

The Conversion of Saul

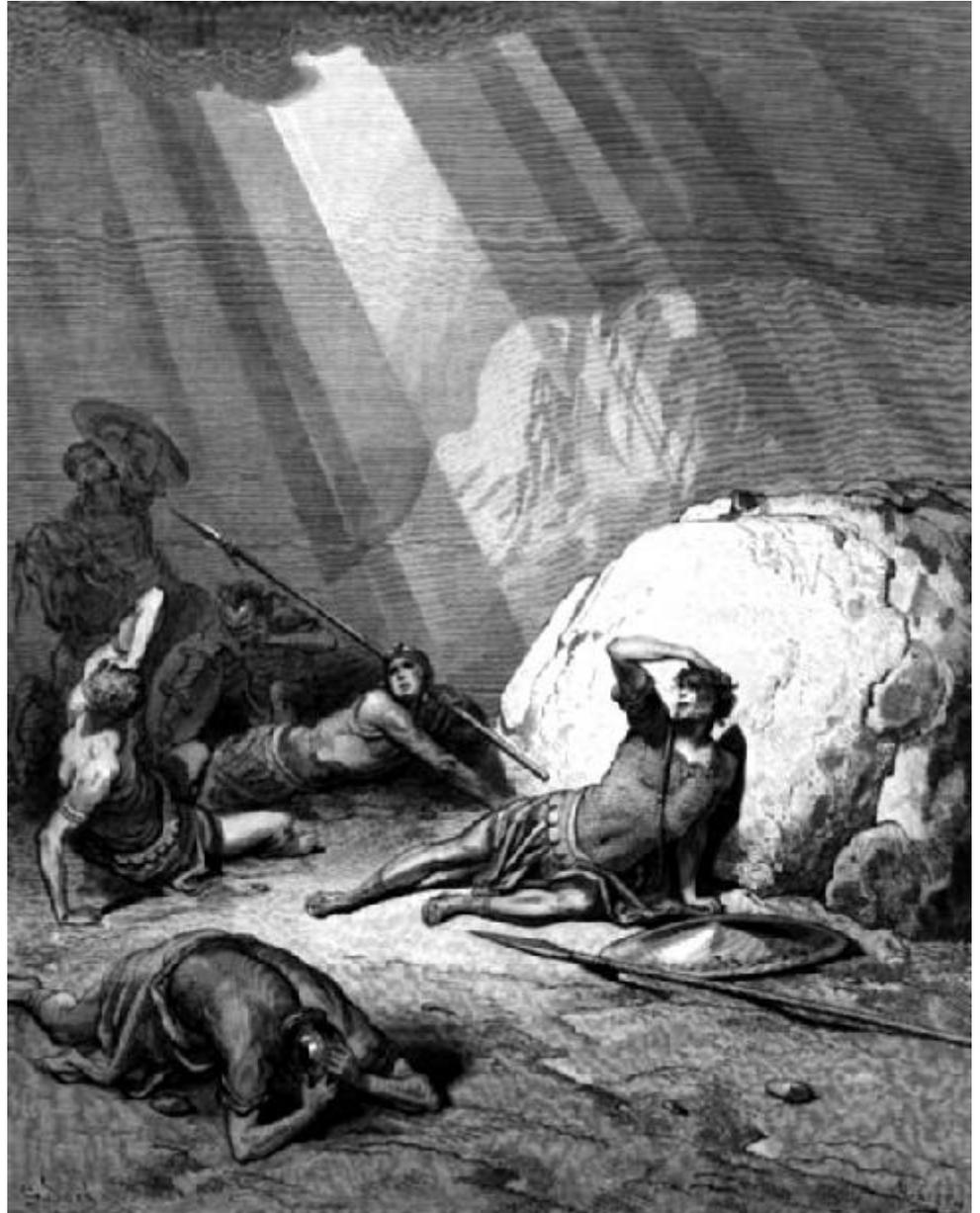
Acts 9:1-19

The Story

My name is Saul. I was born at Tarsus in Cilicia. I was born into the Jewish faith. I grew up in Jerusalem learning all of the Old Testament laws that were handed down through the generations. I was taught as a disciple of Gamaliel, and very devoted to the ways of God from the Old Testament laws, but I did not believe in Jesus, our Savior, at first.

You know that I had persecuted the Christians and that I had tried to wipe out the believers of Jesus. Because I was determined to follow the customs and traditions handed down by the Jewish leaders, I did more than any other to ruin the work of Jesus. I truly believed that I was doing the right thing, for I had been given the authority and

support of the High Priests. It was by their direction that I threw the followers of Christ into prison. I spoke in the synagogues against those that believed that Jesus is the



Savior. I did this within the city of Jerusalem, and I even hunted them down in other towns and places in the region.

It happened one day that I was going to Damascus to be about this very business; under the authority of the high priest I was looking for any who confessed Jesus so I could arrest them and bring them to Jerusalem. It was on that road to Damascus that a very intense light shone around me. The light was so bright it was greater than the power of the sun. As I fell to the ground in fear, I heard a voice call out to me, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

Then I answered and said, "Who are You, Lord?"

The Lord said to me, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads (*a pointed stick used to drive cattle.*)"

I began to tremble and in my astonishment I said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

The Lord told me to get up and go into the city and I would be told what I must do.

The men that were traveling with me were confused. They did not know what to say, for they had heard the voice as I had, but they could not see who was speaking.

When I got up off the ground and I opened my eyes, I could not see. The men that I was with led me by the hand into the city. There in

the city of Damascus I waited for three days. I could not see during that time, nor did I want to eat or drink.

While I was waiting in that condition, the Lord called upon a certain disciple of Jesus who was living in Damascus, Ananias. In a vision the Lord called, "Ananias."

Ananias said, "Here I am Lord."

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. 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."

Ananias was afraid because he knew about all the terrible things I had done to the Christians in Jerusalem. He knew I was coming to Damascus under the authority of the religious leaders of Jerusalem to bind those that confessed the name of Jesus. He spoke of these things to the Lord.

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

Ananias followed the command of the Lord and went to the house where I was staying. He laid his hands on me and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you

may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Immediately there fell from my eyes something like scales, and I received my sight at once. I arose and was baptized.

After that I was given some food which allowed me to get my

strength back. I spent some time with the disciples there before I left the city of Damascus. I was no longer called Saul, but Paul.

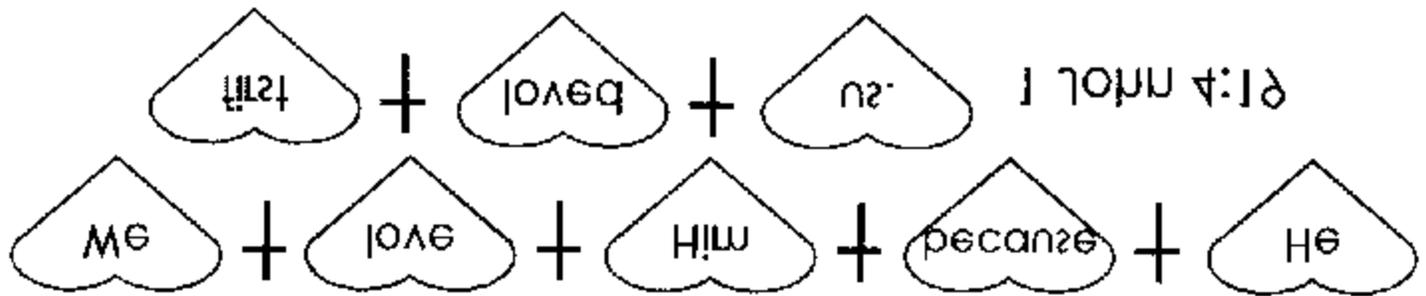
Truly it was the hand of God and His love that had chosen me, one who had once hated Jesus, to preach His Word to other people.

Review - Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks below.

Paul	Damascus	high priest	Ananias	blind
	Jesus	baptized	light	

1. Saul got permission from the _____ to capture Christians and put them in prison.
2. Saul went to _____ to capture more Christians.
3. When Saul was almost to the city a great _____ shone down from heaven.
4. _____ said, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”
5. When the light was gone, Saul was _____.
6. God sent _____ to Saul to lay hands on him and heal him.
7. Saul was then _____ and the Holy Spirit worked faith in his heart.
8. Now Saul’s name became _____.

Passage - Color each word a different color. Learn the passage.



Hymn

Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high,
Lived that I might never die.
As a branch is to the vine,
I am His and He is mine. TLH #342 v.1

Prayer

Dear Jesus, We thank You that You rescued Saul and brought him to faith. Thank You for saving us from our sins and giving us faith through baptism and Your Word. Keep us strong in our faith until we see You in heaven. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.