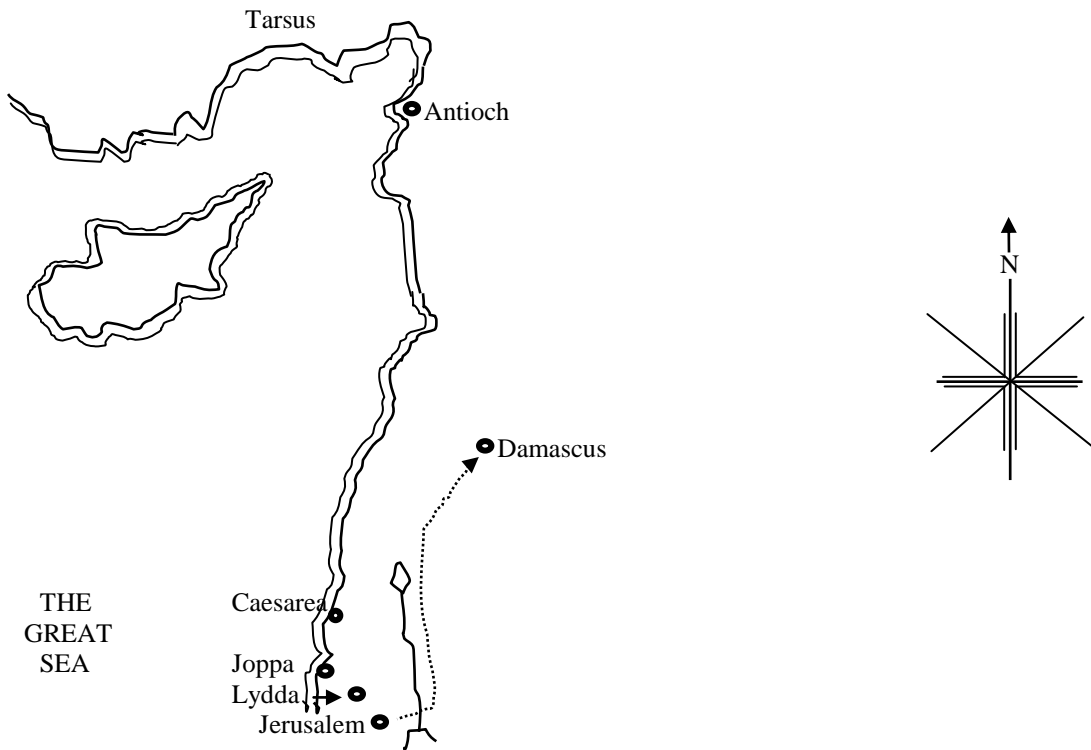


the remotest part of the earth

#9, the road to Damascus – Acts 9:1-43

As the gospel went out to the remote parts there was a corresponding increase of those who put their faith in Christ. As the followers of Jesus increased, so also did the persecutions by the followers of Judaism. It was like two giant forces colliding against each other. One force, those who were pro-Christ, colliding with those who were anti-Christ.



1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

[1.] v:1-2, high priest, and asked for letters, What did these letters authorize Saul to do?

[2.] v:2, the Way, Apparently Christianity had reached North, even to Damascus. Who would you think belonged to “the Way”?

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3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; 4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

[3.] v:3-4, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, Two events quickly happened. What were they?

[4.] v:4, why are you persecuting Me? In Saul's mind, who was he literally persecuting?

5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

v:5, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, Turning to Matthew 25:31-46, let's consider what Christ meant.

nations, NT:1484 (*eth'-nos*); probably from NT:1486; a race (as of the same habit), i.e. a tribe; specially, a foreign (non-Jewish) one (usually by implication, pagan):

KJV - Gentile, heathen, nation, people.

New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance

[5.] Matthew 25:32, "All the nations will be gathered before Him; Looking at this verse and then at Rom 4:16-17, For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17(as it is written, " A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

From Romans we see that "the nations" can refer to both Jews and Gentiles. Therefore why or why doesn't Matt 25 refer to both Jews and Gentiles?

[6.] Matthew 25:46, "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." The criteria is "righteous". Is there anyone righteous outside of Christ? (Romans 3:21-22)

[7.] Matthew 25:35-40 and 41-45 represent two groups. Jot down the main factor that distinguishes the two groups.

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6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”

7 The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” 11 And the Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, 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.”

13 But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; 16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

[8.] Acts 9:5, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, So how was it possible that Saul was persecuting Jesus?

[9.] v:6-9, get up and enter the city, **What events happened next that proves that Saul was now completely in subjection to Christ?**

[10.] v:10-12, disciple at Damascus named Ananias; **What did Christ command Ananias to do?**

[11.] v:13-14, Lord, I have heard from many **What did Ananias know that showed he was not enthused about Christ’s instruction?**

[12.] v:15-16, he is a chosen instrument, **To What three groups was Saul to bear Christ’s name?**

[13.] v:15-16 again, he is a chosen instrument, **Why or why wouldn’t this description also apply to you in your ministry?**

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#9, the road to Damascus – Acts 9:1-43

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

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;

19 and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, 20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

21 All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" 22 But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

23 When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, 24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; 25 but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

26 When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

[14.] v:17, Brother Saul, **What did Ananias now believe about Saul?**

[15.] v:18-20, he began to proclaim Jesus **Since Saul was no longer part of the antichrist mob, what could he now expect from his old gang?**

[16.] v:21-25, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, **Why might you conclude that this is what Christ predicted back in v:16?**

[17.] v:26-28, all afraid of him, **Saul's past was causing problems for him. If a fellow believer has a problem with your or my past, how should we respond to it?**

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29 And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death. 30 But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus (please see map pg#1).

31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

32 Now as Peter was traveling through all those regions, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda (please see map pg#1). 33 There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed. 34 Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed." Immediately he got up. 35 And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

36 Now in Joppa (please see map pg#1). there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. 37 And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room.

38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, "Do not delay in coming to us."

39 So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them. 40 But Peter sent them all out 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. 41 And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

42 It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 And Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon.

[18.] v:29-31, he was talking and arguing **If these Jews wanted to put Saul to death, who was probably winning?**

[19.] v:32-35, get up and make your bed. **When this miracle was talked about, who would the people credit as the true healer?**

[20.] v:36-41, Tabitha, arise. **Peter's real purpose was to teach the good news of the gospel. How might this miracle help people recall Christ's miracles?**

[21.] v:42-43, stayed many days in Joppa, **What might Peter have talked about during his stay at Joppa?**

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NOTES