



## Acts Chapter 9

Before we get started on chapter 9 it's important for us to understand that up until this point in the story line of the book of Acts which once again was originally entitled "The Origins of Christian History" .. we find no evidence of any Gentile believers being converted.

Some might say the eunuch that Philip helped to understand what he was reading in the book of Isiah may have been a Gentile.. but his is highly speculative at best given that fact that he was reading from the prophet Isiah when Philip caught up to him in Acts chapter 8 verse 27.

The scripture in no way states that the eunuch was a Gentile, and the fact that this eunuch even had a Torah scroll to read from the prophet Isiah should tell us a lot about his background. Gentiles at that time would not have had the writings of the prophets to read from.

Torah scrolls were not being passed out at that point in time in fact it was extremely difficult to put together a Torah scroll and the common person would have been extremely hard pressed to be able to get their hands on one.

So think about his my friends... here we are all the way up to the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Acts, and we find no "Gentile" believers being mentioned up to this point in the book of Acts.

Everything that we have read and heard so far all pertains to those of the Jewish faith, and those who were not "converted"... because remember.. faith in the Messiah does not "convert" a Jewish person.. it simply makes them a believer, and covers them with the blood of the Messiah so that their sins also may be forgiven them.

It's critically and tectonically important for us to see, know, and understand.. that the Jewish people did not "convert" to Christianity but rather that Christianity is simply an extension of their original Jewishness.

Many people have a hard time wrestling with this because of today's modern day version of Christianity that teaches that the Jews had to convert. There was no "converting" for a Jew... all they had to do was believe and then to continue on with what they already knew from the beginning of the book.

The problem today is that to many would be Christians are fooled into believing that

Christianity is several times removed from Judaism, and that today's would be Christian is "Once saved always saved" and that they live in some kind of "dispensational grace age" where God simply allows them to do as they please.

And they believe these things because they've been programmed by any one of mans close to five thousand different denominational charters of men who are doing today exactly what the Pharisees and Scribes did back in Yahshua's time.

They are literally making void the Word of God in order to hold on to their own traditions, keeping and observing and doing things found no where in the scripture.

Which I might add is forbidden according to the scripture.

Once a Jew believes that does not mean that he just forgets the Torah, forgets the Feast Days, forgets the Sabbaths, forgets the Commandments of God the Father, forgets the laws, and forgets the precepts of God.

Once a Jew believes.. it simply means that he does not have to sacrifice animals for his sin any longer. And I want us to understand this critical most important fact.

And what this means for the new believer is that the "New Believer" has a lot to learn. And to be quite honest.. what a new believer needs to learn is not being taught or preached in most of today's modern theologically, and doctrinally crippled seminary schools.

And we discussed this in great detail already in our study in the book of Acts so I won't go back into all of that but I would like to say this to the new viewer who may not have been with us through our study up until this point..

If you are still stuck under the bondage of one Christian denominational charter of men or another.. and if you are still stuck under the bondage of being programmed that you're "Once saved always saved!"... if you're still stuck under the bondage of being programmed that you're living in some kind of "dispensational state of grace" that allows you to "Do As Thou Wilt"... if your still stuck under the bondage of being programmed that "The laws of God are all nailed to the cross"... you need to come out, and break free of that man made, man fabricated, man created theological denominational programming.

Understand that here we are in the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Acts and still we do not see one single "Gentile" believer anywhere in the scripture that we can point to. Everything that we have read up to this point is all about a battle that is going on between several different Jewish factions or sects of Judaism.

The idea that a Christian church is found anywhere with in the text is simply unfounded

anywhere. I want us to understand that you will not find the Jewish Synagogues being uprooted and new Christian Churches being planted anywhere in any book of your Bible.

Even though that's what most Christian denominational charters of men would have you believe.

People are still worshiping at the Synagogues, and at the Temple, and the only thing that has changed is that their very Jewish Messiah has come just as he was prophesied to come, and that the penalty for sin has been paid for in full for those who have faith and believe.

If you've been taught a "Replacement Theology Doctrine".. or that today's Christian Church has replaced the Jewish Synagogue.. or that new believing Jews must somehow "convert" to Christianity.. it's important that you understand that what you have been taught is strictly Catholic doctrine, that is found no where in the scripture.

And yes...this Catholic doctrine is also being taught in your "Protestant" Churches today my friends. Almost everything that today's so called "Protestant" churches preach and teach come from the teachings of Catholicism.

And if we've said it once we'll say it a thousand times, and a thousand times after that... Catholicism is not Christianity. Catholicism is Catholicism... lets be clear. Only a small percentage of what the Catholic church does, and or believes is found in the scripture.

It is the Christian version of a man made, man created, man fabricated hybrid religion much like that of the Pharisees and the Scribes of Yahshua's time. The Christian leadership of today is doing the exact same thing that the Saducees and Pharisees of Yahshua's time had done.. and still are doing by the way.

And this is exactly why a true Christian can not run from today's lost denominational churches into the arms of Judaism..

Both today's modern day version of Christianity, and today's modern version of Judaism are corrupt and have lost there way. Neither of them are doing what we have been commanded to do according to the scriptures that were given to us to live by.

And I know that this is a rude awakening for many Christians out there today, who are still under the bondage of the trappings of Catholicism.. and for the most part, most of them don't even know it. But if we're ever going to understand Christianity to any degree... we must understand that Catholicism is not Christianity.

And above all.. there is no such thing as "Replacement Theology" which teaches that the "Gentiles" have replaced the Jews in the eyes of God.

This is a doctrine of demons and I don't care what denomination you may hail from my friends if you don't read the scripture for yourself, and if you do not understand what the scripture says, and if you have made up your mind to follow after your favorite denomination, or your favorite Pastor, or your favorite Priest, or your favorite Bishop chances are excellent... that you will be lost because you chose to obey man over God your Father.

And this is exactly what we're seeing here in the book of Acts my friends. All of these different factions of Judaism were all following after the Pharisees, and the Scribes, and these false men who called themselves "High Priests" and this man made, man created, man fabricated "Sanhedrin" that they had created for themselves.

And this created a great division with the camp of Judaism and that's what we're seeing in the book of Acts up to this point.

And once again if you want a quick education concerning these facts all you have to do is read the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter of the book of Matthew and see what our Messiah thought about these men who were making void the word of God in order to hold onto their own traditions.

And once again it's important to make clear... that what we are reading in the book of Acts today is exactly what is happening in real time today. Gods people are once again choosing to follow after men rather than to follow after the Messiah who was sent to them by their Father in Heaven.

---

## **THE WORD "CHRISTIAN" MEANS "MESSIAH"**

Lets talk about the very word "Christian" and lets break it down so that we might better understand it's meaning.

I want us to understand the very word or the title.. "Christian".

What does "Christian" mean, and where does it come from and how did it come to be in our modern day Bibles?

**Lets take a look at 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:16 in the King James numbered version:**

*1Pe 4:16 YetG1161 ifG1487 any man suffer asG5613 a Christian,G5546 let him notG3361 be ashamed;G153 butG1161 let him glorifyG1392 GodG2316 onG1722 thisG5129 behalf.G3313*

Notice that the word "Christian" is strong's number "G5546"

And if we look at that in our “Thayers Greek Definitions” we find this:

Christianos

Thayer Definition:

1) Christian, a follower of Christ

Part of Speech: noun proper masculine

A Related Word by Thayer’s/Strong’s Number: from G5547

So this Greek word is actually Christianos and it comes from the related word “G5547” which is the word “Christos” which means:

Thayer Definition:

Christ = “anointed”

1) Christ was the Messiah, the Son of God

2) anointed

The word “Christian” is derived from the word “Messiah” my friends it means “Anointed”.

And if we do a word study on the word “Messiah” we see that it also means “Anointed”.

So the translated word Christian was actually taken from the Jewish word “Messiah” or “Anointed one”.

And if we look at 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel chapter 2 verse 10 we will find in most Bible translations that they use the word “Anointed” or “Anointed one” but if we look at the original “Hebrew” word we find that it was originally the word Messiah.. or “Mashiyach”.

So it's very clear that the very word Christian is derived from the word “Messiah” or “Mashiyach” which means “Anointed One”.

Yahshua was the Jewish Messiah, that was prophesied in the Torah or the Tanakh (also known as the Old Testament).

Now I want to make one thing very clear here my friends. When you see or hear in the scripture about an “Anointed One”.. they are not talking about someone being “Anointed” by men.

They are speaking about someone being “Anointed” by God the Father.. and there is a difference my friends. The Pharisee's and the Sadducee's of Yahshua's time were clearly “Anointed” by men and not “Anointed” by God, and this is what made him so angry with them.

And I would submit to you my friends that most of today's denominational charters of men are also “Anointed” by men. Teaching and preaching the doctrines of men... honoring them with

their lips but their hearts are far from him... making void the word of God in order to hold onto their own traditions.

Now... while there is nothing wrong with the translated word “Christian” (which again means “Anointed One”)... the problem stems from what we often think of today when we hear the word “Christian”.

What do we think of today when we hear the word “Christian”?..

We think of churches, crosses, Christmas trees, steeples, nicely aligned pews, organs, cathedrals, and some of us even think of the Virgin Mary, and the Pope!

But if we were to use the proper original word “Anointed One” or a follower of the “Messiah” what do you see in your mind now?

You most likely see Yahshua, (Jesus) the Messiah, the Christ.

Do you see the difference?

We've lost the original meaning of the very word “Christian”. To be a “Christian” means to be “Christ Like” it means to be “Messiah like” it means to be “Anointed” by God and not by man.

But you see we've been so twisted, in our understanding and in our programmed perception today that we've lost sight of who we even are as Christians (Anointed One's) today.

And this is why we need to go back. This is why we need to study to show ourselves approved. Why do we think that our Messiah even warned us to study to show ourselves approved? Do we think that he did not know what the enemy was going to do to his Word and to his Gospel message?

Did he not know that men would come along and jump to their own assumptions, and their philosophical conclusions, and compile their own man made, man created, man fabricated doctrines and teachings.

Of course he did.. hence... the commandment to “study to show yourselves approved”!

He did not want anyone to follow after a man on this Earth with out checking to see whether his fruit is good or rotten. And we can not do that if we don't know what the scripture says for ourselves.

Look closer my friends... look deeper... think deeper... call out for the understanding to cut through the deception of this world and to be able to break through to the originally intended

understanding of the scripture.

We can't get there with out prayer.. we can't get there with out the love of God in our own hearts... and we certainly can not get there by simply walking into a church on the wrong day of the week.. listening to some man we barley know preaching from the back half of the book.. who's standing behind a pulpit programming us not to read the first half of the book because he himself has been anointed by his own chosen denominational charter of men. Who's fruit we never check.. because we never study to show ourselves approved.

In fact when we look at the title “Christian”.. and we compare that to what's written in the scripture we can know that the original believers in the Messiah were not even called “Christians” at all.

It's important for us to understand that the original word for believers was not the word “Christians” at all. People back in the Apostles time often called Christians the sect of the “Nazarenes”:

*Act 24:5 For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.*

In fact.. the original description of someone who believed in the Messiah Yahshua was originally referred to as someone who was in “The Way” or following “The Way”. They did not call them Christians they simply referred to them as members of the “The Way”.

Lets take a look at Acts chapter 9 verses 1 and 2:

*Act 9:1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest*

*Act 9:2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to **the Way**, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.*

*Act 24:13 Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me.*

*Act 24:14 But this I confess to you, that according to **the Way**, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets,*

*Act 24:15 having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.*

*Act 24:22 But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of **the Way**, put them off, saying, "When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case."*

And it's obvious that they called them followers of “The Way” because Yahshua told them that he was indeed “The Way, the truth and the life” in John 14:6:

MENTION “THE WAY DOCUMENTARY”: <https://www.thewaydoc.com/>

So with all of that in mind.. lets continue in reading the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Acts:

---

## **THE 9TH CHAPTER:**

*Act 9:1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest*

*Act 9:2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.*

*Act 9:3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.*

*Act 9:4 And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"*

*Act 9:5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.*

*Act 9:6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."*

*Act 9:7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.*

*Act 9:8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.*

*Act 9:9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.*

*Act 9:10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."*

*Act 9:11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,*

*Act 9:12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."*

*Act 9:13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.*

*Act 9:14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."*

*Act 9:15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.*

*Act 9:16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."*

*Act 9:17 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

*Act 9:18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;*

*Act 9:19 and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at*



*Damascus.*

*Act 9:20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."*

*Act 9:21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?"*

*Act 9:22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.*

*Act 9:23 When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him,*

*Act 9:24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him,*

*Act 9:25 but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.*

*Act 9:26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.*

*Act 9:27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.*

*Act 9:28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.*

*Act 9:29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him.*

*Act 9:30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.*

*Act 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.*

*Act 9:32 Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.*

*Act 9:33 There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed.*

*Act 9:34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose.*

*Act 9:35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.*

*Act 9:36 Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.*

*Act 9:37 In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.*

*Act 9:38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay."*

*Act 9:39 So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them.*

*Act 9:40 But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he*

*said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.  
Act 9:41 And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.*

*Act 9:42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.*

*Act 9:43 And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.*

---

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE APOSTLE PAUL:**

Now.. this is where we begin to see the history of the Apostle Paul, and I want to spend some much needed time on this.. because it is the Apostle Paul who has written over two thirds of the Brit Hadasha (also known as the New Testament).

And I would submit to you my friends that it is impossible to understand the writings of the Apostle Paul with out understanding his background, who he was, where he came from, and the culture that he was raised up in, and the times that he was living in... not to mention the different factions of both Paganism and Judaism that he was battling against.

If we're going to understand what Paul is telling us in our modern day "New Testament" translations.. we need to understand the history of the Apostle Paul, and the book of Acts is the only place where we can find that information my friends.

You can't find the history of the Apostle Paul in his many writings. We can find bits and pieces of his history.. but not like what we find in the book of Acts. We must read and understand where Paul came from and that he himself was a Pharisee.

And who were the Pharisee's? They were the faction of Judaism that our Messiah had the most contention for. Once again our Messiah called them blind guides, whitewashed tombs, hypocrites, a brood of vipers, and two fold children of hell all in the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Matthew.

What we need to understand about Paul is that he was a slave to the Truth, and to the Messiah and his Gospel message. He started out as a great persecutor of believers, and followers of "The Way", but this was Gods plan from the beginning.

*Gal 1:15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,*

*Gal 1:16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;*

How strong of a message do you think it was to see one of the most aggressive persecutors of their time fall to his knees and praise the Messiah Yahshua? How profound of a message do you

think that was to those who feared the very presents of Paul... to now find him on his knees praising Yahshua? This was by no accident my friends. Paul's stature in life, his up bringing, his being a Pharisee himself was all Gods grooming.. and preparing him for this moment in time.

And even Paul himself was weekend by God in order to make him even stronger:

*2Co 12:7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.*

*2Co 12:8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.*

*2Co 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

*2Co 12:10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

*2Co 12:11 I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing.*

Notice how Paul mentions these “Super-Apostles” that he's battling against. This will become even more important to understand as we wade through the history and the writings.. of the Apostle Paul as we move forward.

Paul was himself was indeed a Pharisee in the beginning. He was what we may think of today.. as being a man with more degree's than a thermometer hanging on his wall.

He was highly educated... he was well schooled not only in Judaism but also in the teachings of philosophy and the teachings of Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates.

He had to commit the Torah to memory in order to sit at the feet of Gamliel one of the most revered Rabbinical teachers of his time.

He was born in Tarsus which was the academic capitol of the world at that time. He came from the diaspora, and was from the Tribe of Benjamin.

And we need to remember that the tribe of Benjamin were known as Jews because the Benjamites had assimilated themselves into the southern kingdom of Judah, and so even though they were originally from the tribe of Benjamin they were known as Jews because they lived and worked in the southern kingdom of Judea.

And it's important to remember that Paul is not always referred to as Paul in the book of Acts. His Hebrew name was Saul, but he was often referred to by his Latin name “Paul” just as it tells us in Acts chapter 13 verse 9.

Paul's first language was Greek... but he also spoke Hebrew and Aramaic because Hebrew and Aramaic are very similar. We also know from history and archaeology that many of the original Hebrew scripts were written in both Hebrew and in Aramaic, and that it was common for those educated Jewish leaders to be able to read and write in these languages in order to teach and preach the Torah and the Tanakh.

We also know that Paul was a Roman citizen by birth, and that this gave him many rights and privileges that those not being a Roman citizen did not have. Roman citizens were said to be of a higher class than those who were not. Romans citizens even used a higher court system than did the lower class.

So we know that Paul's family were of a very high status in that particular society. Paul was no Johnny come lately. From birth Paul came from the upper class, and because of this status that he held from being a Roman citizen. we see that when Paul got into trouble for preaching and teaching the Gospel message.. he did not go before the lower courts... he went before the upper higher courts and it was before kings that his judgment was decided.

And so there should be little doubt as to why our Messiah chose Paul to be the one to carry his gospel message out to the people. Paul had the ability to not only preach to the poor and the sick and the lowly.. but he also.. because of his families status.. was able to reach the very top echelons of authority, and to present the gospel message before kings and magistrates as well.

Being a Roman citizen he had the power to appeal the charges being brought against him, and we see him using this power of being a Roman citizen through out the scripture.

And we also know that Paul could speak in at least three different languages that we know of from the scriptures. He could speak Greek, Aramaic, and Hebrew.

Once again before we move on from Paul's history and from this rather short biography.. I want us to understand the nature of the Apostle Paul, and the fact that he himself was a Pharisee, and the he himself was a firm believer in the Oral traditions and this hybrid religious system of the Pharisees and what they were teaching and preaching in their Synagogues.

And I want us to understand.. that it took the Messiah knocking him off of his horse and striking him blind that caused him to come out of his man made, man created, man fabricated anointing.. and to come back to the original message of the Messiah.

And I want us all to understand that Paul is not so different from us.. and he's not so different from today's "Supper Apostles" who are anointed by men rather than being anointed by God.

## THE AUTHORITY OF THE TEMPLE:

Lets take another look at Acts chapter 9 verses 1 and 2

*Act 9:1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest*

*Act 9:2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.*

Why would Paul go to the “High Priest”? Because it was the Temple authorities and the “High Priest” who was the head of the “Sanhedrin” that held most of the power in the land at that time. Even over the Synagogues and the Pharisees.. even though the Sanhedrin and the “High Priests” did not always agree with the Pharisees they did work hand in hand most of the time.

And once again we see Paul looking for those who were of “The Way” so that he would be able to bind them up and bring them to Jerusalem from Damascus.

It's important to understand that Paul himself did not do the much of the murdering personally because he was and academic, but he was responsible for rounding them up and federating them out so that the result would indeed be death and extermination.

So through the agency of Paul many new believers were indeed murdered, and this would not be the first persecution that these new believers of “The Way” would undergo throughout history. This was by no means the end... but rather... just the beginning.

So with that I think we'll stop right here for this session, and we'll pick up where we left off next week.. Wednesday night at 7pm eastern standard time.

