

**“Complete Infilling & Transformation  
Lead To Amazement, Confusion, Evidence, & Persecution!”**

**Acts 9:17-19 & 20-25**

**CONTEXT**

This Story About Paul’s Conversion & His Life

Has A **Three-Year Hiatus (34 A.D. – 37 A.D.)**

With Separate Activity Under The Holy Spirit’s Influence Built Into Its Context.

**CONTEXT**

However, Luke As A Historian Did Not Include This Three-Year Hiatus In His Official Record

Of “*The History Of The Christian Church Part II*” – Entitled “*Acts Of The Apostles*”.

(In The Year 34 A.D.)<sup>1</sup> **Ananias** went his way and entered the house; and **laying his hands on him (Saul), he (Ananias) Said (Rhema)**, “*Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, Who Appeared to you on the road as you came, (He) has sent me that you may receive Your Sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit!*” Immediately there **fell from his eyes something like scales**, and **he received His Sight (Healing of Physical Sight & Transformation by Divine Sight)** at once; and **he arose** and **(he) was baptized**. So, when **he** had received food, **he** was strengthened. Then **Saul** spent some days with the **Disciples at Damascus**.<sup>1</sup> **Acts 9:17-19 (NKJV)**

Insert Here Three Years (34 A.D. – 37 A.D.)<sup>1-2</sup>

Of Retreat, Prayer, Study, & Spiritual Transformation For Saul - Paul!

**See Galatians 1:11-24**

... Immediately (**Three Years Later – 37 A.D.**), he (Saul - Paul) preached **Christ** in the synagogues, that **‘He Is The Son Of God!’** Then **All Who Heard Were Amazed**, and said, “*Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this Name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?*” But **Saul increased all the more in strength**, and **confounded the Jews** who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this **‘Jesus Is The Christ!’** Now after many days were past, the **Jews plotted to kill him**. But **their plot became known** to **Saul**. And **They (Jews)** watched the gates day and night, to kill him. Then the **Disciples** took **him (Saul)** by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket (where he made his escape to Jerusalem).<sup>2</sup> **Acts 9:20-25 (NKJV)**

**CONTEXT**

This Story About Paul’s Conversion & His Life Has A **Three-Year Hiatus (34 A.D. – 37 A.D.)**

With Separate Activity Under The Holy Spirit’s Influence Built Into Its Context.

However, Luke As A Historian Did Not Include This Three-Year Hiatus In His Official Record Of

“*The History Of The Christian Church Part II*” – Entitled “*Acts Of The Apostles*”.

Let’s Look Now At The Three Years In Question (34 A.D. – 37 A.D.)<sup>1-2</sup>

Where Saul/Paul Left Damascus & Israel To Escape Being Hunted By The Jewish Authorities

And For A Time Of Self-Imposed: Cloister, Retreat, Prayer,

Study, Worship, & Spiritual Transformation For Saul/Paul!

**EVIDENCE For Three Year Hiatus**

**Galatians 1:11-24, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:32-33, Mark 6:17-29,**

**Matthew 14:3-12, Luke 3:18-20, & Josephus**

**Q: “Where Did Saul/Paul Go For Those Three Years: 34 – 37 AD?”**

**A: The Nabataean Kingdom In Arabia**

**Q: "How Do We Know He Hid Away In Nabataea?"**

**A1:** Because Three Years Later, Both The Jewish Authorities & The King Of Nabataea, Are Still Hunting Him In The Streets Of Damascus Three Years Later!

**A2:** Let's Visit Through The Word Of God – The City Of Damascus In The Year 37 A.D. <sup>2</sup>

... Immediately (Three Years Later – 37 A.D.), he (Saul) (returning from Nabataea In Arabia), preached **Christ** in the synagogues (of Damascus), that **'He Is The Son Of God!'** Then **All Who Heard Were Amazed**, and said, **"Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this Name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?"** But **Saul increased all the more in strength**, and **confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus**, proving that this **'Jesus Is The Christ!'** Now after many days were past, the **Jews plotted to kill him**. But **their plot became known** to Saul. And **They (Jews & Nabateans** together) **watched the gates day and night, to kill him**. Then the **Disciples** took him (Saul) by night and **let him down through the wall in a large basket** (where he made his escape to Jerusalem). <sup>2</sup>

Acts 9:20-25 (NKJV)

**NOTICE – Evidence Of Two-Way Plot**

The Plot To Kill Saul/Paul Is Both Of Jewish & Nabataean Origin!

1) Now after many days were past, the **Jews plotted to kill him**. But **their plot became known** to Saul. And **They (Jews & Nabateans)** watched the gates day and night, to kill him.

Acts 9:23-24

2) Paul says to the Church In Corinth, **"In Damascus the Governor (Ethnarch), under Aretas (IV) the King, was guarding the City of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped (from his hands Governor (Ethnarch), under Aretas (IV) the King)."** <sup>2</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:32-33 (NKJV)

**Q: "So Why A Two-Way Plot Against Saul/Paul?"**

**A1:** King Aretas (IV) Helped The Jewish Authorities Because Of His Official Responsibilities As Governor Of Northern Palestine & Syria Under Roman Rule

**A2:** King Aretas Helped The Jews Because He Also Personally Wanted Saul/Paul Killed!

a) This Would Imply That Saul/Paul Had Openly Evangelized To The Nabataean People!

b) Therefore, He Had Previously Upset The Local Religious & Government Authorities In His Exile During Those 3 Years!

**FACT**

In Any Case, Saul/Paul Was Now A Hunted Man With A Price On His Head!

**Q: "So, What Is The Real Root Cause For Hunting Down Saul/Paul By Both Of These Groups?"**

**A:** Because Of What He Debated, Preached, Proved, Taught, & Testified To:

**"That 'Christ' (Is God's Anointed & Chosen Messiah); That 'He Is The Son Of God!'" – Acts 9:20 & 22**

**UNIQUE TRUTH!**

In The Entire Book of The Acts of the Apostles – This Is the **ONLY** Time **"Christ"** Is Referred To As **"One & Same As God"** & **"Son Of God"** – Acts 9:20 & 22

**Q: "But How Did Saul/Paul Come To This**

**Knowledge, Conviction, & Boldness To Testify To Jesus Christ?"**

**A1:** By Direct Revelation Of Jesus Christ Himself!

One Event Recorded 1x By Luke, & 3x By Saul/Paul – Himself!

Acts 9:3-6, Galatians 1:16, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:19, & Romans 1:4

**A2:** By Three Years Spent In Solitude With God's Holy Spirit!

A Time Of Self-Imposed: Cloister, Retreat, Prayer, Study, Worship, & Spiritual Transformation For Saul/Paul!

**Q: "What Was The Combined Effect On Saul's/Paul's Life, Mind, Heart, & Soul?"**

**A: "But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this 'Jesus Is The Christ!' Acts 9:22**

**Q: "Where Have We Encountered A Young Man That Also Was Able To Testify With Power & Confound All His Jewish Brothers & Contemporaries?"**

**A: Stephen the Martyr!**

And **Stephen, Full Of Faith and Power**, did **Great Wonders and Signs** among the people. Then there arose some from what is called the **Synagogue of the Freedmen** (Former Slaves who were Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), **disputing** (debating and arguing) with **Stephen**. And they were not able to resist the **Wisdom** and the **Spirit** by which **he (Stephen) spoke**. Acts 6:8-10 (NKJV)

### RECAP

**Let's Review Saul/Paul's Life From 34 – 37 A.D.**

- 1) Paul Was Radically Changed By Direct Revelation Of The Lord Jesus Christ In A Visionary Epiphany From Heaven
- 2) He Fasted & Prayed For Three Days For Strength, Renewal, & Understanding
- 3) He Was Obedient & Was Divinely Given His Physical & Spiritual Sight!
- 4) He Was Completely Infilled By The Presence Of God Through His Holy Spirit
- 5) He Was Baptized & Proclaimed Openly His Faith In Jesus Christ The Lord
- 6) He Went Away In Retreat For Three Years To Pray, Study, Comprehend, Worship, & Be Transformed Fully By The Holy Spirit Into The Obedient Disciple Of Jesus Christ
- 7) He Came Out Of His Cloister To Serve Everyone & To Seek The Lost Fulfilling His Calling In Christ Jesus

Let Us Do The Same This Morning, This Day, This Week!

Let Us Spend Time In God's Presence Daily

To Pray, To Study, To Comprehend, To Worship,

& To Be Transformed By The Complete Infilling Of God's Spirit Within Us!

Let Us Be Our Lord's Obedient Disciples Serving Everyone With His Love,

Seeking The Lost & Sharing With Them The Good News,

That God Has Sent His Only Son Into The World & In Our Hearts

To Forgive, To Set Free, & Save Us All!

See Attached **APPENDIX - Timeline Of The Apostle Paul's Life (6 – 68 AD)**