

***“Revelation, Obedience, Conversion, Baptism, & Infilling,
Leads To Retreat, Prayer, Study, Worship, & Transformation!”***

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.) ¹ **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**. ¹ **Acts 9:17-19 (NKJV)**

Insert Here Three Years (34 A.D. – 37 A.D.) ¹⁻²

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). ² **Acts 9:20-25 (NKJV)**

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The Recent Past Of This Story As We Read It Anew This Morning In 34 A.D. ¹

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

See Evidence From God's Holy Word: Galatians 1:11-24 & 2nd Corinthians 11:32-33

EVIDENCE - Galatians

Paul says to the Church In Galatia, "But I make known to you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the Revelation of Jesus Christ." ¹ "For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers." ¹ "But when it pleased God, Who separated me from my mother's womb and Called Me Through His Grace, to Reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, ¹ and returned again to Damascus." ² "Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other Apostles except James, the Lord's Brother. Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie." ² "Afterward, I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia (Tarsus). And I was unknown by face to the Churches of Judea which were in Christ. But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us, now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy!" And they Glorified God in me." ²

Galatians 1:11-24 (NKJV)

EVIDENCE – Corinthians

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)." ²

2nd Corinthians 11:32-33 (NKJV)

Insert Here Now The Official Roman History By Josephus, Which Confers Validity

To The Biblical History In The New Testament (Matthew, Mark, & Luke)

Concerning The History Of The Nabataean Kingdom & The Kingdom Of Israel

EVIDENCE – Historian Josephus

King Aretas (IV)'s Daughter - Phasaelis, was married to Herod Antipas, otherwise known as Herod the Tetrarch. Phasaelis fled to her father when she discovered her husband intended to divorce her in order to take a new wife, Herodias, the wife of his brother, Herod II, & mother of Salome. Antipas married Herodias, and it was opposition to this marriage, as a polygamous, and an adulterous affair, that led to the eventual beheading of John the Baptist. It was John that pointed out that Herodias never divorced her Husband, she just left him, and then simply married again to gain power & prestige.

See Also Mark 6:17-29 & Matthew 14:3-12 & Luke 3:18-20

In response to the public disgrace of his daughter, Phasaelis, Aretas (IV) invaded Herod Antipas' domain and defeated his army with the help of Philip the Tetrarch's army. Herod's brother Philip wanted to see his brother defeated and removed from power, for his perverse actions against his other brother, Herod II. Herod Antipas was able to barely escape with his life because of the help of a reinforced Roman Garrison in the area, ordered to protect him. Herod Antipas then appealed to Emperor Tiberius, who ordered Lucius Vitellius the Elder, the Governor of Syria, to immediately attack Aretas (IV). Vitellius gathered his Legions and moved southward, stopping for a short time in Jerusalem for the Passover of AD 37, to keep any insurrection of occurring among the Jews.

It was at the time of the Passover Festival, that news from Rome concerning Emperor Tiberius's recent death was delivered to Lucius Vitellius. Also, a set of new orders from Emperor Caligula was delivered to cease and desist the planned invasion of Nabataea. Finally, a new peace treaty and seal of authority was sent to Lucius to take to King Aretas (IV). This new formal agreement between the New Roman Emperor Caligula and King Aretas (IV) would allow the Nabataean Kingdom the official rights & authority to govern the Northern Syrian Province of Rome in place of the exiled, Herod Antipas. So, In the Year 37 AD, Emperor Caligula transferred all power and control of the Syrian Province of Rome, with Damascus as its Capitol City, to the Kingship Of Aretas (IV) of Nabataea, with a Roman Garrison nearby in a supportive and overseer role.

Josephus

Q: "Where Did Paul Go For Those Three Years: 34 – 37 AD?"

A: The Nabataean Kingdom In Arabia

Now Come Back With Me This Morning

To The City Of Damascus Some Three Years Later In 37 A.D. ²

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). ²

Acts 9:20-25 (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)**