

Reasoning out of the Scriptures by Allegory & Type



Signs in the book of Acts

Study 2 Mystery of the Gentiles

Class 2—The Mystery of the Gentiles (Acts 6-9)

- ❑ “When (Ezekiel) was about to relate a prophetic vision he had seen, he prefaces his description by informing us that *‘there was upon me the hand of Yahweh, and he carried me out in the spirit of Yahweh.’* When ‘in the spirit’ then, he both sees visions, and hears, and then proceeds to narrate. This was the case with John. He was ‘in the spirit’ and then he beheld, or was caused to see, *what was invisible to men in their normal state.* Hitherto he had seen nothing; but as soon as he came to be ‘in the spirit’ he beheld a vision, and continued ‘in spirit’ so long as there was anything to be seen...Hence, from the general use of the phrase in this book, we are to understand that *when ‘in spirit,’ John was in such a relation to Deity as that he could see things of Deity,* which were known only to His Spirit; as Paul has said, ‘the things of the Deity knoweth no man, but the Spirit of the Deity;’ *in order, therefore, to know these things by primary visual representation, a man must be as John (and Ezekiel) were, ‘in the spirit.’*” —*J.Thomas, Eureka, Vol. 1*

- “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit” 1Cor 2:14
- The “spirit” is the Word of God—Eph 6:17; John 6:63; 3:34...etc.

Act 8:12 “When they believed Philip preaching *the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ*, they were baptized, both men and women”

Act 28:30-31 “Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, *Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ*, with all confidence, no man forbidding him”

- **ALL scripture is about these two doctrines: (1) the kingdom of God, (2) God’s covering of sin through the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- A man must be “born” into Christ to enter into the Kingdom (Joh 3:3-6)
 - In his name Jesus preached the Kingdom of God and healing as a demonstration of forgiveness of sins (Mat 9:1-5).
 - The parables concerned the Kingdom of God and the necessary redemption from sin and death (Mark 4:11-12).
 - The emblems of fellowship are for the forgiveness of sins to remember Christ until he returns in his kingdom (Mat 26:26-29). *see Gal 3:26-29*
 - Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God (1Cor 15:50)
 - Men are converted from sin/darkness into the Kingdom (Col 1:12-14)²

- The Book of Acts is divided into two primary parts: the work of two apostles—Peter to the Jews and Paul to the Gentiles.

Gal 2:7— “the gospel of the UNCIRCUMCISION was committed unto ME, as the gospel of the CIRCUMCISION was unto PETER”

PETER

Acts 1-12 Jews First

Jerusalem Center of Preaching

Word spreads to Samaria

Chp 2—Peter’s 1st Address

Chp 3—Lame man healed

Chp 8—Simon the sorcerer

Chp 8—Laying on of hands

Chp 10—Peter worshipped

Chp 9—Tabitha raised

Chp 12—Peter imprisoned

PAUL

Acts 13-28 Then Gentiles

Antioch Center of Preaching

Word spreads to Rome

Chp 13—Paul’s 1st Address

Chp 14—Lame man healed

Chp 13—Elymas the sorcerer

Chp 19—Laying on of hands

Chp 14—Paul worshipped

Chp 20—Eutychus raised

Chp 28—Paul imprisoned

Luke 11:30 “For as *Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites*, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation”

- **The chronology in the Acts is Spirit-directed. The Inspired Word details the movements of the apostles as designated specifically by “the Spirit.” Thus, Acts IS the direction of the Spirit.**

Act 8:29 “The Spirit said unto Philip, Go Near, and join thyself to the chariot...”

Act 8:39 “And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip...”

Act 11:12 “And the Spirit bade me to go with them...” (Act 10:19)

Act 13:2-4 “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I called them... So, being sent forth of the Holy Spirit...”

Act 16:6-7 “When they had gone through Phrygia, and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia... they assayed to go to Bithynia; but the Spirit suffered them not...”

Acts 6-7—Stephen: In The Image of Jesus Christ (Rom 8:29)

Act 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose **Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost...**

Act 6:8 And **Stephen, *full of faith and power, *did great wonders and miracles among the people...** **the one is based upon the other (Mat 17:20)*

Act 6:10-14 And they **were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.** Then they suborned men, which said, **We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. And they stirred up the people,** and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and **brought him to the council, And set up false witnesses,** which said, This man ceaseth not to **speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:** For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and **shall change the customs which Moses delivered us...**

Stephen was “conformed” to the “image” of his Master (Rom 8:29). And his death by the hand of the Jews scatters the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Christ AND Stephen

Full of the Holy Spirit

Many miracles done by him

False witnesses set against him

Leaders stirred up the Jews

Accused of breaking the Law

Told Jews they rejected prophets

Killed outside the City

Commended his spirit to God

Asked God to forgive them

Carried by others in death

- Like his master, Stephen drew the pattern of persecution of the Jews under the Law. The result of his death was the same as Christ.

Act 26:23 “Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and *should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles*”

- The death of Stephen—in image of Messiah—begins this process⁶:

Comparative References

Luke 4:1—Acts 6:5

Act 2:22—Acts 6:8

Mat 26:59—Acts 6:11-13

Mat 26:60—Acts 6:12

Mat 26:26-62—Acts 6:14

Mat 23:34-39—Acts 7:52

Mat 27:32—Acts 7:58

Luke 23:46—Acts 7:59

Luke 23:34—Acts 7:60

Mat 27:58-59—Acts 8:2

Death of Stephen—Sheep Scattered, Gentiles Enlightened

- **STEPHEN'S NAME APPEARS 7X IN N.T.—MEANS "A CROWN." VICTORY THROUGH SUFFERING.** The root Greek word is used for the reward of eternal life: *crown of life; crown of righteousness; crown of glory; crown of gold* (2Tim 4:8; Jam 1:12; 1Pet 5:4; Rev 2:10).

Act 7:58 "... cast (*Stephen*) out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their *clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.*" **Gk. coats (trans. "defiled their garments" - Rev 3:4)**

Clothes. Rejecting the covering in Christ, while also unwittingly fulfilling the purpose of God to provide atonement for men (Act 2:22-24)

Act 7:59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Act 7:60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, *lay not this sin to their charge.* And when he had said this, *he fell asleep.*

- **Representative of the atoning effects of Christ's death, Stephen mediates before God that his life provide forgiveness for others.**⁷

Acts 8—The Jews Scattered and the Gospel Spreads

Act 8:1 And SAUL WAS CONSENTING UNTO HIS DEATH. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at **Jerusalem**; *and they were* **ALL SCATTERED ABROAD throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria**, *EXCEPT THE APOSTLES. **remained in the area with the strongest persecution!*

Scattered abroad. As Peter himself confessed, there was a prejudice against teaching the Gentiles. Therefore, the circumstances were *spirit-directed* by the Lord that would assure the Jews spread the Gospel outside Jerusalem. That event was the putting to death of Stephen!

- “Smite the shepherd and the sheep will be **SCATTERED**” (Mar 14:27)
It is important that the Gentiles were literally enlightened by Jews—Peter and Paul

Jerusalem—Judea—Samaria. Fulfilling Acts 1:8. From the City of Truth (Zec 8:3), the Gospel goes forth. The Truth cannot be separated from the Jews and the Hope of Israel. As the Jews dispersed among the Gentiles, so also was the doctrine of the Hebrew Kingdom. *The Jews’ re-gathering signals a closing of Gentile Times (Rom 11:15; Dan 12:1-3⁸).*

Act 8:2 And ***DEVOUT MEN CARRIED STEPHEN TO HIS BURIAL**, and made great lamentation over him. ***saints identify w/death**

Act 8:3 As for Saul, *he made havock of the church*, entering into every house, and haling men and women *committed them to prison*. **(fellowship w/suffering of Christ—2Tim 2:12; Phi 3:10)**

Act 8:4 Therefore **THEY THAT WERE SCATTERED ABROAD WENT EVERY WHERE PREACHING THE WORD.**

- **SCATTERED ABROAD**—Gk. “to “sow the seed” —literally and figuratively (Acts 8:4); “but unto the Jews only” (Acts 11:19). “Scattered” is trans “to sow” (Mat 13:3-4, 18-27; Gal 6:7-8; 1Cor 15:36-44; Jam 3:18). The Hope of Israel being sown. CHRIST SAID THE “SEED” IS THE “WORD OF THE KINGDOM” (Mat 13:18-19). The movement of the literal Jews is directly connected to the movement of the Hope of Israel to the Gentiles— and, therefore, the growth of the “ecclesia.” (1Pet 1:23)
- **Because of rebellion, Abraham’s “seed” after the flesh were “sown” among the nations (Zec 10:9; Jer 31:27-28; Amos 9:8-9). They were called the “12 tribes scattered abroad” (Jam 1:1; 1Pet 1:1-2—Israel among Gentiles—Deu 4:27; 28:64). Therefore, in restoration, they will be “planted” again in the Land (2Sam 7:8-10; Amo 9:11-15; Act 15:15-17)**

- **PAUL A REPRESENTATIVE MAN AS “THE HOPE OF ISRAEL” (ACT 28:20)**

The lives of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, as well as Ishmael and Isaac, are “an allegory” (Gal 4:22-31). Moses represented “the Law” (Jos 8:31-32; Heb 9:19). Ruth, Gentiles. Joshua, Christ...same rule applies to Paul.

- **Paul references himself as proof that God has spared “a remnant” of Israel and has not entirely “cast off” His people:**

Rom 11:1 “*Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin*”

- **Thus, he represents “the Hope of Israel”—as a Jew *under the Law* who crucified Christ (Stephen)—converted, then enlightens Gentiles.**
 - **Paul emphasizes several times he was born and raised a Jew fully committed to the Law (Act 22:1-5; 26:4-5; 2Cor 11:22; Phi 3:5-6).**
 - **Paul refers to himself as a “pattern” (type) of forgiveness extended to all saints (1Tim 1:16). Like the prophets, he was a representative man.**
 - **Paul was consenting to Stephen being put to death and “kept the raiment” of those that stoned him (Act 7:58; 8:1-3; 22:20).**
 - **As the foremost persecutor of the ecclesia, he became the foremost builder of the ecclesia (2Cor 11:28)!**

Acts 9—Paul’s Conversion (*Saul’s Gentile name preferred*)

Act 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the *high priest*, (Acts 22:5)

Act 9:2 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**. (this follows the death of Stephen: Saul—Acts 7-8)!!!

High Priest. Contrast with Christ as true high priest of the new covenant (Heb 2:17; 3:1; 4:15; 5:5-10; 7:26), now in the “holy place” of heaven (Heb 9:1-26). From that exalted status Christ calls to Saul (v.4).

Bound. used for bondage of “the Law” (Rom 7:2; 1Cor 7:39). Literally and figuratively, Saul bringing men into bondage of the Law (Gal 2:4), which was a system condemning men to death (2Cor 3:9; Gal 3:13).

Jerusalem. Gal 4:25 “Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to JERUSALEM WHICH NOW IS, AND IS IN BONDAGE WITH HER CHILDREN” ¹¹

Act 9:3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly *there shined round about him a light from heaven:*

Act 9:4 And *he fell to the earth*, and **HEARD A VOICE** saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Light from heaven. Rep. enlightenment (1John 1:5-7); specifically “the light of knowledge” of Christ (2Cor 4:4-6; 1Pet 2:9; 1The 5:4-8), which was brighter and more glorious than the Mosaic (2Cor 3:7-18).

Christ is the Divine Light of Truth (John 1:1-9). *This happened at “midday,” and the light was “above the brightness of the sun” (Acts 26:13). Acts 22:6 “about noon.” Beyond natural, it was divine light.*

Fell to the earth. *Gk. word for Israel’s “fall” bringing salvation to Gentiles (Rom 11:11). Paul reps. Israel in their fall and light to Gentiles*

Heard a Voice—Christ’s voice “from heaven” (Joh 1:32; 6:38-42) was superior in authority to the Mosaic Law “from earth” (Heb 12:24-25).

Damascus. Gentile city of Syria: Naaman baptism into Israel (2Kin 5).

Christ said “no prophet is accepted in his own country...many lepers in Israel in the times of Elisha, and none of them was cleansed save Naaman, the Syrian”—Luke 4:24-27

- Others, such as Abraham, Jacob, Daniel, Zechariah and John experienced a figurative death and resurrection (Dan 10:7-10; Rev 1:17; Zec 4:1-2), which was involved in their enlightenment.

In the case of Paul:

- Happened “about noon”—Acts 22:6, or “midday”—Acts 26:13
- “Could not see for the glory of that light”—Act 22:11
- The light “was above the brightness of the sun”—Acts 26:12

Acts 22:16 Saul “could not see for THE GLORY of that light.” (Mat 17:2)

- The brightness of Christ above the fading glory of the Law (Exo 34):
2Cor 3:7-9 “If THE MINISTRATION OF DEATH, written *and* engraven in stones, was *glorious*, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the GLORY of his countenance; which *glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?* For if THE MINISTRATION OF CONDEMNATION *be* GLORY, *much more doth* THE MINISTRATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS *exceed in* GLORY”

- All three accounts state that Saul “heard the voice” but did not see the Lord (Acts 9:4; 22:7; 26:14). The doctrine was revealed after the physical presence of Messiah was no longer visible (resurrected).

Act 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am **Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.* **persecuted ecclesia, the Christ-body (Mat 25:40)*

Act 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, *Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.*

- Pricks. trans. “sting”: 1Cor 15:56 “*The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin IS THE LAW*” *Saul’s resistance to Christ fulfilling the Law*

Saul was told exactly why this event happened to him:

- Act 26:16-18 “But rise, and stand upon thy feet: *for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose*, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and *from THE GENTILES, UNTO WHOM NOW I SEND THEE, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins*, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me”

Brightness of Jesus’ glory above the sun indicates exaltation, glorification (Mat 17:2; 1Cor 15:41; Rev 1:16)

Revelation to Paul specifically called “the Mystery of the Gentiles”

Eph 3:1-7 “If ye have heard of *the dispensation of the grace of God* which is given me to you-ward: ***How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery;*** (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; ***That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: WHEREOF I WAS MADE A MINISTER,*** according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me”

Col 1:25-27 “Whereof ***I AM MADE A MINISTER,*** according to *the dispensation of God WHICH IS GIVEN TO ME FOR YOU,* to fulfil the word of God; ***Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles;*** which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”

Rom 16:25-26 “Now to him that is of power to stablish you ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, ***according to the revelation of the mystery,*** which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, ***made known to all nations*** for the obedience of faith”

Act 9:8 And Saul **arose* from the earth; and WHEN HIS EYES WERE OPENED, HE SAW NO MAN: but they LED HIM BY THE HAND, and brought *him* into Damascus. **“raised” in (1Cor 15:4)*

Arose from the earth. Gk. word referring to Mosaic—

“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him *that spake on earth*, much more *shall not we escape*, if we turn away from *him that speaketh from heaven*”—Heb 12:25

When his eyes were opened, he saw no man. Reps. blindness to Christ, until his “glorification” (Joh 7:39; 12:16—Class 1 notes)

Luke 24:27-31 “And BEGINNING AT MOSES AND ALL THE PROPHETS, HE EXPOUNDED UNTO THEM IN ALL THE SCRIPTURES THE THINGS CONCERNING HIMSELF. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, AS HE SAT AT MEAT WITH THEM, HE TOOK BREAD, AND BLESSED IT, AND BRAKE, and gave to them. And **THEIR EYES WERE OPENED**, and they knew him; and **HE VANISHED OUT OF THEIR SIGHT”** see Acts 1:9-12

Act 9:8 *And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they LED HIM BY THE HAND, and brought him into Damascus.*

Act 9:9 *And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.*

Arose—trans. “awake” *i.e.* spiritually enlightened (Rom 13:11; Eph 5:14)

Led by Hand—specific term referring to Mosaic “led them by the right hand of Moses with His glorious arm” (Isa 63:12) *schoolmaster to Christ (Gal 3-4)*

Three days without sight, neither did eat nor drink. Identification with Christ (Luke 13:32; Rom 6). Period of which Saul was blind reps the Jews under the Law, and eventual enlightenment (Mat 15:14):

Hos 6:1-2 “Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and HE WILL HEAL US; he hath smitten, and HE WILL BIND US UP. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight” *Paul was a personal example of Israel (Rom 11:1)*

- **Divine interference of “blindness” upon the Jews was necessary for enlightenment of the Gentiles (Rom 11:11).** *Blind to sin; Saul and Pharisees—Joh 9:40-41*

Act 9:10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named *Ananias*; and to him said the Lord **in a vision, Ananias*. And he said, Behold, *I am here, Lord*. (Num 12:6; Hos 12:10; 1Sam 3:1-15; Eze 1:1; Dan 8:1-2; 10:7-8)

Ananias. Heb. “Hananiah.” Grace or mercy of Yah. **Ananias appears 5x in Acts 9!** Ananias sent to teach Saul ‘*Christ in the Law*.’ “**The LAW was given by Moses, but GRACE AND TRUTH came by Jesus Christ**” John 1:17.

○ By “sign,” this doctrine is enacted in Saul, soon to be Paul.

1Tim 1:16 “Howbeit for this cause I obtained *mercy*, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a **PATTERN* to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting” **Gk. figure, type*

➤ “**The Law**” refers to the Jews, while “**grace**” refers to all the seed: Rom 4:13-17 “For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, THROUGH THE LAW, but through the righteousness of faith. For IF THEY WHICH ARE OF THE LAW be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: Because the law worketh wrath... Therefore *it is* of faith, THAT IT MIGHT BE BY GRACE; to the end the promise might be sure *to all the seed*; NOT TO THAT ONLY WHICH IS OF THE LAW, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, *I have made thee a father of many nations*)” Rom 15:15-16

- **Paul needed to see Christ as a fulfillment of the Law; but also that the Abrahamic covenant included Gentiles by the gospel of “grace” —**

Rom 15:15-16 “Brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, *because of the GRACE that is GIVEN TO ME of God, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit”*

Eph 3:1-8 “If ye have heard of **THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD which is **GIVEN ME** to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known **UNTO ME** the mystery... Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; *That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to **THE GIFT OF THE GRACE OF GOD GIVEN UNTO ME** by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, *that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ”****

(Grace—Gentiles: Rom 1:5; Gal 1:15-16; 2:8-9)

Act 9:13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, *how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem...* (Gal 1:13, 23; Acts 8:3; 22:19-20; 26:10-11; 1Tim 1:13-15) to show God's mercy (1Tim 1:13)

Act 9:15 *But the Lord said* unto him, Go thy way: for *he is a CHOSEN vessel unto me*, TO BEAR MY NAME before the 1. Gentiles, and 2. kings, and 3. the children of Israel: **NOTE THE ORDER!**

He is a CHOSEN vessel. Paul's appointed position of the Lord (Acts 13:2; Rom 1:1; 11:13; 15:16; Gal 1:1, 15-16; Eph 3:7; Col 1:25; 1Tim 2:7; 2Tim 1:11). Saints are "vessels" (John 15:16; 2Tim 2:20-21; 2Cor 4:7; 1Pet 2:9; 2The 2:13; Eph 1:1-5; Rom 16:13).

2Cor 4:7 "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power *may be of God, and not of us*"

Chosen. Gk. word trans "election" in the following—

Rom 11:1,5 "I say then, *Hath God cast away his people?* God forbid. For *I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin* ...Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the **ELECTION of grace.**

Isa 49:1-6 “LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, **to bring Jacob again to him**, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength. And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant **to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth**” (Isa 42:6-7)

- Both references relate to Messiah. Yet, it was Paul who enlightened the Gentiles. Thus, as a “chosen vessel” Paul was an extension of Messiah’s work (*as was Peter—Class 3*). Paul’s apostleship was deliberately “to fulfill the word of God” (Col 1:25):
- “It pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, TO REVEAL HIS SON IN ME, THAT I MIGHT PREACH HIM AMONG THE HEATHEN (*ethnos GENTILES*) ” Gal 1:15-16
- *Doctrinally, this is very important and explains the chronological order of the Book of Acts—to the Jew first, then to the Gentile. Acts 1-12 Peter (the apostle to the Jews), then Paul (the apostle to the Gentiles). But why is Paul inserted into the record in this place?*²¹

All assembled speak with tongues
 Peter heals lame man
 Ananias/Sapphira struck dead
 Peter heals with shadow
 Prison doors opened
 Peter/John give Holy Spirit
 Ananias heals Saul's blindness
 Peter heals Eneas of palsy
 Peter raises Tabitha from dead
 Peter delivered from prison

JEWS

Jerusalem 2:1-11
 Jerusalem 3:1-11
 Jerusalem 5:1-10
 Jerusalem 5:15
 Jerusalem 5:19
 Samaria 8:14-17
 Damascus 9:17-18
 Lydda 9:33-34
 Joppa 9:36-41
 Jerusalem 12:1-17

• **NOTE THE CHRONOLOGY OF: PAUL—THEN PETER—THEN PAUL:**

Death of Stephen, Conversion of Paul	(Gentile)	Act 7-9
Enlightenment of Gentile, Peter	(Jew)	Act 10-11

Paul smites Elymas w/blindness
 Paul heals cripple
 Paul cures woman of Python
 Paul/Silas released from prison
 Paul gives Spirit/12 speak tongues
 Paul heals with handkerchief
 Paul restores Eutychus to life

GENTILES

Paphos 13:6-11
 Lystra 14:8-10
 Philippi 16:16-18
 Philippi 16:25-26
 Corinth 19:1-7
 Corinth 19:11-12
 Troas 20:9-12²²

Rom 15:8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of ~~the~~ circumcision for the truth of God, *to confirm the promises made unto the fathers (Abraham):* Gen 12:1-3

Rom 15:9 And that the GENTILES might glorify God for *his* mercy; *as it is written*, For this cause I will confess to thee among the GENTILES, and sing unto thy name. 2Sam 22:50

Rom 15:10 *And again he saith*, Rejoice, ye GENTILES, with his people. Deu 32:43

Rom 15:11 *And again*, Praise the Lord, all ye GENTILES; and laud him, all ye people. Psa 117:20

Rom 15:12 *And again*, Isaiah saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the GENTILES; in him shall the GENTILES trust. Isa 11:10

- This is a doctrinal demonstration that THE LAW, PROPHETS AND PSALMS foretold that God always intended to enlighten the Gentiles. Thus, the term “circumcision,” not “Jew” or “Israel.” This was all in accordance with the Abrahamic Covenant, where “circumcision” is the qualification to be his “seed” (see: Rom 4²³)

Act 9:16 For I will shew him how *great things* he must suffer for **MY NAME'S SAKE**. (Mat 5:11; 10:21-25; 24:9; 1Pet 4:14; John 15:20; 16:1-4)

Great things he must suffer for my name's sake—*God Manifestation*

- 1Cor 4:9-13—despised, hungry, naked... 2Cor 11:23-27—beaten, stoned, shipwrecked... 2Tim 2:9-10—accused as evil-doer... 2Tim 3:10-12—persecuted, prison... 2Cor 12:7-10—personal infirmity

➤ **Paul's life was a manifestation of the life & death of Jesus Christ—**

Gal 6:17 “I bear in my body THE MARKS OF THE LORD JESUS”

2Cor 1:5 “For as THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST ABOUND IN US”

2Cor 4:10-11 “Always BEARING ABOUT IN THE BODY THE DYING OF THE LORD JESUS, THAT THE LIFE ALSO OF JESUS MIGHT BE MADE MANIFEST IN OUR BODY.”

Col 1:24 “Who now rejoice *in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of* THE AFFLICTIONS OF CHRIST IN MY FLESH *for his body's sake, which is the church*”

Gal 2:20 “I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST: nevertheless I live; yet not I, BUT CHRIST LIVETH IN ME”

➤ **The Atonement was expressed in Paul. By this representation the Gentiles were able to see the Messiah in him (Acts 9:23; 13:50; 14:2).**

Act 9:17 And *Ananias went his way*, and ENTERED INTO THE HOUSE; and *putting his hands on him* said, Brother Saul, THE LORD, EVEN JESUS, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, HATH SENT ME, *that thou mightest *receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.* **Spirit = enlightenment*

House. ecclesia, where the prophetic word enlightens saints (1Tim 3:15) Putting his hands on him. This is how the “holy spirit” was transferred (Act 8:15-18; 19:6), as well as transferring of authority (1Tim 4:14; 2Tim 1:6), and of apostleship (Act 13:1-3)

➤ Significantly, Moses put his hands upon Joshua to transfer of his “spirit” that he might lead Yahweh’s people through Jordan (baptism into Christ—Mat 3:1-13) to inherit the Land promised to Abraham! Of course, this was a type and shadow of the New Covenant under the Greater Joshua (Num 27 cf. Heb 4). This was done because the Law (Moses) could not bring inheritance (Rom 4)!

(Jesus) Hath Sent Me. By sign, it reps. Paul “seeing” Christ—grace—Ananais—in the Law and Prophets (Acts 5:12; 6:6; 8:17; 19:6; 1Tim 4:14; 5:22; 2Tim 1:16; Heb 6:2; Gen 48:18; Lev 8:14-18; Num 8:10; 27:23; Deu 34:9)

Act 9:18 And immediately there *fell from his *eyes as it had been scales*: and he received sight forthwith, and AROSE, and was BAPTIZED. ***Act 26:18 “open their eyes” —ref. Gentiles enlightened**
Act 9:19 And when he had *received meat, he was strengthened*. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.
Act 9:20 And straightway he preached Christ in the ***SYNAGOGUES**, that he is the Son of God ***Messiah fulfillment of Law**

Fell from his eyes. The “blindness” was inability of Jews to see Christ in the Law and Prophets (2Cor 3:14): represented by Ananias as the enlightener. *Paul refers to his enlightenment “as one born out of due time” (1Cor 15:8); or one born after the ministry and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, as the context affirms (1Cor 15:1-9).*

Received sight, arose, baptized. Process of enlightenment & baptism

Received meat, he was strengthened. same Greek word used for understanding the Truth beyond the Law of Moses (Heb 5:12-14). The word “oracles” of the milk related to the Law of Moses (*see: J. Martin, Hebrews*) Act 7:38; Rom 3:1-2 {Gen 21:8 Isaac weaned—great feast: 1Sam 1:22-24}

Exhort: Paul was very knowledgeable of the O.T. (Act 22:3; Phi 3:4-6).

Gal 1:13-19 “Ye have heard of MY CONVERSATION in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion ABOVE MANY MY EQUALS in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; *immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.* Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother”

- *Though raised in the Law, Paul had to comprehend Christ “in the Law and prophets,” and be “taught again the first principles of the oracles of God” Heb 5:12-14. We can't see Christ apart from the Law.*
- *An exhortation as to the time required before we presume to teach others from the Word (1Tim 1:6-7; 1Pet 4:11). (1Cor 2:1-16)*

Act 9:22 *Saul increased the more in strength*, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, *proving that this is very Christ*.

Saul increased the more in strength. By knowledge (Luke 2:52; Phi 1:9). Strength is measured by scriptural knowledge.

Proving that this is very Christ. Gk. “bring together”—the Law and Prophets (Acts 28:23; 17:3; 18:5)! This was his increase in strength: understanding how Christ was the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets

□ “... This second aspect of the matter is plainly affirmed in the statement that *‘the law was a shadow of good things to come’*: that the law was *‘the form of knowledge and of the truth’* (Rom. 2:20), and that the body (or substance) of the law-shadows *‘is of Christ’* (Col. 2: 17); further, that the promulgated righteousness of God by faith in Christ without the law was *‘witnessed by the law’* (Rom. 3: 21). This view of the matter enables us to understand how Christ could say that he had come to fulfil **‘THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS’**, and that *‘till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled’* (Matt. 5:17, 18).”—R.R. *Law of Moses*²⁸

The teaching of Yahweh's savior was foreshadowed throughout the Old Testament—**BUT WAS NOT MANIFESTED UNTIL THE APPEARING OF JESUS CHRIST. *We embrace the Kingdom, but it is not yet manifested.***

2Tim 1:9-10 “Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, *but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, BUT IS NOW MADE MANIFEST BY THE APPEARING OF OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST...*”

Rom 16:25-26 “...the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, *which was kept secret since the world began, BUT NOW IS MADE MANIFEST, AND BY THE SCRIPTURES OF THE PROPHETS*”

1Pet 1:9-20 “Of which *salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow...Who verily was FOREORDAINED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, BUT WAS MANIFEST IN THESE LAST TIMES FOR YOU*” (Col 1:26; Gal 4:4)

Acts 9—Peter Heals Man Sick of Palsy, Raises Dead Woman

Act 9:32 And it came to pass, *as Peter passed throughout all quarters*, he came down also to *the saints which dwelt at Lydda* (Aeneas “praise” among the saints at Lydda)

Act 9:33 And there he found *a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years*, and was *sick of the palsy*.

○ *After his conversion, Saul doesn't appear again until Acts 11:25.*

Lydda. “travail:” used for the Seed of Abraham (Gal 4:27).

Eight. A number is first introduced in circumcision of Abraham's son, Ishmael (Gen 17:12; 21:4). He reps. Abraham seed after the flesh (Gal 4), needing confirmation in Christ (*Gal 3:16-29; Phi 3:3-5; Rom 4:10-13; Col 2:11-2*)

- The “signs” of the prophets are filled with numbers—Ezekiel, Daniel, Revelation. It's an amazing testimony of the Truth that numbers are *absolutes*: fixed values that are not subject to opinion or interpretation. Yet, in Scripture, absolute numbers are often applied to represent principles.

“One day with the Lord is as a thousand years” — 2Pet 3:8

“Day for a year” — Num 14:34; Eze 4:6; Gen 29:27

➤ **3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 40, 70 all symbolize different Scriptural principles.**

Act 9:34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, *Jesus Christ maketh thee whole*: **ARISE**, and make thy bed. And he **AROSE** immediately. **Enlivened by the “name” (Acts 3:6-16)**

Act 9:35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and **Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord*. ***Sharon—fertile land—Isa 35:2; 65:10**

Jesus Christ maketh thee whole. Only through Christ the Abrahamic Covenant was revived and confirmed (Luk 1:72-73; Rom 15:8).

1Pet 2:24 “his own self bare our sins in his body on the tree, that we being dead to sins should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes we ARE HEALED” *same Gk. word as “maketh thee whole”*

Arise. Gk. resurrection—a “new man” in Christ & “seed of Abraham.”

Gal 3:27-29 “As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek...*if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise*”

☐ “*The seed,*” then, is a phrase that must be understood in a twofold sense; first as referring to Christ; and secondly, to all who are constitutionally *in him.*”—*Elpis Israel*

Act 9:36 Now there was at *Joppa* a certain disciple named *Tabitha*, which by interpretation is called *Dorcas*: this woman was *full of good works and almsdeeds* which she did.

Act 9:37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was **sick, and died*: whom when they had *washed*, they *laid her in an upper chamber*. **trans. "weak" relating to the Law—Rom 8:3*

Tabitha—Hebrew. Dorcas—Gentile. The Law manifested that Jews are “no better” than Gentiles. For, “both Jew and Gentiles, they are all under sin...there is none righteous, no, not one” (Rom 3:9-10).

Full of good works. cannot justified by “works of the Law” (Gal 2:16).

Rom 3:19-20 “... that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore *by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight*: for by the law is the knowledge of sin”

Washed. Trans “WASHED us from our sins” (Rev 1:5). **Gk. word 6x in N.T.**
Upper Chamber. Identification with Christ’s his death and resurrection (Mar 14:15; Acts 1:13; 20:8). Like the mercy seat, it is elevated over the Law (Exo 25:22; 40:20—Rom 5:20). From earthy to heavenly.

Act 9:38 And forasmuch as *Lydda was nigh to JOPPA*, and the disciples had *heard that Peter was there*, ***they sent unto him two men***, desiring *him* that he would not delay to come to them. ***Two witnesses of law and prophets—John 5***

Act 9:39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they ***brought him into the upper chamber: and all the WIDOWS stood by him weeping***, and shewing ***the coats and garments which Dorcas made***, while she was with them

Lydda (travail) nigh to Joppa. Travail followed by redemption (Joh 16:19-21)
Sent two men. “Law and Prophets witnessed” redemption thru Christ (Rom 3:20-21). Mat 5:17; Luke 24:44; John 1:45; Acts 28:23.

Widows stood by him weeping. Exact figure used for those “dead” under the Law, who now must be married unto Christ (Rom 7:1-4).

Upper Chamber. Where the new covenant was established (Mat 26:26-29)

Coats and garments (she) made. NO SELF-COVERING BY WORKS (Rom 9:31).

Mosaic garment waxed old and was done away in Christ (Heb 1:11; Jam 5:2)

Dorcas. In death her Gentile name used, but Hebrew name “Tabitha” in resurrection (v.40). See: Eph 2:11-13 Salvation is of the Jews (Joh 4:22)

Act 9:40 But Peter PUT THEM ALL FORTH, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning *him* to the body SAID, **TABITHA, ARISE.** *And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.*

Salvation is as individual as sin! All hear his voice shall live—Joh 5:25

Act 9:41 And HE GAVE HER HIS HAND, *and lifted her up,* and when he had called the **SAINTS AND WIDOWS,** *presented her alive.* *Old man must rise Anew in Christ—Rom 6*

Act 9:42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

Act 9:43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one *Simon a tanner.*

She opened Her Eyes, Saw. enlightened in Christ, by seeing Messiah foreshadowed in the Law of Moses (see: Luke 24:27-31)

Lifted Her Up. rising to a newness of life (Rom 6:1-8).

Alive. Dead to the Law, alive in Christ (Rom 7:4-6; Joh 11:25)

Tanner. animal skins: covering for sin only found in the Lord Jesus Christ (Gen 3:21), not in the “coats and garments” of the Law (v 39).

Tanner’s work brought uncleanness (Lev 11:39).

LUKE 9-10 To the Jew First, Then To The Gentile

Luke 9:1 Then he called his **twelve** disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Luke 9:2 And he sent them to *preach the kingdom of God*, and to *heal the sick*.

Twelve—number of Jews/Israel (Exo 24:4; 28:21; Jos 4:2)

Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other **seventy** also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come...

Seventy—number of Gentiles (Gen 10). But primarily the Gentile Nations as blessed by Israel. 12 wells of water feed 70 palm trees (Exo 15:27). The sons of Jacob—12—became 70 in Egypt (Gen 46:26; Exo 1:20). Israel—12—ingested into servitude of Babylon 70 years (Jer 25:11-12; 29:10). David reigned in Jerusalem (12), brought Gentile nations into subjection and lived 70 years (2Sam 5:4). The nations will come up to Jerusalem—12—for the Feast of Tabernacles in the kingdom (Zec 14:16-17), which included 70 bullocks offered (Num 29:12-32). Yahweh's purpose began with Israel, but will include all nations (Abraham). 12 manner of fruit heal nations—Rev 22:2

Paul—the pattern of the Doctrine of the Gospel—Rom 11

Paul notes that he was an example of the purpose of God. Although “blindness” has happened to Israel until the “times of the Gentiles” be fulfilled (Rom 11:25), a “remnant” of Israel remains—proving Yahweh has not cast away His people (Rom 11:1-5; 9:25-29). Paul reps. the “eyes” of the Jews that cannot see Christ in the O.T., as he himself was in blindness for three days (Rom 11:6-11). Because of this event, Paul says he was directed toward the Gentiles, as he was appointed the “apostle of the Gentiles” (Rom 11:13). Therefore, Paul warns the Gentiles never to “boast” against the Jews, because the root is Israel into which the Gentiles have been graft (Rom 11:14-24). To emphasize this very doctrine, Paul—the rebellious, blinded Jew—enlightened the Gentiles. After this period, Yahweh will “turn away the ungodliness of Jacob” and they also will receive “mercy” (Rom 11:25-32). **This doctrine is the nucleus of the Gospel (Rom 11:33-36).**

- ***It cannot be understated that Paul was an expert in the study of the Law and Prophets, “above his equals” (Gal 1:13-14; Phi 3:5-6). This provided him the ability to perceive Christ in the Law and Prophets.***

Israel: **The Man**

- Called Israel, Yahweh's servant (Isa 49:1-3; 42:1)
- Called Yahweh's Firstborn (Col 1:15-18).
- Called out of Egypt (Mat 2:15; Hos 11:1)
- Cut off by Romans (Mat 27:54)
- Death brought light to Gentiles (Acts 26:23)
- Raised up after three days (Acts 10:40)

Israel: **The Nation**

- Called Israel, Yahweh's servant (Isa 41:8)
- Called Yahweh's Firstborn (Exo 4:20-22).
- Called out of Egypt (Exo 4:20-22)
- Cut off by Romans (Mat 22:7)
- Death brought light to Gentiles (Rom 11:25-27)
- Raised up after three days (Hos 6:1-2)

The smiting of both INDIVIDUAL Israel—*Christ Jesus*—and NATIONAL Israel—*Yahweh's people*—led to “light to the Gentiles.”