

ACTS - FROM RESURRECTION TO REVELATION

Lesson 13

Review: *A powerful seed is planted with the stoning of Stephen as a young man named Saul burst onto the scene by consenting to his death. This is no mere happenstance, but story of God's amazing grace seen in the life of the Apostle Paul.*

I. The Grace Of Paul's Providential Positioning - Acts 7:54-8:8

- A) Named after another Benjamite, king Saul, who persecuted David with great zeal
- B) His appearance is described by Onesiphoros as "a man rather small in size, bald-headed, bow-legged, with meeting eyebrows, a large and red crooked nose"
- C) At approximately 30, he would have just recently been eligible to hold power

II. The Grace Of Paul's Providential Preparation - Gal. 1:11-24

A) Providentially possessed Roman CITIZENSHIP - Acts 22:25-30

- 1) Providing freedom of movement
- 2) Providing legal protections
- 3) Providing the right to appeal directly to Caesar

B) Providentially reared in Greek CULTURE - Acts 17:15-34

- 1) Familiar with the customs, philosophies, and wisdom
- 2) Fluent in the language
- 3) Tarsus was a leading center for arts, academia, and athletics

C) Providentially born to Jewish PROMINENCE - Phil. 3:4-7

- 1) Father was of pure blood, and of the sect of the Pharisees
- 2) He moved to Jerusalem to learned at the feet of the Gamaliel
- 3) As a Benjamite, he is named after King Saul, persecutor of David
- 4) Though called to the Gentiles, he never lost his passion for the Jews

III. The Grace Of Paul's Providential Purpose - Acts 26:10-12 / I Tim. 1:12-16

A) Provided provocation to bring about the first MISSIONARIES

B) Provided a portrayal of the depth of God's FORGIVENESS

C) Provided a pattern of how we should view our PAST LIVES

- 1) Even pre-salvation opportunities and experiences prepare us for ministry
- 2) God made no mistakes in the timing, place, or parents of our birth
- 3) Even mistakes we've made only magnify the grace of God when forgiven