



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Triumph as King Jesus Chooses the Greatest Leader!

MAY 20-22, 2015

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**Acts 9:15-31** *“But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, because this man is a chosen vessel to Me to bear My name before both the nations and kings and the sons of Israel. 16) For I Myself will show him how many things it is necessary for him to suffer on behalf of My name.’ 17) So Ananias went and entered into the house, and laying his hands on him said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me, Jesus, the One appearing to you in the way which you came, so that you might see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ 18) And immediately there fell away from his eyes as scales, and he both saw again and rising up, was baptized. 19) And taking food he was strengthened. Now he was with the disciples in Damascus some days. 20) And immediately in the synagogues he continually proclaimed Jesus, that this One is the Son of God! 21) And all those hearing were amazed and said, ‘Is not this man the one having destroyed in Jerusalem those calling upon this name, and hasn’t he come here for this that he might bring them bound before the chief priests?’ 22) But Saul was continually more empowered and was constantly confounding the Jews dwelling in Damascus, continuously proving that this One is the Christ! 23) But when extensive days were fulfilled, 24) The Jews plotted together to kill him; but their plot was known to Saul. And they carefully watched the gates both day and night so that they might destroy him. 25) But his disciples, taking him by night through the wall, let him down, lowering him in a basket. 26) But when he arrived in Jerusalem, he continually tried to be joined to the disciples; and all feared him, not believing that he was a disciple. 27) But Barnabas, taking hold of him, led him to the Apostles, and narrated to them how, in the way, he saw the Lord and that He spoke to him, and how, in*

*Damascus he spoke boldly in the name of Jesus. 28) And he was with them, going in and going out of Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29) He both taught and debated with the Hellenists, and they attempted to kill him. 30) But the brethren, knowing it, brought him down to Caesarea and sent him forth to Tarsus. 31) Therefore, the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria constantly had peace, continuously being built up and continually walking in the fear of the Lord and in the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, was continuously being multiplied.*

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“WE CANNOT IMAGINE THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE APART FROM THE WORK OF PAUL. HE WAS INDEED A CHOSEN INSTRUMENT IN CHRIST’S HAND, FITTED FOR HIS LIFE-WORK LONG BEFORE HIS CONVERSION—SET APART FOR IT, INDEED, FROM HIS VERY BIRTH, AS HE CONFESSES (GAL. 1:15; ROM. 1:1).”

F. F. BRUCE

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How does Ananias strengthen Saul even as he gives him Christ’s commission? What were the very first two things that immediately happened to Saul? How did Saul immediately fulfill his commission? The Jerusalem Christians were identified with what description? What did Saul proclaim and prove about Jesus Christ? Why do all of Saul’s enemies respond the same way? How did the church constantly protect Saul? Who was the bravest in the Jerusalem church? In what manner was the church again granted peace?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 27-29: ACTS 9:32-43 *THE POWER OF A PRAYING LEADER*
- JUNE 3-5: ACTS 10:1-9 *PETER WINS A ROMAN LEADER IN HIS OWN REGIONAL CAPITAL*

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### BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:30AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – BOB EVANS ON RT. 3

THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – CHESTER – SHONEY’S AT RT. 10 (IRON BRIDGE ROAD) & 301(12531 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY)

FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – NORFOLK – GOLDEN CORRAL, 6103 N. MILITARY HWY, NEAR THE NORFOLK AIRPORT

# Virginia

## Triumph as King Jesus Chooses the Greatest Leader!

Severe Saul had cruelly persecuted the Church so intently that, by his own leadership, he had acquired authority to arrest all the Christians in a capital about 150 miles away, to bring them back to Jerusalem for trial and execution. But suddenly, the King who has all authority, appeared to Saul in such radiant glory that Saul was blinded and repentant in complete fasting and prayer for three days over the realization that he had been persecuting the Risen Lord by persecuting His people. Ananias, probably a leader of the believers in Damascus, is commanded by Christ to graciously give this powerful leader His strategic commission to bring the name of Jesus equally to the nations and their kings, as well as the sons of Israel.

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SAUL'S FLAMING PATRIOTISM FOR HIS OWN NATION IS NOW TO BE EQUALLY SHARED WITH OTHER NATIONS AND TO BE EQUALLY SHARED WITH THE LEADERS OF BOTH AS HE WAS COMMISSIONED TO PROCLAIM CHRIST TO THEM!

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### I. STARTING CHRIST'S COMMISSION ACTS 9:15-22

Ananias must have been startled by the vast strategic depth and breadth as well as the solemnity of this Great Commission to this powerful leader whom he knew might have the greatest capacity for it. He may have sensed that he was being given a tremendous honor by Jesus Christ personally to be the instrument by which this commission, if fully obeyed regardless of suffering, would make the greatest missionary. Thus, the hunted leader warmly lays his hands on his formerly cruel potential killer and greets him with the strongest words of family endearment, "**Brother Saul!**" Suddenly Saul's sight is restored as scales fall from his blind eyes and he is filled with the Holy Spirit. From a three day fast, joyfully rising from prayer, he first chose to be baptized! Then, "*taking food he was strengthened.*" No hesitation is seen in fulfilling his commission as "*immediately in the synagogues he continually proclaimed Jesus, that this one is the Son of God!*" His first message in the synagogues proved, from the Old

Testament, that Jesus Christ is God. One can imagine their amazement and asking of questions at this sudden, complete change in Saul of Tarsus. The more Saul preached, the more powerfully he proved that Jesus is the promised Messiah, to the complete confounding of all his former friends in the Synagogues. Saul became like a super-charged Stephen, using all his intellect and passion, strategically focusing equally on the whole nation, their leaders, and his people in seeking to win them to Christ.

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"SAUL'S LIFE WAS DRAMATICALLY AND TOTALLY TRANSFORMED THAT DAY ON THE ROAD NEAR DAMASCUS. AND FROM THAT MOMENT, SO WAS THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD."  
JOHN MACARTHUR

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### II. SUFFERING FOR CHRIST'S NAME ACTS 9:23-31

Saul provides the exact chronology of the events that consumed the next three years: "*I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus*" (Gal. 1:17). "*In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped from his hands*" (2 Cor. 11:32-33). Aretas was the king of Arabia where Saul had been before returning to Damascus. Connect the dots with Saul's commission, he has tried to win Arabia, and her king, Aretas; Damascus and her governor, as well as "*the Jews*" as they all "*plotted together to kill him.*" After escaping to Jerusalem, "*he continually tried to be joined to the disciples; and all feared him*" until finally Barnabas introduced him to the Apostles, Peter and James (Gal. 1:18-19) and he is only there for fifteen days "*speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.*" But Saul was such a super-charged Stephen that he picked up right where the first martyr left off. "*He both taught and debated with the Hellenists, and they attempted to kill him.*" While "*praying in the Temple,*" he was warned of their plot (Acts 22:17-21). When sent to Tarsus he thinks of "*Syria and Cilicia*" (Gal. 1:21) while the Church grows in peace.

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#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Has there been a time in your life when you received Christ as Lord and He completely transformed your heart?
- 2) Will you follow Saul's Great Commission and become equally concerned with other nations and leaders as your own?
- 3) Are you like Ananias or Barnabas who were willing to risk all to empower believing leaders that others may reject?