

Lesson I.

SAUL OF TARSUS CONVERTED

April 6, 1902

Acts 9: 1-12. Study Acts 9: 1-20—Memory Verses, 3-5.

Golden Text—Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.—Acts 3: 19.



1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him letters to Damas'cus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jeru'salem.

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damas'cus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Je'sus whom thou persecutest: *it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damas'cus.

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

10 And there was a certain disciple at Damas'cus, named Anani'as; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Anani'as. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Ju'das for one called Saul, of Tar'sus: for, behold, he prayeth,

12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Anan'ias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

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THE LESSON RETOLD

Saul, the persecutor, was not content when he had helped to drive the believers from Jerusalem, but followed them to other cities.

He heard that there were believers at Damascus, so one day he went to the high priest and got leave from him to go to that city and punish the followers of Jesus, planning to bind all whom he could find, with chains and bring them back to Jerusalem to be thrown into prison.

The next day about noon, while Saul was on his journey, as he was getting near Damascus, suddenly such a bright light shone around him that he fell off his horse to the ground. Then he heard a voice calling to him,

"Saul, Saul, why are you fighting against me?"

"Who am I fighting against?" asked Saul.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," was the answer. Then Saul knew that it was the Lord Himself who had stopped him, and with great fear and astonishment he cried, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

"Arise," said the voice, "and go into the city and you will be told there what you must do."

When Saul got up from the ground, he could see nothing. Then the men who were with him, who had heard the voice but knew not whose it was, took their blind master by the hand and led him into Damascus, where he sat helpless for three days, neither eating nor drinking, and he could not see.