

## "I AM JESUS."

(ACTS IX. 5).

THE Jews had rejected, betrayed and murdered Jesus, their Messiah, the Son of God. God had raised Him up from the dead, and exalted Him as Lord and Christ, at His own right hand. And the Holy Ghost had come down, and had anointed and sealed, those who believed in His name, and had united them to Christ in glory, as members of His body. And the Lord Jesus now looked upon His followers as a part of Himself, His body.

Saul of Tarsus had become the great leader in the persecution waged by the Jews against the disciples of Jesus. His state and career are briefly described by the Holy Ghost in these words: "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem." (Acts ix. 1, 2). Afterwards, speaking of the matter himself, he said; "Many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities." (Acts xxvi. 10, 11).

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