WITNESSES

FROM ENEMY TO WITNESS

Acts 9 (pg. 975)





1) SAUL'S CONVERSION (1-19)

[1]Now Saul was still breathing threats and murder
against the disciples of the Lord. He went to the
high priest [2]and requested letters from him to the
synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any
men or women who belonged to the Way, he
might bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

A voice of one crying out:
Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness;
make a straight highway for our God in the desert.

ISAIAH 40:3

3 As he traveled and was nearing Damascus, a
light from heaven suddenly flashed around him.
4 Falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to
him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”
5 “Who are you, Lord?” Saul said.
“I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting,” he
replied. 6 “But get up and go into the city, and you
will be told what you must do.”

Something like a throne with the appearance of lapis lazuli was above the expanse over their heads. On the throne, high above, was someone who looked like a human. From what seemed to be his waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with what looked like fire enclosing it all around. From what seemed to be his waist down, I also saw what looked like fire. There was a brilliant light all around him. The appearance of the brilliant light all around was like that of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. This was the appearance of the likeness of the Lord's glory. When I saw it, I fell facedown and heard a voice speaking.

EZEKIEL 1:25-28

7 The men who were traveling with him stood
speechless, hearing the sound but seeing no one.
8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes
were open, he could see nothing. So they took him
by the hand and led him into Damascus. 9 He was
unable to see for three days and did not eat or
drink.

10 There was a disciple in Damascus named
Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision,
"Ananias."
"Here I am, Lord," he replied.
11 "Get up and go to the street called Straight," the
Lord said to him, "to the house of Judas, and ask
for a man from Tarsus named Saul, since he is
praying there. 12 In a vision he has seen a man
named Ananias coming in and placing his hands
on him so that he may regain his sight."

13 “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard from
many people about this man, how much harm he
has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And he
has authority here from the chief priests to arrest
all who call on your name.”
15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for this man is my
chosen instrument to take my name to Gentiles,
kings, and Israelites. 16 I will show him how much
he must suffer for my name.”

17 Ananias went and entered the house. He placed
his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord
Jesus, who appeared to you on the road you were
traveling, has sent me so that you may regain
your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”
18 At once something like scales fell from his eyes,
and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was
baptized.

He answered, “Whether or not he’s a sinner, I don’t know. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see!"

JOHN 9:25

1) SAUL'S CONVERSION (1-19)
2) SAUL'S MINISTRY (19-31)

19 And after taking some food, he regained his
strength. Saul was with the disciples in Damascus
for some time.
20 Immediately he began proclaiming Jesus in the
synagogues: "He is the Son of God."
21 All who heard him were astounded and said,
"Isn't this the man in Jerusalem who was causing
havoc for those who called on this name and
came here for the purpose of taking them as
prisoners to the chief priests?"

I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus.
Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him fifteen days.

GALATIANS 1:17-18


CILICIA
0
100 mi
Tarsus
0
100 km
Seleucia
Antioch
SYRIA
Salamis
5
CYPRUS
Mediterranean Sea
Sidon
Damascus
2
3
Tyre
4
GALILEE
1
ARABIA
Caesarea
SAMARIA
Joppa
Jerusalem
JUDEA

22 But Saul grew stronger and kept confounding
the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that
Jesus is the Messiah.
23 After many days had passed, the Jews conspired
to kill him, 24 but Saul learned of their plot. So they
were watching the gates day and night intending
to kill him, 25 but his disciples took him by night
and lowered him in a large basket through an
opening in the wall.

[26]When he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join
the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, since
they did not believe he was a disciple. [27]Barnabas,
however, took him and brought him to the
apostles and explained to them how Saul had seen
the Lord on the road and that the Lord had talked
to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken
boldly in the name of Jesus. [28]Saul was coming
and going with them in Jerusalem, speaking
boldly in the name of the Lord.

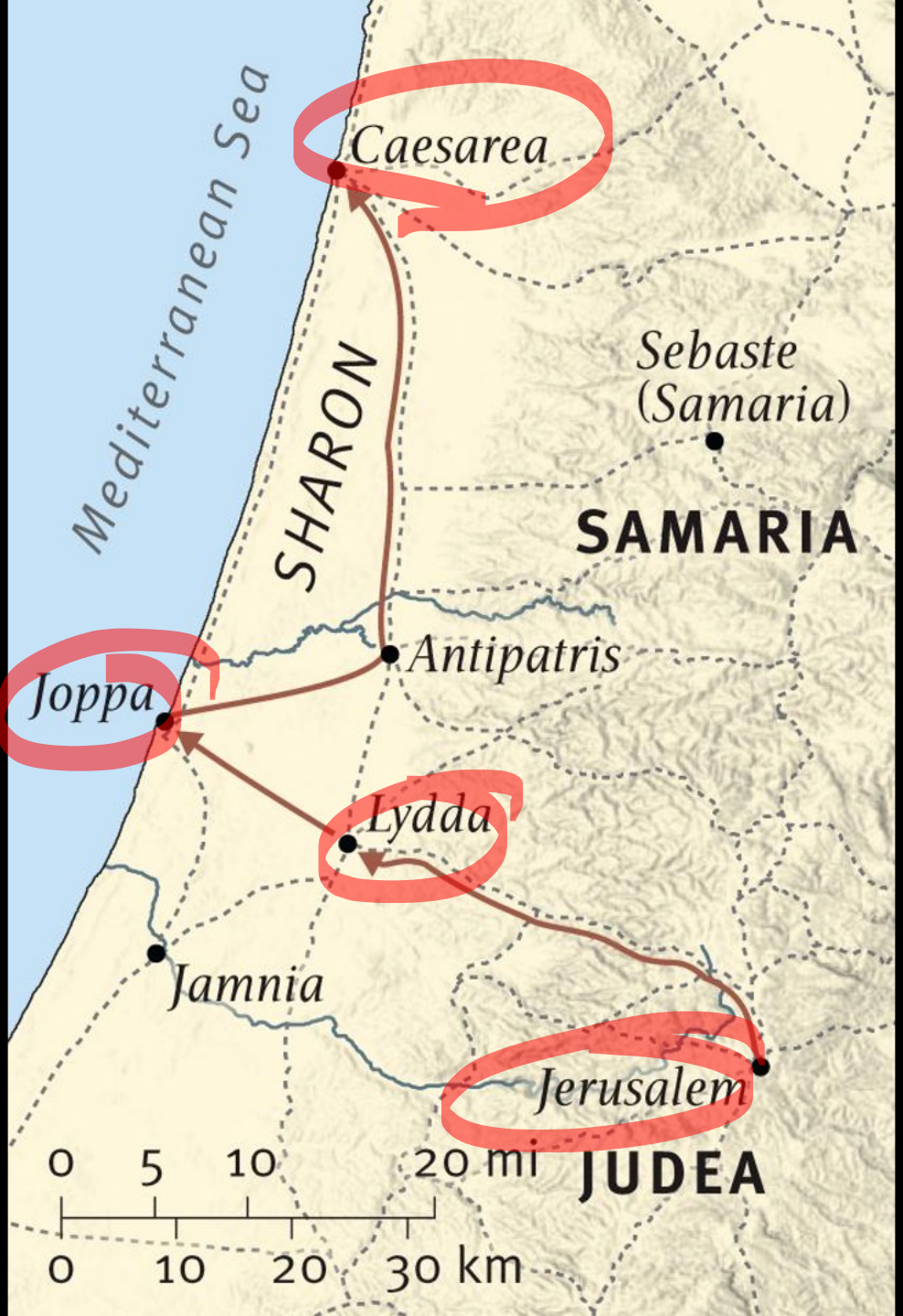
29 He conversed and debated with the Hellenistic
Jews, but they tried to kill him. 30 When the
brothers found out, they took him down to
Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.
31 So the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and
Samaria had peace and was strengthened. Living
in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the
Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

1) SAUL'S CONVERSION (1-19)

2) SAUL'S MINISTRY (19-31)

3) PETER'S MINISTRY EXPANDS (32-43)

32 As Peter was traveling from place to place, he
also came down to the saints who lived in Lydda.
33 There he found a man named Aeneas, who was
paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years.
34 Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals
you. Get up and make your bed,” and immediately
he got up. 35 So all who lived in Lydda and Sharon
saw him and turned to the Lord.


Mediterranean Sea
SHARON
Caesarea
Sebaste
(Samaria)
SAMARIA
Antipatris
Joppa
Lydda
Jamnia
Jerusalem
JUDEA
0 5 10 20 mi
0 10 20 30 km

[36]In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which is translated Dorcas). She was always doing good works and acts of charity. [37]About that time she became sick and died. After washing her, they placed her in a room upstairs. [38]Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples heard that Peter was there and sent two men to him who urged him, "Don't delay in coming with us." [39]Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they led him to the room upstairs. And all the widows approached him, weeping and showing him the robes and clothes that Dorcas had made while she was with them.

40 Peter sent them all out of the room. He knelt
down, prayed, and turning toward the body said,
"Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, saw Peter,
and sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her
stand up. He called the saints and widows and
presented her alive. 42 This became known
throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.
43 Peter stayed for some time in Joppa with Simon,
a leather tanner.

Then he took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum” (which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, get up”). Immediately the girl got up and began to walk. (She was twelve years old.) At this they were utterly astounded.

MARK 5:41-42

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