

THE BOOK OF ACTS | GOD'S REVELATION OF TRANSITION

SESSION 69 ACTS 22:6-24

ACTS 21:37-22:21 | PAUL ADDRESSES THE JEWS

- Verses 22:1-6 included on session 68
- Verse 22:6-8 –
 - The account of Paul's Damascus Road journey was given the first time in Acts 9:3-8. This is the first time we have it directly from the mouth of Paul.
 - Note that Paul refers to himself as **Saul** in this testimony. The designation as Paul does not begin until he has received *the mystery* of the Gospel of this age.
 - Saul is persecuting **Jesus of Nazareth**, by means of persecuting those who believe Jesus to be Messiah. **Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me** (Matt. 25:40).
- Verse 22:9 –
 - The word **saw** is θεάομαι [theaomai], and is a word used when there is a prolonged gazing. It is used in Acts 21:7.
 - The Greek word is the basis of our English word *theater*.
- Verses 22:10-13 –
 - Paul is careful to note that Ananias was **a devout man according to the law** and that he had **a good report of all the Jews** of Damascus.
 - This builds his defense that he is *not guilty* of the charge of teaching Jews to disobey the law.
 - Among modern Christianity, the it decimates the standard position that those at Damascus were "Christians" living (as we are) in a new dispensation.
 - Here is an example of standard Christian teaching:
 - *The reason that there are so few "Saul" conversions is because there are very few "Ananias" Christians. Every believer would love to be able to lead someone like Saul to Christ, but the reason most believers don't lead someone like Saul to Christ is because they don't have the type of Christianity that Ananias had. If it weren't for Ananias, there would be no Apostle Paul, and if there was no Apostle Paul, there may be no Gospel to the Gentile world. It took an "Ananias Christian" to help the journey for a Saul to become an Apostle Paul. When you study Ananias, you see seven characteristics that make up an "Ananias Christian."*
(https://oldpathsjournal.com/ananias-christians/?doing_wp_cron=1593267015.7228589057922363281250)
- Verses 22:14-16 –
 - Paul once again emphasizes his Jewishness, pointing out that Ananias, the respected Jew, said that **the God of our fathers hath chosen thee**.
 - Saul was chosen to **be his witness of what thou has seen and heard**. Note that this cannot be *the mystery*, because he had not yet seen it.
 - Saul was then instructed to **be baptized, and wash away thy sins**.

- This is a message which was not offensive to the Jewish people *because it was Jewish theology*.
 - The Jews never had a problem with baptism (John the Baptist, Day of Pentecost, etc) because this was in line with Jewish thinking.
 - Notice that this imperative **wash away thy sins** is *not* a message of “by grace through faith.”
 - It is only the uneducated that consider baptism to be a Christian invention.
- Verses 22:17-18 –
 - It was three years before Saul was **come again to Jerusalem**. At that visit, the Lord instructed him to leave Jerusalem **for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me**.
 - One should note that at this visit Saul was not teaching *the mystery* nor had he received it. The account, from Luke’s perspective, is given in Luke 9:26-31.
- Verses 22:19-20 –
 - It is important to note that this is Saul’s argument *against* leaving Jerusalem. Saul is convinced that the Jews *will receive his testimony* because he was clearly one of them.
 - Note also that the beatings of which Saul took part were **in every synagogue**, thus of Jews, not a breakaway group of Christians.
- Verse 22:21 –
 - The Lord does not entertain the argument of Saul, nor does He even allow for discussion. He simply says, **Depart, for I will send thee...unto the Gentiles**.
 - Even here, Saul does not have *the mystery*. One should not make the mistake of thinking that the Kingdom gospel was *only for Jews*. There was always a worldwide aspect of the Kingdom. The responsibility of the Gentile was to recognize the choice of God concerning the Jew and to relate to Israel accordingly.

ACTS 22:22-30 | PAUL EXERTS HIS RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP

- Verse 22 –
 - The idea of sharing the Kingdom message with the Gentiles because the people of Jerusalem would not receive the message was more than the people could bare.
 - They would not even entertain the idea that they could have crucified the *wrong man*. In 1 Corinthians 1:23 Paul says that **Christ crucified is unto the Jews a stumblingblock**.
- Verses 23-24 --
 - The Jewish means of expressing anger was to **cast off...clothes** (using the Greek word *ριπτω* [ripto], from which we get *rip* and *ripte*) and to throw **dust into the air**.
 - The Roman in charge did not understand the angst of the Jewish crowd, and so Paul was **examined by scourging** in order to get some information.
 - Likely the **chief captain** suspected there was more to the story and so was using extreme interrogation tactics in order to get the information.
- *To be continued*