

Acts of the Apostles 9:1-2__ Lesson 22

Introduction to Mid-Acts

1. The Book

- a. Acts of the Apostles, also called the “book between” or “Acts of the Holy Ghost”
- b. Without Acts, there is a huge gap in understanding God’s progressive revelation
- c. It is the bridge from MMLJ → Romans; Jerusalem → Antioch → Ephesus, etc.
- d. It describes Israel’s spiritual fall and rejection of Holy Ghost filled apostles Ro 11:11
- e. Not a record of the revelation of the mystery, nor the pattern for the body of Christ
- f. Is a record of the Holy Ghost ministry/authority leaving Israel, Peter, Jews ...

2. Mid-Acts Introduction (ch. 9-20)

- a. 12 chapters; 434 verses; 10,626 words; 43% of the book, and the most trouble
- b. We are *mid-Acts* Pauline dispensational, but the wrong place to start study is here
- c. Mid-Acts highlights Saul’s conversion, mission, and its consequences – 1 Tim 1:16
 - i. The Body of Christ begins with the revelation and apostleship to Paul
 - ii. The ministry shift, revelations, are the acts of God, the Spirit – Eph 3:5-6
- d. Mid-Acts is when the Lord appears! 2 Tim 1:8-11; Acts 26:16
- e. Epistles are written at this time – including many of Paul’s (Rom,Cor,Gal,Thess)
- f. Mid-Acts is where the maps of Paul’s travels come from (get ready for geography)
 - i. Paul was more than a “missionary”. He was an apostle – Gal 1:1,Ro 11:13
- g. Bridges Peter→Paul; Jew→Gentile; Israel→Body of Christ; Prophecy→ Mystery
 - i. Some things end, other things begin – don’t get stuck in the middle.
 - ii. Mid-Acts covers Saul to Paul, his disgrace to God’s grace - 1Cor 15:8-10
 - iii. By the end of the book, Paul represents the Lord in a trial against Israel.
- h. Mid-Acts is ‘*when*’, but to find details of the ‘*what*’ you must read Paul’s epistles
 - i. Our pattern is Paul’s doctrine, not the dispensational bridge Paul walked

3. Context of Acts 9:1-2

- a. Israel rejected Father (Lk 7:33, Mt 21:25), Son(Lk 23:34), and Spirit (Acts 7:54-60)
- b. The olive tree, city on a hill, is not producing light - Mt 5:14; Jn 8:12; 1Jo 2:8-10
- c. Stephen, Philip, Simon, and the eunuch, are not natural Israel receiving promises
- d. The Spirit is leaving Jerusalem in Acts 8 via Samaritans, eunuch, Philip – Acts 8:40
- e. Jerusalem kills the king and kicks out the king’s kids, too - Matt 23:31-39
- f. The kingdom to Israel is not coming, it is not being restored – Acts 1:6,9
- g. The believing remnant of the kingdom have no continuing city – Heb 13:14
- h. Saul tries to bring them back into darkness with threats and slaughter – Acts 9:1-2
- i. Saul travels out to Damascus (outside of Israel), and *there* the Lord appears.
- j. Jerusalem is filled with the blind leading the blind, and Saul’s blindness gets real.