

Acts 9:23-43 2026 – Saul Escapes Death; Saul at Jerusalem; The Church Prospers; Aeneas Healed; Dorcas Restored to Life!

8/14/26 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com <https://www.ptwente.com>

Last Week: *Act 9:10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." [11] So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. [12] And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." [9:22] But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.*

ACTS 9:23-33: –

Saul Escapes from Damascus

[23] Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. [24] But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. [25] Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.

Saul in Jerusalem

[26] And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. [27] But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. [28] So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. [29] And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him. [30] When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus. [31] Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

The Healing of Aeneas

[32] Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. [33] There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. [34] And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. [35] So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Dorcas Restored to Life

[36] At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. [37] But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. [38] And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. [39] Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. [40] But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. [41] Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. [42] And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. [43] So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.

SUMMARY:

Conversion often brings problems with the acceptance of the new believer especially if they come from a different background to go to the new group. We thank God for Ananias who introduced Saul to the fellowship in Damascus and for Barnabas we did the same thing later in Jerusalem. If they had not welcomed and secured the place for Paul, the whole course of the church history might have been different.

THE OBVIOUS RESISTANCE OF THE JEWS DEMONSTRATED THE REALITY OF HIS CONVERSION – Acts 9:23-25

- Acts 9:23 - “many days” - Galatians 1:16-17 It was after three years! 1 Kings 2:38-39
- Acts 9:25 – 2 Corinthians 11:23-33 – Aretas, Nabatean King

THE LOVING RELATIONSHIP OF BARNABAS DEMONSTRATED THE REALITY OF HIS CONVERSION – Acts 9:26-30 - Acts 4:36

- The CIRCUMSTANCES were difficult – Acts 9:26
- His CONCERN was convincing – Acts 9: 27-30
 - ✓ In BRINGING Paul to them – Acts 9:27 “took hold of him and brought him to the apostles”
 - ✓ In DEFENDING Paul before them – Acts 9:28-29 “Hellenists” – Stephen Acts 9:28 – he was “with them” 15 days
 - ✓ In PROTECTING Paul with them – Acts 9:30 “to Tarsus” – Cilicia – Acts 15:23, 41 “learned” – Acts 22:17-21

THE CONTINUAL RESULTS FROM THE CHURCH DEMONSTRATED THE REALITY OF HIS CONVERSION – Acts 9:31

- EDIFICATION in an atmosphere of peace “enjoyed peace, being built up”
- EXPANSION with an attitude of dependency “continued to increase”
 - ✓ The fear of the Lord – attitude toward sin
 - ✓ The comfort of the Holy Spirit

IT COULD HAPPEN ANYWHERE! - Acts 9:32 – “Lydda” - Acts 9:36 – “Joppa”

IT DID NOT DEPEND UPON THE SICK PERSON’S FAITH!

- Acts 9:33 – “certain man” Acts 9:36 – “certain disciple” Acts 9:37 – “fell sick and died”

IT DEALT WITH SERIOUS AND OBSERVABLE ILLNESS! –

- Acts 9:33 – “bedridden 8 years” - “paralyzed” Acts 9:37 – “fell sick and died”
- Mar 16:17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

IT WAS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY –

- Acts 9:38 - Matthew 10:1, 8; Mark 6:12-13; Mark 16:18-20; Luke 9:1-2, 6; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4

IT WAS DONE BY GOD’S POWER, NOT MAN’S!

- Acts 9:34 – “Jesus Christ heals you” Acts 3:6 Acts 9:40 – “knelt down and prayed”

IT WAS DONE IMMEDIATELY, NOT BY NATURAL OR GRADUAL PROCESS!

- Acts 9:34 – “and immediately he arose” Acts 9:40-41 – “he presented her alive”

IT CAUSED PEOPLE TO TURN TO THE LORD!

- Acts 9:35 – “they turned to the Lord” Acts 9:42 – “many believed in the Lord” - John 20:30-31

PRAY TODAY FOR: (1Ti 2:1-4) Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, [2] for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. [3] For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, [4] who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Quoted from **“REVOLUTION”** *Eric Metaxas, (pgs. 576-577)*

Epilogue -- What Now?

It seems impossible that we might sustain the liberty bequeathed to us by the men of the Revolutionary era without a culture as dedicated to faith and virtue as theirs. But the general drift toward a secular view among our own cultural elites in the last century -- toward an attitude that in its way mirrors the sneering attitude toward faith and virtue of the British elites of the Revolutionary era -- has so successfully encouraged the idea that this is possible, and that America can flourish apart from faith and virtue, that we have rarely dared to ask whether this is indeed true. It was never the goal of this book to delve into this question, but in the course of examining the events and wellsprings of the Revolution, it has become increasingly unavoidable.

It seems at the very least ungracious and ungrateful to Washington and Adams and the other men of the Revolution that we could so thoughtlessly depart from what they themselves so earnestly believed. Do we not at least feel sufficiently beholden to these great men to take seriously what they took so deeply seriously, to the extent that they risked everything -- including their lives -- to live it out? To dismiss the views of these great men as quaint anachronisms seems not merely cavalier, but arrogant and intellectually dishonest. We cannot hope to continue the Revolution as they would have wanted us to continue the Revolution and to “keep the Republic” -- without returning to their understanding of why and how it began in the first place. It is my humble hope that this book might be helpful towards that end. But if such Enlightenment figures as Jefferson and Franklin could look to the Sinai Covenant as they did, we can hardly go wrong in doing the same.

So the Revolution goes on, with you and with me. It is continued in the 19th century with the war that abolished slavery -- in that contest delivering on the “promissory note” of the declaration that stated, “all men are created equal.” Lincoln at that time exhorted us to look back four score and seven years ago to our conception for the guiding vision and for the strength to do what was necessary in continuing the Revolution. His words speak to us today.

It is for us the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

May we too then today dedicate ourselves to the unfinished work of all those who have lived and died in the twelve score and ten years since our conception, that we might now in our “Supercentennial” 250th year have the “new birth of freedom” that -- eight score and three years ago on a battlefield -- Lincoln prophesied for us.

And May God bless America.