Saul Preaches in Damascus

Acts 9:19b-25

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Saul Preaches the Gospel

Acts 9:19b, 20 (HCSB)
Saul was with the disciples in Damascus for some days. Immediately he began proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues: "He is the Son of God."

- Going to synagogues to preach Christ will be a common pattern for Paul
- "Son of God" is found in Luke 1:32; 1:35, 3:38, 4:3-9; and 22:70. It is only found here in Acts
- See Romans 1:1-4

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Paul's Radical Change "Astounds"

Acts 9:21 (HCSB)
But all who heard him were astounded and said, "Isn't this the man who, in Jerusalem, was destroying those who called on this name and then came here for the purpose of taking them as prisoners to the chief priests?"

- "Astounded" is ***exístēmi*** (amazed) a common reaction in Luke/Acts to the mighty deeds of God
- See Luke 8:56, 24:22, Acts 2:7, 12; 8:9, 11, 13; 10:45; 12:16
- This conversion was obviously supernatural

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Spiritual Power & Apologetic Aptitude

Acts 9:22 (NRSV)

Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

- Powerful is also used in Philippians 4:13
- "Confounded" means confusion or consternation
- "Proving" is from a word that means "bring together" in this case facts that teach truth
- Saul showed Jesus as Son of God and Messiah (2Samuel 7:11b-14a)

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Gospel Truth Made Them Want Saul Dead

Acts 9:23 (KJV)

And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:

- Saul's three years in Arabia happened sometime before this (Galatians 1:17, 18)
- "Fulfilled" is **πληρόω** in the passive which denotes "completed" in regard to God's purposes (see Lk 9:51; Lk 21:24; Acts 7:30)
- See also 2Corinthians 11:32, 33 (Gentiles were also after him)

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Saul Is Rescued With Help From Believers

Acts 9:24, 25 (NASB)

but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

- Paul had been told he would suffer for Christ (Acts 9:16)

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