

44-Acts-Pt09-Transcript

so

you

it looks like the audio is just off there I was just saying that I don't think that that actually qualifies as the best u-turn ever certainly it was remarkable but the best u-turn ever is actually recorded in the book of Acts chapter 9 and that's what we're gonna study today u-turn is really another way of saying repentance and I think the most extreme example of repentance is the Apostle Paul and that's what we're just about to study so let's say a quick prayer to open up the study and then let's get right into the best u-turn ever Heavenly Father we we praise you and we thank you God for preserving these scriptures for us we thank you so much father for the life of the Apostle Paul and just how much you were able to utilize him and that even to this day we Christians can be educated so much by what you taught the Apostle Paul and with his gifts how he was able to teach the church in the first century and through all the centuries down through our time we thank you Father we just pray that we would be inspired by his example and by the study this evening we praise you we thank you for Jesus Christ and we pray in his name amen so let's let's begin this study of Acts chapter 9 we'll begin actually going back to chapter 8 where remember we first met Saul consenting unto the death of Deacon Stephen and at that time there was great persecution against the church so he really was driving this persecution and the church was in Jerusalem and he was just out to stamp them out and they were all scattered abroad throughout the

regions of Judea and Samaria except the Apostles so the Apostle stayed and they faced the music but the Brethren scattered throughout Judea and Samaria and development carried Stephen to his burial and they made a great lamentation over him as for Saul he made havoc of the church entering into every house and hailing men and women so he was just ruthless had no pity on the women committing them to prison and so what we see here

is one of the first terrorists for the Christian Church Paul was a terrorist he tried to advance his cause through terror and it's really interesting that today in Damascus Christians are facing this same level of persecution and what we must realize is that we wrestle not against flesh and blood so at this time with the early church the devil was working through Saul and through the Jews and so the Jews were doing the devil's work that that the devil is not attached to human beings and we shouldn't be either we should not we should not think that the Jews are our enemy today they're not Jews and Christians live quite peacefully today the devil moved on from using Jews to using the Roman Empire and the Roman Empire was vicious in its brutality and and terrorism against the early Christian Church but again the devil is not attached to human beings he just uses them as puppets and when he's done with them he cast them aside and today if we if we look in actually Damascus is this very place we're seeing a level of persecution against Christian Church the Christian Church that is unprecedented just as Paul went from house to house we're seeing Isis in Damascus the very place where Paul was converted in me

began this mission to the Gentile churches they're now going from house to house and slaughtering Christians and so we can't be attached to any particular person or type of being or type of human beings it's just the devil and what we see here is the hatred and it's so severe the hatred against Christians that we see Saul going from house to house and even taking the women and treating the women brutally as well and and committing them to prison therefore they that were scattered so there's three groups here there's the Apostles who stay in Jerusalem then there's the Brethren who are arrested and they're in prison and then there's the rest who can run for their lives and so they scatter and go to various places in Samaria and and Judea and then and saw yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord went unto the high priest and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues that if he found any of this way whether they were men or women he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem so he was in Jerusalem they fled Jerusalem he's now going after them it's not enough that they've left Jerusalem he now wants to go after them find them and drag them back to Jerusalem to be punished and as he journeyed he came near Damascus so he's got the letters from the high priest he now has the authority to bind these Christians and drag them back to Jerusalem and as he journeyed he came near Damascus on the way to Damascus and suddenly there shall shine round about him a light from heaven and he fell to the earth and he heard a voice saying saul saul why are you persecuting me and he said who are you lord so who are you

and the Lord said I am Jesus whom you are persecuting now notice that Jesus is speaking in the present tense even though Jesus was crucified he was buried and resurrected and he's now in heaven here he speaks to the apostle or the soon-to-be the apostle Saul in the present tense you're persecuting me what does that mean well remember in collaging we have covered this before that Christ is the head of the body and that's what the book of Acts is all about we have to see acts as the acts of Jesus Christ that when we look at the gospel and we look at everything that Jesus Christ did in the Gospel accounts that when we now look at Acts we're seeing the very same acts that Jesus did being done again in the Apostles in the end the brethren but what we understand is this is all driven by Pentecost when when Jesus Christ sent down his Holy Spirit which now has empowered the Brethren to be his body so the head is heaven the body is on earth and everybody that has the Holy Spirit within them is a member of Jesus Christ's body so when you persecute a Christian whatever you do to a Christian you're doing that to Jesus Christ and that's why he says here in Matthew 25 then shall he say also unto them on the left hand depart from me you cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels so these are people that have allowed the devil to activate them for I was hungry and you didn't care you gave me no meat I was thirsty and you gave me no drink there was no mercy in you toward me I was a stranger and you took you didn't take me and make it and you didn't clothe me sick and in prison and you didn't visit me then shall the

answer incense a [___] when did we see you hungry or athirst or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't minister to you then shall he answered him saying truly I sent you in as much as you didn't do it to one of the least of these the least member of the body of Christ you didn't do it unto me and these shall go into everlasting punishment but the righteous intent into eternal life and the righteous treat the body of Christ well they do all these things positively for the body of Christ even the least in the body and Christ takes it personally and this is why we really must not be afraid of persecution the world is I'm just flabbergasted at how quickly the world is changing in fact I was thinking about this yesterday when I was thinking about Samaria and that the kings of Assyria and how ruthless they were and how their policy was to go into Israel and mix up Israel to dilute Israel and it's like that's what I'm seeing today in all of the judeo-christian nations they the white nations that are founded on judeo-christian principles they're being forced into diversity I think the kings of Assyria would be thrilled at what they're seeing whereas the brown and black nations nobody cares they're allowed to remain nations but the white judeo-christian nations they are being forced to diversify they must weaken their gene pool and and and that's the very same thing that the kings of Assyria did now that's one thing but the problem with that is the judeo-christian ethic is being neutralized it's being wiped out and and it's being replaced by fundamentally by Islam and certainly by the left and the left and Islam are coordinating they're

both extreme they're both brutal in different ways and they've kind of figured out that they can use each other and and you know the left thinks that they can use Islam and then get rid of them and Islam certainly knows that they can use the left and then get rid of them and so the world of these nations are kind of going over to this Islamic principle and that spells danger for Christians and so the world is changing Christ tells us over and over again be fearless be fearless preach the gospel and what we have to realize is that that's what Christ says not a hair on your head can be touched without the father's permission because Christ takes how we are treated very personally and so we must just act with boldness and I think we're gonna see here in seeing this this turn around by the Apostle Paul how important it is for the church to act boldly so coming back to acts 9 and he said who are you lord and the Lord said I am Jesus whom you are persecuting it's hard for you to kick against the pricks now what that means is the the people who were looking after the the bulls and the cows if they're hurting them sometimes they would have a stubborn ox and what they would do is they would take a gold and they would basically pierce him in the back to get him to move but some of course you know they would move they would be animated and they would they would get on with it others would be very stubborn and they would kick against the gold or kick against the pricks and it would just make it worse for them and then then the prick would really go into them and cause great pain and Jesus is saying to Paul that's what you've been doing I've been after you and you've heard the

Gospel message but you haven't responded so you've been kicking against the pricks and and certainly the the sermon that Stephen gave was a prick to Pauls conscience or solve conscience so here you know he ended that or he shifted transition that sir Minister he went through the whole history of Israel and showed just how stiff neck they were throughout the whole history constantly resisting the Holy Spirit and he concluded that sermon by saying you stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears you always resist the Holy Spirit as your father's did so do you which of the prophets have you have not your father's persecuted and they've slain them which showed before the coming of the just one of whom you've now been the betrayers and murderers and so Saul heard this we we saw that he was standing by and and those people actually stoned Stephen to death they they put their their garments by Paul or Saul because he was authorizing this and he was rejoicing in this but he would have heard this sermon and it would have been playing upon him because he knew the history of Israel and so while Stephen was going on recounting the history he knew the accuracy of what was being said and this was was playing on him but he was resisting it and kicking against it and making matters worse for himself and and Jesus is saying to him it's hard for you to do this you've got to stop doing this and so back to acts 9 verse 6 and he trembling and astonished said Lord what will you have me to do so so this is like men and brethren what shall we do so finally his conscience is fully prepped here and he wants to know what should I do and the Lord said to him arise and go into the city and it

will be Sheol it shall be told you what she must do and the men which journeyed with him stood speechless hearing a voice but seeing no man so this is really interesting that that here which they were seeing Jesus Christ acting in a very profound way in the life of this human being but notice and we're gonna see this later this is not in the middle of the night in the middle of a cave where with no witnesses and then Saul comes out with all authority and says everybody you better believe me or I'll kill you this is in the middle of day with many witnesses they just they just don't know they can't see what's going on but they can certainly see something's going on with with Saul and they can hear but they don't know the details but it's very clear to them what is happening and Saul arose from the earth and when his eyes were opened he saw no man so he was in other words he was blind so so this light that Shawn in his eyes that this was really the presence of the Lord it was so bright it burned out his optical nerves so so when he arose from this he's blind and saw a rose from the earth and when his eyes were open he saw no man so they let him by the hand and brought him into Damascus so this just happened just outside of Damascus and now they brought him into Damascus and he was three days without sight and neither did eat nor drink so he's just his first of all he's blind and now focused on what happened and reliving everything that happened to him and maybe going back in the past and how he persecuted the Christians and the encounter that he had with the Lord and he's fasting for these three days and three nights of fasting for the three full days now look at this and again

this is how God works we have to understand how God works and there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias and to him set the Lord in a vision Ananias and he said behold I am here Lord which I think all of us would respond Lord Here I am ready to do your will whatever God would have me do I'll do it but what's really important for us in terms of how God works first of all I said that Saul's vision and solid encounter with the Lord was in the middle of the day with witnesses in addition to that he gives a complimentary vision to Ananias so he can bring the two together and by two witnesses the truth of the encounter can be established so again God doesn't expect us to believe somebody just on their say-so

hey this happened to me in the middle of the night in the middle of a cave and you better believe me or I'll kill you because God said to kill you this is this is nonsensical what makes sense is that God is gonna give us multiple evidence and multiple proofs so that where we're without excuse if we deny the truth of what's been presented and so here Ananias says I'm here ready to do your will Lord what is it so the Lord said to him arise and going to the street which is called straight so to this day there's a street in Damascus which is straight and so it was just known with all of these sort of winding roads in Damascus there was a street a street called straight and he says you know going at that street called straight and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus for behold he prays and this is amazin Saul of Tarsus is praying this is a a Pharisee of the

Pharisees who is all about ritual and observing the specific prayer times and and really is not in a relationship with God at all and this is again what we would call out to our Muslim brothers and sisters God doesn't want ritual he wants a relationship he wants us to have a relationship with Jesus Christ and with Saul's encounter here he's abandoned ritual and he's actually in the three days that he's blinded and fasting he's drawing close to Jesus Christ and he's actually entering to a relationship with Jesus Christ and God is telling Ananias look he's praying right now he's praying he's he's communing with me and has seen in a vision and in while he's praying I've shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him that he might receive sight so so this is how God works he gives one vision to Saul to say Ananias is coming and then he gives another vision to Ananias to say Saul is waiting for you so when they come together they can confirm the operation of the Lord then Ananias answered and said hmm I'll get right on that what a great idea you know you think about this if you were chosen and let's let's take a bow bakr al-baghdadi today who's doing a tremendous havoc around the world and certainly in the Middle East and certainly in Syria and Iraq and destroying Christians and if we live there and we were aware of brethren who have been slaughtered by this man and then you were given a vision saying behold Abu Bakr is praying at this minute and I'd like you to go and and tell him give him a message from me I think we would respond very similarly to the way that Ananias responded so so he

says Ananias answered lord you know what
Lord let me just kind of fill you in
because you may not be fully aware of
what's going on here down on earth I've
heard by many of this man he's the talk
of the town everybody is recounting the
havoc and the disruption that he has
created in the lives of Christians and
so I've heard by many not one not two
but many of this man how much evil he
has done to your saints at Jerusalem and
now he's come here to Damascus and you
know I know you mean well Lord but I
just want to bring you up to speed on
what's actually going on and here he has
authority from the chief priests to bind
all that call on your name so you're
sort of sending me into certain death
I'm gonna be arrested I'm gonna be
dragged to Jerusalem gonna be punished
sentence to death I just want to kind of
fill you in on what what the situation
is but the Lord said to him go your way
for he is a chosen vessel unto me to
bear my name before the Gentiles and
kings and the children of Israel
and this is the Apostle Paul's mission
that he's to go to Gentile so we know he
is the apostle to the Gentiles but not
just Gentiles
he's also to go to Kings and so we'll
see later in this book where he's now
addressing Kings and bringing the gospel
to them but also to the children of
Israel and alone a lot of people miss
this but be a part of the Apostle Paul's
ministry is to Israel and that's why
people have a lot of trouble with the
book of Hebrews because that is a book
that is an epistle that is written
specifically to Israel to the Jews and
people think well it can't be Paul
because he's an apostle to the Gentiles
but if you actually study that letter

and study it carefully and look at the logic and the history that he calls on it's very clearly a Pauline epistle so you know we have 99% confidence that even though it's not labeled and certainly in the early church they did include it with the epistles of Paul so so that is to the the children of Israel now notice also that Jesus says he's a chosen vessel I have chosen him and we're gonna see from from Paul later onwards his own testimony that he was chosen from birth and that I just want to remind you at the beginning that it was Peter who recommended that they replace Judas with with an apostle but they had to select an apostle and they chose Matthias but it says here in verse 2 that the that he have given Commandments unto the Apostles whom he had chosen so Christ chose the apostles and then because of Judas Peter took it upon himself to lead the brethren to choose another apostle and so they chose Matthias and notice Luke says that Matthias was numbered with the eleven apostles Luke never says that Matthias became an apostle he just said that they numbered him with the apostles but it's very clear that even though Judas had felt fallen off and they were at eleven that Christ had already chosen Paul as the as the I believe the replacement for Judas going back to acts nine where we're now he says so I've chosen him to go to these three camps to the Gentiles the kings and to Israel and I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake and this is the true gospel the true gospel is the coming of the kingdom of God it is the announcement of good news that comes when Jesus Christ returns but between here and there suffering may be involved

and and it really makes me ill when I see these false ministers giving false hopes and false promises to people saying you know just accept Jesus and everything's gonna be wonderful you're gonna be really rich you're gonna you're gonna have everything you ever dreamed of because Jesus is this sort of push-button Santa Claus and when you come into the church everything goes well well here Paul is about to come into the church and he's gonna suffer many things for his name's sake but that suffering is gonna turn to joy and Christ tells all true Christians that we may have to suffer many things for his name's sake and through Peter he tells us that as long as we are suffering as Christians rejoice rejoice rejoice rejoice and and I think that today if we kind of really clue into the news and what's happening and remember the 9/11 Commission one of the things that it really criticized the administration the US administration for was a lack of admit that all of the data was in front of them they just couldn't put it together and for Christians we cannot have a lack of imagination why because Christ gives us the imagination that we need to have he sort of lays out the whole game plan so when we're watching the news the whole game plan is laid out for us we should be able to put the dots together because it's sort of like paint by numbers and so what we see is a very dark future and what we need to do is encourage each other and teach our children and make sure that our children are aware of how the world is going to change the same way that Christ says to us look I'm telling you all of this beforehand in John 15 16 and 17 I'm telling you all

of this beforehand so that when these things come you won't be offended you won't give up you want a pasta sighs in the same way we need to tell our children that the news begins to unfold they're like you know my parents taught me this my parents told me this was gonna happen and rather than be offended they will then commit and commit fully to be faithful to Jesus Christ and we have to encourage each other that suffering for the sake of Jesus Christ is a wonderful blessing we have to change the way we see things if you suffer as a Christian rejoice it's a wonderful blessing and so let's let's have this kind of boldness that we're going to see in the Apostle Paul as our example and we've already seen in Peter and John and Stephen and the brethren here in in Acts up to this point and Ananias went his way so he responded to God a little bit nervous about what he had to do but Christ told him look I've chosen this man and he's gonna suffer all the suffering that he's inflicted on Christians he's now going to become part of the Christian camp and he's going to experience this so Ananias went his way and entered into the house and putting is it putting his hands on him said Saul receive your sight and so he did exactly what Christ asked him to do and immediately so again we see this so he says nice ones who entered the house and putting his hands on him said brother Saul the Lord even Jesus that appeared unto you in the way that you came has sent me again this confirmation from both sides that you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit so so that's what Ananias was sent to do to heal him to lay hands on him and so that he would

also receive the Holy Spirit and this is what Pentecost is all about so we're seeing the movement of the Holy Spirit now from from Anna and and eius laying his hands on on Paul or Saul Saul being his Hebrew name Saul and Paulus Paul being his Greek name and immediately as soon as he did this there fell from his eyes as it had been scales so we saw these sort of scale things fall from his eyes and he received sight immediately and he arose and he was baptized and this is another thing and I'm spending a bit of time on on Islam because it is the issue of our day this thing is spreading all over the earth with the help of the left the extreme left and it's just taking over and so we're gonna have to confront this every I believe personally every human being because Islam is a global expansionist totalitarian ideology every human being is going to have to deal with Islam and and make a decision with respect to Islam because Jesus Christ is the truth and no man comes to the Father but by him every human being is going to have to make a decision with respect to Jesus Christ and so notice now the very first response from Paul when he when he encounters Jesus Christ is Lord what would you have me to do the same way we saw in x2 when when the Brethren right men and brethren what shall we do and they were instructed to repent repent and be baptized and received the Holy Spirit because you can't go on with the devil spirit inside you and have communion with Jesus Christ you have to repent you and you must be baptized to enter into this covenant with God and you must receive the Holy Spirit to walk with God and and the Apostle Paul is no exception so the first words to Paul are

not recite recite just just just be a
robot for me and do as I say with with
violence threatening with violence the
way Mohammed was violently attacked and
then told to repeat whatever he was told
no this is about a relationship and so
the Apostle Paul is told repent and
every single human being that wants to
come to God must go through the same
process you must repent and that's what
we're inviting our viewers to do is to
read the scriptures read the gospel read
what we're going through here in the
book of
become familiar with Watson in the Bible
and the truth of it and repent repent
because the Lord is at hand repent
because the kingdom of God is near and
then be baptized enter into this
covenant and then received the Holy
Spirit and that's the only way you can
have a relationship with the true God
otherwise there's no relationship you're
still in the devil's camp and by their
fruit you shall know them and we're
gonna know Paul by his fruit we're gonna
see oh we're gonna see all kinds of
fruit from this apostle and when he had
so he arose forthwith and was baptized
and so he repented he was baptized he
had his hands laid on him he received
the Holy Spirit and when he had received
meets with and fasting for three days he
was strengthened then was saw certain
days with the disciples which were at
Damascus so he was there for a while he
stayed with the disciples in Damascus
for a while before going back to
Jerusalem and immediately he preached
Christ in the synagogues that he is the
Son of God and that is the work of the
Christian Church this is our work to
preach that Jesus Christ is the son of
God and the Apostle Paul made no he just

didn't waste time he he got his strength
back he got his sight back he got the
Holy Spirit and let's get to work
and so he goes straight into not one
synagogue not two synagogues all the
synagogue's telling these Jews he is the
son of God and notice in John that this
is what Jesus Christ said but he came as
the creator into the creation he came
into the earth to do a work and he says
here in John 8 verse 29 or John 6:29
jesus answered and said to them this is
the work of God so they wanted to know
what can we do that we can do the works
of God well this is the work of God but
you believe on Him whom he has sent
so the father sent the son into the
earth and this is the work so when
Christ was here this was the work that
he did to get men to believe in him and
now that he's taken up and he's in
heaven and the Holy Spirit is on earth
working through
selected individuals who have repented
and received the Holy Spirit this is
what we do we tell men and people
brethren anybody who's going to listen
to this that Jesus Christ was sent by
the father that there is no way that
that he is the only way there's no other
way to salvation except through Christ
this is the work of God and it angers
the devil and the devil is running out
of time and so we're just seeing this
acceleration of craziness madness and
violence as in as it was in the days of
Noah before the flood just violence
everywhere to the point where God
repented he was sorry that he made man
but we must do this work regardless
empowered by the Holy Spirit and now
looked at pumps Paul himself that's also
Luke was writing a biography he's
writing it to Theophilus but in chapter

22 it's an autobiography he actually quotes Paul recounting what happened to him on the road to Damascus he says men brethren and fathers hear you my defense which I make now unto you and when they heard that he spoke in the Hebrew tongue to them they kept the more silence and he said and and and it's really interesting that the Ministry of Paul is clearly inspired by Deacon Stephen that sermon that Stephen gave where he went from the beginning of the history of Israel and just recounted Israel's history and the rebellious nosov Israel against the Holy Spirit throughout that history that sermon informs Paul's ministry and and Paul becomes really adept at digging into the Old Testament and proving from the Old Testament that Jesus is the Son of God as he was inspired by Deacon Stephen and that's why it's so important for us to be bold we can't tell ahead of time what the impact of our preaching and our teaching will be we just have to do it inspired by the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ will work in the recipients the hearers how to work that faith and develop that faith in them but but what if what if the the brethren were terrified and they ran for their lives but Paul's ministry would be compromised he would not be so impacted and God is orchestrating to impact the lives of people so again we wrestle not against flesh and blood our enemy our principalities spiritual powers that we can't see they can see us we can't see them they're operating on earth they're clearly accelerating their influence with men we've got to do what we've got to do so here he's kind of giving him this history now I'm verily a man which I'm a Jew I was born in Tarsus in City and Silesia yet brought up in

this city at the feet of Gamaliel one of the most notable teachers or the most notable teacher of Judaism at the time and he studied at his feet all the memorization and the depth of going into the Old Testament of really understanding that the law fully and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the Father so he really knew this inside out and was zealous toward God as you were all this day and I persecuted this way unto the death I just had no tolerance for it if anything you can see it was kind of threatened by it but binding and delivering into prisons both men and women as also the high priest does bear me witness so he actually was approved by the high priest they loved him and all the estate of the elders from whom also I received letters unto the Brethren and I went to Damascus to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem to be punished and it came to pass that as I made my journey and was come near to Damascus about noon not in the middle of the night in the middle of the day and you can imagine how bright the Sun would be in the Middle East at noon suddenly there Sean from heaven a great light round about me so a light that's even brighter than the Sun and I fell to the ground and I heard a voice saying unto me saul saul why are you persecuting me and i answered who are you Lord and he said I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you persecute whom you're persecuting and they that were with me saw indeed the light and they were afraid but they didn't hear the voice of him that spoke me and I said what shall I do Lord and the Lord said unto me arise go into Damascus and there shall be told you of

all the things which are appointed for
you to do so this is you've got to work
you've got to do it now and when I could
not see for the glory of that light
being led by the hand of them that were
with me I came into Damascus and so
that's his recounting of what happened
to him and that bright light that's
shown in him you know in 2nd Corinthians
12 he says you know lest he should be
exalted above measure through the
abundance of the revelations he was
given a lot of Revelation there was
given unto me a thorn in the flesh the
messenger of Satan to buffet me lest I
should be exalted above measure and so
we believe from this from the way he
writes it look at Galatians 4:15 he says
where is then the blessedness you spoke
up for I bear you record that if it had
been possible you would have plucked out
your own eyes and would have given them
unto me so there was some problem with
his eyes that that was that happened to
him in his life and he also in other
places he write you know see what big
letters I'm I'm writing with so he would
have his omit him immense ooh incest
write the letter for him like a scribe
and then he would finish the letter with
his own writing but he'd have to write
really big because his vision was not
quite good and he couldn't see clearly
and so it seems like this thorn in the
flesh had something to do with his
vision so he continues with this
autobiography I autobiographical
experience that one Ananias a devout man
according to the law having a good
report of all the Jews which dwelt there
came to me and stood and said to me
brother Saul receive your sight and the
very same hour I looked up to him I
looked upon him so yeah in other words I

the blindness went and he said the god of our fathers has chosen you that you should know his will and see that just one who should hear the voice of his mouth so so the Apostle actually encountered Jesus Christ and that was God by God's design and that's one of the hallmarks of an apostle is they actually were with Jesus Christ and so here we know that Paul what spent time with Jesus Christ for you shall be his witness unto all men of what you have seen and heard and the Apostle Paul had this training and flexibility that he could be all things to all men that by any means he might save son and so you'll see how Steven was very very strong on the history of Israel because he was preaching to Jews and and Paul would be the very same way but we'll see later in the book of Acts when he's preaching to the Greeks he doesn't talk about the history of Israel he actually talks about the philosophy and the poetry of the Greeks to the Greeks and and we need to have this flexibility that we need to know when we can talk historically and and the history of Israel depending on the audience when we have to confront truth the traditional misunderstanding of Christianity to traditional Christians and again when I say that Islam is sweeping the world we need to have some fluency with what they believe and what they're had Ethan and the Koran and and and the the Sarah we need some familiarity with these texts so that we can talk to them and then preach the Jesus the gospel of Jesus Christ to them so that they can have repentance you know they're coming into the Western civilization's we need to be preaching the gospel they've never heard it they've never

heard it it's against the law in the lands that they're coming from so they need to hear the gospel we need to have this flexibility as Paul did and he says here you shall be his witness and that's again the mission of the church to witness unto Jesus Christ above everything you've seen and heard and now why are you waiting here arise and be baptized and wash away your sins again no one can respond and have a relationship and represent God without repentance and here's a man who was fully immersed in the law he was blameless as far as the law goes and yet he still had to repent before he could represent Christ so how does it make sense that someone who grew up his whole life of an Arab pagan that God just selects him and says recite just do what I tell you and there's no repentance involved we have to repent we have to be baptized we have to receive the Holy Spirit in order to represent God and it came to pass that when I was come again to Jerusalem so he finally comes again to Jerusalem even while I prayed in the temple I was in a trance and I saw him saying unto me make haste and get you quickly out of Jerusalem for they will not receive your testimony concerning me so when he was in Damascus he received this vision he repented and when he received this site and has a bit of food immediately he went to the synagogues to tell his brethren that Jesus is the Son of God he spent we believe about three years in Damascus and Arabia and then he came to Jerusalem and when he was in Jerusalem he starts telling them that Jesus is a son of God and a voice comes to him Christ tells him hurry up and get out of Jerusalem for they will not

receive your testimony concerning me
notice how this parallels the life of
Jesus Christ now when Jesus Christ was
up in the northern regions when he was
in Galilee when he was in Samaria he was
famous everybody was following them
around they loved him that listened to
him it was only when he came into
Jerusalem that he encountered resistance
to the point where they killed him and
we see that the brethren when they were
in Jerusalem that the Jews were
persecuting them and they had to run for
their lives and here now we see when
Paul comes into Jerusalem to tell the
Jews hey this is the truth Jesus is the
Son of God God is telling him get out of
Jerusalem and I said Lord you know I can
go the same way Ananias wanted to inform
God as to what was really going on
Paul now thinks that he needs to inform
God as to what's really going on he's
saying Lord they know that I imprisoned
and beat in every synagogue then that
believed in you and when the blood of
the martyr Stephen was shed so notice
he's that that's still on his mind that
really did that was one of the pricks in
his conscience so he even mentions it
again here when the blood of the martyr
Stephen was shed I also was standing by
and I consented unto his death and kept
the raiment of them that slew him so the
argument that Paul is making to God
who better to bring this truth of the
gospel to the Jews than me they know how
much I hated this gospel they know how
much I tried to stamp it out
so if I come to them and say you know
what guys it's actually true they're
gonna believe me
and God says yeah you know what run for
your life depart for I will send you far
from here unto the Gentiles so I'm gonna

take it away from the Jews I'm gonna
blind the Jews and I'm gonna give it to
the Gentiles but eventually I will bring
the Jews back in and we see that in
Romans nine but all that they're still
coming back now to acts 9 so that that's
in acts 22 with the first part we just
see the autobiographical sketch of what
Luke is talking about here in acts 9
we're carrying on in verse 21 but all
that heard him were amazed and they said
isn't this the one that destroyed them
which called on this name in Jerusalem
and came here with the intent that he
might bring them bound unto the chief
priests but Saul increased them more in
strength and confounded the Jews which
dwelt at Damascus proving that this is
very Christ and that's the kind of
spirit that we need to have that that we
do our study we know our stuff and we
can sit with people and engage them in a
way not just to say oh isn't it nice to
know the Lord and you should know the
Lord know we can actually prove we can
prove that Jesus is the Son of God and
we can take the scriptures and we have a
fluency that we can actually show them
look this this is the plan of God this
is how it works everything is about
Jesus Christ the entire Bible points to
Jesus Christ and we can prove without
any shadow of a doubt that he is the son
of God and that you even though the Jews
killed him for this thinking it's
blasphemy that he being a man made
himself equal with God well you know
what he is the son of God and that makes
him God and we can prove that and so
that's what Paul did he sat with the
Jews and he proved it he confused them
they couldn't answer
and after that many days were fulfilled
and again the many days he's there we

believe develop about three years the Jews took counsel to kill him so they've now had enough that they're seeing people leaving the the faith becoming Christians Paul is just increasing and increasing and the problem really is power that the Jerusalem set up they were in power and at the time you know Paul Saul had this wonderful career he was trained by cam lel he was probably being groomed to be the high priest and take over the whole operation and so that's probably why he was so violently opposed to this doctrine and and when Stephen was there preaching he has great logic skills he has great reasoning skills he has great ability to prove and argue but he couldn't withstand the words of Stephen Stephens logic was was just you you couldn't counter it and so you know what let's kill him and and now the same thing is happening with Paul and the Holy Spirit empowers all the way to empowered Stephen to give him this ability to teach the truth without any valid opposition it's like you know what guys our power is diminishing people are converting or losing our base let's kill this guy same thing so we're seeing the very same and Luke is writing this to Theophilus to show Theophilus the Ministry of Paul is empowered by Jesus Christ it's the same Ministry of Jesus Christ is the same ministry as Peter and John all the Apostles this is the truth of God and so after these many days were fulfilled and really about three years the Jews took counsel to kill him they can't answer him so let's kill him but they're laying await was known to solve and they watched the gates day and night to kill him so he was very careful about his movements and he knew that they were

waiting there so he didn't cross paths with them and then the disciples took him by night and let him down by the wall in a basket and when saul was so so he escaped and so when he was come to jerusalem he tried to join himself to the disciples as he would so he's been away for three years he's really been accepted by the brethren there in damascus he's been doing all the and to preach the truth that Jesus is the Son of God and now he's coming to Jerusalem he's basically forgotten the havoc that he created in Jerusalem kind of just worn off now you know he's fully into this and so he comes to Jerusalem three years later but they were all afraid of him and did not believe that he was a disciple and again we can put ourselves in the same situation if somebody from from Isis or suddenly to be converted and doing all they can even at the risk of their own lives to preach that Jesus is the Son of God just the human nature would just be suspicious and so here you see in Galatians 1 when when again Paul with his own autobiographies telling us what happened but I certify you brethren that the gospel was which was preached of me is not after man so even though he went to Jerusalem and we see him just entering Jerusalem now he's telling the Brethren that this gospel that I preached I didn't get it from men for I neither received it of man neither was I taught it but by the revelation of Jesus Christ so everything that Paul is teaching he's saying Christ taught me the same way he spent 40 days with the Apostles so that they could teach this truth he spent time with Paul and believed to be about three years teaching the Apostle so that he could now expound these truths for

you've heard of my conduct in time past
in the Jews religion how about beyond
measure I persecuted the Church of God
and wasted it so he was out to
completely destroy it and profited in
the Jews religion above many my equals
in mine own nation being more
exceedingly zealous of the traditions of
my father so he was on the fast track he
had a great career and he just excelled
everyone so it's very clear that this is
the guy but when it pleased God and
noticed this who separated me from my
mother's womb and called me by His grace
so there was no need for Peter to rush
out and find a replacement because from
the moment this guy was conceived Jesus
Christ had himself
to reveal his son in me and so God was
guiding his experiences so that he could
be particularly crafted to do the work
that God had set out for him as the case
is with all of us in some way
God has guided our experiences but this
is a very profound involvement that God
has with this apostle to reveal his son
in me that I might preach him among the
Gentiles the heathen meaning that the
non-israelite nations immediately I
didn't confer with flesh-and-blood so I
didn't go to my parents I didn't go to
my my buddies to say you know hey what
do you guys think no I just responded to
this calling
neither did I go to Jerusalem to them
which were apostles before me but I went
into Arabia and returned again into
Damascus then after three years I went
to Jerusalem to see Peter and abode with
him for two just over two weeks so this
is how we know that he was away for
three years that when he received this
gospel he didn't run to Jerusalem to
learn from them hey what's this gospel

that you have what is this truth he'll help me understand it more fully no he went into Arabia and for three years he was there he was receiving revelation from Jesus Christ and then he went back to Damascus and he was working in Damascus teaching what he had been taught preaching this gospel and then when three years had elapsed then he went to Jerusalem and so he didn't go to Jerusalem to learn the gospel he had already received it and he went to sit and he spent two weeks with Peter and they were probably comparing notes and and figuring out you know how they can work together and then going back now to ask 9 where they were afraid of him but Barnabas are Barnabas the son of encouragement took him and brought him to the Apostle so they were all afraid of him they didn't believe that it was a disciple but Barnabas could see Barnabas could see what was going on and so he brought him to the disciples and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way so he's explaining to them what happened and that he had spoken to him and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus Christ so again another witness how the apostle had this encounter with the Lord and and just showing how he put his life on the line he was nearly killed for this and he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem so so because of Barnabas they had accepted him and he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and disputed against the Greeks but they went about to slay him and that would be the believe the Greek Jews now notice this that he disputed that this is not this is something that I think a lot of times we think were Christians we

mustn't ever dispute and this word
sujeto
means again to investigate jointly to
controvert to dispute so we think that
we must never be in debate well this is
what we do this is what the Apostles did
but that's that's the way when these
ideas collide the truth stands and you
can see how a weakened idea is when it
confirms the truth when it doesn't
confront the truth you know what that
sounds pretty good pretty good story but
when you bring the truth against it it
cannot stand and so that's what the
Apostles did that's what the Deacons did
that's what that's what the true
brethren do empowered by the Holy Spirit
they preached boldly and many times they
end up in dispute it we can disagree we
don't have to be disagreeable but we can
disagree and we have to disagree because
Jesus is the Son of God and then the
devil hates this truth and and his
people will resist it well we need to
show them that they've been captured by
the devil and God wants to free them but
where the Spirit of the Lord is there is
freedom so he disputed against the
Grecians and they went about to slay him
which when the Brethren knew they
brought him down to Caesarea and sent
him forth to Tarsus oh he's going back
to where he's from
then the churches so now that he's left
and he's no longer driving the
persecution then it says then had the
churches rest throughout all Judea and
all Galilee and Samaria and were edified
they were built up and walking in the
fear of
the Lord and in the comfort of the whole
and and in the comfort of the Holy
Spirit and were multiplied so the church
continued to grow the church always

grows in the face of persecution and so after this persecution had passed now it just there was no resistance to the growth so I think I'll just go on and finish the chapter now is gob Luke is gonna change gears but just worry I just want to mention that comfort of the Holy Spirit so Christ called it the comforter and here the brethren with the Holy Spirit comfort each other so as they are working it's the Holy Spirit is working in them to comfort each other and now it's very strange that the in chapter 9 Luke really takes pains to show us this turnaround this repentance of the Apostle Paul and how profound it is he was really extremely working for the devil he's knocked down and now he's in image in the other extreme working for God it's like when God says you know I wish that you were hot or cold and so Paul was cold he just hated Jesus Christ and now he's hot he loves Jesus Christ and I guess that shows us that when somebody has spirit when somebody has conviction God can use them it want people to kind of wishy-washy and it's like yeah I think you know Christianity is a pretty good idea I suppose I can spare a couple of hours on the Sabbath and have a cup of coffee and then I just go back to my life but God can't use that God wants us to be hot or cold because when we're hot or cold he can actually do something with us and so let's kind of turn up the heat here and really commit ourselves so now he's focused on explaining the repentance of Paul and how God intervened in Paul's life and then suddenly he goes back to Peter and I may be in the chat we can talk about this cuz I really don't have a good answer as to why he didn't talk about Peter first

get Peter out of the way and then shift gears and focus on Paul the only thing I can think of is this sort of this transition that he's trying to show Theophilus that the work was really focused on

Jerusalem and then Judea and then Samaria and Peter was really driving that work and now Paul's this chosen vessel

to take it beyond into the ends of the earth to all the Gentile nations and so that's the only thing I can think of that it's sort of this phase transition and so he's still showing that the operation is continuing with Peter but I would be interested to say to see what what others think in the chat session and it came to pass as Peter passed throughout all quarters he came down also to the Saints which were at Lydda so they spent two weeks together and then Paul goes back to Tarsus and now Peter is going through Lydda and there he found a certain man named Aeneas and which had kept his bed eight years and was sick of the palsy and again remember Jesus Christ went through and made many who were lame and sick of the palsy He healed them and so the Holy Spirit is continuing the work of Christ in Peter and Peter said to him Aeneas Jesus Christ makes you whole arise and make your bed and he arose immediately and all that were that dwell at Lydda and Saren saw him and turned to the Lord now there was so that's the work of Christ working in Peter and we're gonna see it in Paul so he's sort of setting it up to show Theophilus that Paul is gonna do the very same thing now there was a Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha which by interpretation is called Dorcas this woman was full of good works and

alms deeds which she did so she just had the gift of service and that's what she focused on is just looking after the Brethren and serving the Brethren that were in need and it came to pass in those days that she was sick so she had some sort of sickness that actually caused her to die so so she was sick for a while and then she died when when they had washed they laid her in an upper chamber so that's it Dorcas is dead and for as much as litter was near to Joppa and the disciples have heard that Peter was in Joppa they sent to him two men begging him that he would not delay to come to them then Peter arose and went with them and when he was come they brought him into the upper chamber and all the windows all the widows stood by weeping so he comes to Lydda and there all the widows are weeping and what they did was they showed him the coats which he had made and the garments which Dorcas is made while she was with them and so this woman was so important to them that she looked after all the widows and the widows were the most disadvantaged people in the community and and maybe without these clothes some of these widows would have died in the winter or just really suffered but she looked after them so Peter put them all forth and kneeled down and prayed and turning him to the body said Tabitha which is darkness arise and she opened her eyes and when she saw Peter she sat up and he gave her his hand and lifted her up and when he had called the Saints and widows he presented her alive and it was known throughout all Joppa and many believed in the Lord and it came to pass that he stayed many days at Joppa with one Simon a Tanner and so ends the the

wonderful chapter

you

sorry I just lost the sound there so in this transition chaptered wonderful transition chapter I think Luke is showing Theophilus that even though the Holy Spirit is now beginning to work in Paul it hasn't ceased to work in Peter and Peter continues to do the work of Jesus Christ healing the lame even raising the dead and so the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ has continued to work Paul is just a part of the body he's not the entire body but certainly is an important part of the body and all the members the Holy Spirit is flowing through them and they continue to do the work of Jesus Christ as should we and so the Holy Spirit continues to work today Jesus Christ continues to be the head of the church we are his body and Jesus is the Son of God and that's the work that we have set out for us to do is to preach the gospel and to teach the world that Jesus is the Son of God so I'm gonna head over to the child look forward to participating in the child and hearing your thoughts on this and then next week we'll get into Acts chapter 10 good night for now