindness

† Baptism marks identification with Christ

† Obedience follows immediately

### **Acts 9:19**

He took food and was strengthened, now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus

† Fellowship begins

† Strength comes through community

† He is now part of the body

### **Acts 9:20**

And immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying He is the Son of God

† The persecutor becomes a preacher

† His message centers on Christ

† This is rapid transformation

### **Acts 9:21**

All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, Is this not the one who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name

† His change shocks everyone

† His testimony confirms the power of Christ

† The transformation is undeniable

### **Acts 9:22**

But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ

† He grows quickly in understanding

† He proves fulfillment from scripture

† Truth stands firm

### **Acts 9:23**

When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him

† The persecutor becomes the persecuted

† This fulfills Jesus' warnings

† Opposition confirms truth

### **Acts 9:24**

But their plot became known to Saul, they were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death

† The danger is constant

† The old system resists losing control

† The conflict continues

### **Acts 9:25**

But his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket

- † God provides escape
- † The body works together
- † The mission continues

### **Acts 9:26**

When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple

- † Trust takes time
- † His past created fear
- † This shows realism in the early church

### **Acts 9:27**

But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described how he had seen the Lord

- † Barnabas bridges the gap
- † Testimony establishes credibility
- † Fellowship is restored

### **Acts 9:28**

And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord

- † Saul now walks boldly
- † He proclaims what he once opposed
- † Transformation is complete

### **Acts 9:29**

And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews, but they were attempting to put him to death

- † Truth creates conflict
- † Debate leads to persecution
- † The message confronts error

### **Acts 9:30**

But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus

- † The church protects its own
- † Strategy preserves the mission
- † God works through wisdom

### **Acts 9:31**

So the church throughout Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up, and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase

- † The church is already growing
- † This proves fulfillment was happening then
- † The kingdom is established and expanding

### **Acts 9:32**

Now as Peter was traveling through all those regions, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda

- † The message continues spreading
- † The apostles are active
- † The kingdom is expanding geographically

### **Acts 9:33**

There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed

- † The condition shows long-term suffering
- † Healing will demonstrate authority
- † Christ's power is about to be shown

### **Acts 9:34**

Peter said to him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you, get up and make your bed, immediately he got up

- † Healing confirms Christ's authority
- † The power is in Christ, not Peter
- † Immediate results show divine action

### **Acts 9:35**

And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they

turned to the Lord

† Miracles lead people to faith

† The result is conversion

† The kingdom continues to grow

### **Acts 9:36**

Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity

† Her life reflects the character of the kingdom

† Good works flow from faith

† She is an example of covenant life

### **Acts 9:37**

And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died, and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room

† Death still occurred physically

† The resurrection life is spiritual

† Christ's authority is about to be shown again

### **Acts 9:38**

Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, urging him, Do not delay in coming to us

† The disciples act in faith

† They expect help

† Trust in God moves them

### **Acts 9:39**

So Peter arose and went with them, when he arrived, they brought him into the upper room, all the widows stood beside him weeping and showing the garments that Tabitha used to make

† Her impact is visible

† The community mourns her

† Her works testify of her life

## **Acts 9:40**

But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body he said, Tabitha, arise, and she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up

- † Prayer comes first
- † Christ's power raises her
- † Authority over death is shown

## **Acts 9:41**

And he gave her his hand and raised her up, and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive

- † Restoration is complete
- † The miracle is witnessed
- † The community is strengthened

## **Acts 9:42**

It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord

- † The result is belief
- † The message spreads
- † The kingdom expands

## **Acts 9:43**

And Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon

- † The work continues steadily
- † The message remains active
- † The kingdom is established and growing

## **Historical References**

- † Josephus records unrest and transitions in Judea during this time
- † Eusebius documents the spread of the early church across regions
- † Clement of Alexandria speaks of early conversions and growth

† Tacitus confirms the presence of Christians in the empire

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† Christ's kingdom is already established

† Transformation is real and immediate

† Opposition confirms truth

† We're called to walk boldly in what has been fulfilled

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** Was Saul's conversion proof of a future kingdom

**A** No, it shows Christ was already reigning (Colossians 1:13)

**Q** Did persecution mean the kingdom had not come yet

**A** No, Jesus said it would happen in that generation (Matthew 24:9)

**Q** Was the church growing before AD 70

**A** Yes, Acts 9:31 shows expansion

**Q** Does this support future fulfillment

**A** No, it shows present fulfillment (Matthew 16:27-28)

**Q** What does Saul's transformation prove

**A** That Christ has authority to change anyone (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## **Source Index**

† Acts 9

† Josephus

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

† Tacitus, Histories

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