

7. By the time of the Book of Acts, the relationship between the Samaritans and the Jews was one of pure hatred, so for Philip to go there was a radical action.

8. The Samaritans repented, believed, and were baptized in the name of Jesus, but did not receive the Holy Spirit until Peter and John came up from Jerusalem and laid hands on them.

9. Theology cannot be built upon historical passages of Scripture by themselves; it must be based on the didactic (or teaching) passages that explain the historical happenings.

10. Simon the Magician:

- a. He had real power, but it did not come from God.
- b. His power was inferior to and helpless against the true power of God.
- c. He believed in the power and he wanted it, but he did not receive the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

11. Philip uses Isaiah 53 to lead the Ethiopian Eunuch to Christ and baptizes him on the spot. Philip and the Ethiopian man had a divine appointment that day.

1. Acts 9 introduces us to the single most dominant personality in the early church, a man named Saul of Tarsus, who became the Apostle Paul.

2. Paul later says, "God set me apart from birth."

3. He was from the city of Tarsus, a major trading center where Greek, Roman and Jewish cultures overlapped.

4. He was by birth a Roman citizen.

5. He was educated in a center of Hellenistic (Greek) learning.

6. He was a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin.

7. He was raised according to the strictest Pharasaical tradition.

8. He was educated at the feet of Gamaliel, the most respected rabbi of his time.

9. Paul had his feet planted in all 3 of the cultures necessary for him to be the bridge across which to carry the Gospel to Greek and Roman minds.

10. Before his conversion, Paul was a persecutor of Christians.

11. Jesus Christ initiates the encounter with Saul on the road to Damascus.

12. A man named Sadhu Sundar Singh in India had the same conversion experience as Saul, in the early 1900s, before he had ever heard of Saul of Tarsus.

13. The passage we read in Galatians tells us that there was at least a 3-year period before Paul returned to Jerusalem after his conversion.

14. The Christians in Damascus have to smuggle Paul out of the city because he has made so many enemies.

15. God had great work for Paul to do, but first he had to be prepared.

16. The roles of Ananias and Barnabas in Paul's life were terribly important.

1. Review: The 3 sections of the Book of Acts:

- a. Acts 1-7: The establishment of the church in Jerusalem; Peter and John are the dominant figures.
- b. Acts 8-12: The spread of the Gospel into Judea and Samaria; Saul's conversion; Philip plays a major role.
- c. Acts 13-28: To the uttermost parts of the earth; Paul is the main character.

2. After Saul's conversion, the focus shifts back to Peter and the healing of Aeneas and the raising of Dorcas (Tabitha) from the dead.

3. When God uses Peter to perform miracles, Peter makes sure that all the glory goes to Jesus.

4. These 2 events lead up to Peter going to the house of a Roman centurion named Cornelius and the establishment of the first Gentile house church.

5. Christians will be consistently referred to as saints throughout the rest of the New Testament.

6. Cornelius calls for Peter because he is responding to an angel who visited him. Peter goes to Cornelius' house in response to a vision from God.

7. The “kerygma” – the core of the apostolic message – is here again: It centers on the person and work of Jesus Christ and tells people how to become a recipient of that work.

8. A-B-C:

- a. ASK for forgiveness of your sins.
- b. BELIEVE that Jesus, the infinite God-man, died to pay the penalty for your sin, and that the resurrection is the proof God gave to all who would see that the payment was sufficient and His sacrifice was accepted.
- c. RECEIVE Christ as the Lord and Master of your life.

9. Cornelius had gathered his relatives and close friends to his house to hear Peter – his whole web of influence.

10. A strong church grew up in Antioch and Barnabas was sent to accredit and establish it.

11. Barnabas remembered the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, nearly 10 years before, and the prophecy that Saul (Paul) would be the apostle to the Gentiles, and he went to Tarsus to bring Paul back to help him with this new Gentile church – and that act of encouragement changed history.

1. At the beginning of Acts 12, the period of toleration of the Christian church ends, and full-scale persecution begins again.

2. The “Herods”:

- a. Herod the Great: the one who tried to kill Jesus as an infant

- b. Herod Antipas: The son of Herod the Great who stole his brother’s wife Herodias, executed John the Baptist and judged Jesus on the day of the crucifixion

- c. Herod Agrippa I – the grandson of Herod the Great. Herod Agrippa I dies in Acts 12; he had James the Apostle executed; God judges him for accepting the acclamation that he was a god.

- d. Herod Agrippa II: We will meet him later in the Book of Acts.

3. Herod Agrippa I grew up in Rome and was a close friend of Caligula, the mad emperor.

4. James the Apostle is the first of the apostles to die; his brother John was the last. James was a martyr; John died a natural death in very old age.

5. After being released from prison again, Peter leaves Jerusalem.

6. Before leaving, Peter went to the house where the believers were gathered, praying for his release.

7. We need to check with other Scripture passages to see what the teaching portions have to say about guardian angels (Matthew 18:10 and Hebrews 1:14).

8. The historian Flavius Josephus also tells the account of Herod Agrippa's death on August 1, 44 A.D.

9. At this point, around 44 A.D., the 'torch' of the early church passes from Jerusalem to Antioch, the vibrant, new missionary church.

7. James 1:22: “Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

8. James 2:26: “As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”

9. “Faith working through love” is the key to what both James and Paul are talking about when they speak of faith.

10. Jesus said it this way: “By their fruit you will know them.”

11. James 2:10: “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in just one point, he is guilty of breaking it all.”

12. Showing favoritism to the rich is a sin; so is not keeping a tight rein on one’s tongue.

13. James the Just (as he was called) was martyred in 62 A.D. by the high priest Ananus who hated Christians.

14. It is told that James spent so much time in prayer that his knees were calloused like a camel's.

15. Eight years after James' martyrdom, Jerusalem fell to the armies of Rome and was destroyed.