

acts

CHURCH ON THE MOVE

A Monster Turned Missionary

1. Saul's Credentials

I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—

Philippians 3:5a (NLT)

A real Hebrew if there ever was one!
I was a member of the Pharisees,
who demand the strictest obedience
to the Jewish law.

Philippians 3:5b (NLT)

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2. Saul's Cruelty

I was so zealous that I harshly
persecuted the church.

Philippians 3:6 (NLT)

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Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him

Acts 7:57 (NLT)

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And dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Acts 7:58 (NLT)

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Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day,

Acts 8:1a (NLT)

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Sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.

Acts 8:1b (NLT)

(Some devout men came and buried
Stephen with great mourning.)

Acts 8:2 (NLT)

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But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.

Acts 8:3 (NLT)

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Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest.

Acts 9:1 (NLT)

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He requested letters addressed to
the synagogues in Damascus, asking
for their cooperation

Acts 9:2a (NLT)

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In the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

Acts 9:2b (NLT)

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You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it.

Galatians 1:13 (NLT)

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3. Saul's Confrontation

As he was approaching Damascus
on this mission, a light from heaven
suddenly shone down around him.

Acts 9:3 (NLT)

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He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?”

Acts 9:4 (NLT)

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“I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene.

Acts 26:9 (NLT)

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Indeed, I did just that in Jerusalem.
Authorized by the leading priests, I
caused many believers there to be
sent to prison.

Acts 26:10a (NLT)

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And I cast my vote against them
when they were condemned to
death.

Acts 26:10b (NLT)

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Many times I had them punished in
the synagogues to get them to curse
Jesus.

Acts 26:11a (NLT)

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I was so violently opposed to them
that I even chased them down in
foreign cities.

Acts 26:11b (NLT)

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“One day I was on such a mission to Damascus, armed with the authority and commission of the leading priests.

Acts 26:12 (NLT)

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About noon, Your Majesty, as I was on the road, a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone down on me and my companions.

Acts 26:13 (NLT)

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We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will.

Acts 26:14 (NLT)

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4. Saul's Conversion

“Who are you, lord?” Saul asked.

Acts 9:5a (NLT)

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And the voice replied, “I am Jesus,
the one you are persecuting!

Acts 9:5b (NLT)

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5. Saul's Commission

Now get to your feet! For I have
appeared to you to appoint you as
my servant and witness.

Acts 26:16a (NLT)

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Tell people that you have seen me,
and tell them what I will show you in
the future.

Acts 26:16b (NLT)

acts
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And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles

Acts 26:17 (NLT)

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To open their eyes, so they may turn
from darkness to light and from the
power of Satan to God.

Acts 26:18a (NLT)

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Then they will receive forgiveness
for their sins and be given a place
among God's people, who are set
apart by faith in me.'

Acts 26:18b (NLT)

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6. Saul's Crushing

Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

Acts 9:6 (NLT)

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The men with Saul stood speechless,
for they heard the sound of
someone's voice but saw no one!

Acts 9:7 (NLT)

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Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus.

Acts 9:8 (NLT)

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He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.

Acts 9:9 (NLT)

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“The devil, things and people being what they are, it is necessary for God to use the hammer, the file, and the furnace in His holy work

Scripture

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Of preparing a saint for true sainthood. It is doubtful whether God will bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.”

- A.W. Tozer