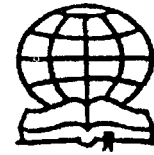


Christadelphian Bible Mission

The Acts of the Apostles



Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 9

Questions - Acts Chapter 9

Saul had watched while Stephen was stoned (chapter 6) and was persecuting (trying to kill or imprison) Christian believers.

9.1 Who had given Saul permission to persecute the believers at Damascus (verses 1,2)?

9.2 The Lord Jesus Christ spoke to Saul, inverses 4-6. What was he telling him?

Saul was now certain that the Lord Jesus Christ had been raised from the dead. Now he knew that he had been wrong to persecute the followers of Christ. He had to repent.

9.3 For how many days did he go without food and drink?

9.4 Why didn't Ananias want to go and look for Saul?

9.5 What did the Lord Jesus tell Ananias about Saul?

9.6 What did Saul do after Ananias had healed him?

9.7 What did Saul immediately preach about?

Verses 23-30 tell us some of the troubles Saul had during his first few years as a follower of Christ. These were only a few of the troubles he suffered.

9.8 By whose power was Aeneas healed?

9.9 This power was so great that by it Peter and John could even raise the dead. What was the name of the person brought back to life in this chapter?

9.10 Can people do miracles like this today, as Peter and John did? (see note on the Holy Spirit in chapter 8).

Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 10



Places mentioned in Acts 9-13

Until this time the early church was made up of Jewish Christians only. The Jews hated Gentiles (non-Jews), so they did not think God could possibly want to save Gentiles. But God wants Jews and Gentiles to turn to Him. So the Jewish Christians had to be told by God that it was His will that the Gentiles should be saved. Peter was one of the most important of the apostles, and so he was chosen by God to help Cornelius.

Questions - Acts Chapter 10

10.1 What sort of person was Cornelius?

10.2 Why wouldn't Peter eat any of the animals that he saw in the vision? (see also Leviticus chapter 11).

10.3 What was the reason for Peter's vision? (see verses 15, 28, 34 and 35).

- 10.4 What does Peter tell Cornelius about Jesus:
- i) in verse 36?
 - ii) in verse 38?
 - iii) in verse 41?
 - iv) in verse 42?
 - v) in verse 43?
- 10.5 What did Jesus command the apostles to do? (verse 42)
- 10.6 What happened while Peter was talking?

Cornelius and the other believing Gentiles received the gift of the Holy Spirit before they were baptised. This is the only time we read of the Holy Spirit being given before baptism. It showed Peter that Gentiles could also become true followers of the Lord Jesus. So Peter told them they could be baptised. This is the first time that Gentiles were baptised.



Where Jerusalem is on the world map....

QUESTIONS and their ANSWERS

Q Why did Dorcas die? Why do we die?

A Because we all sin, that is, we all disobey God.

Q Where did sin come from?

A Adam and Eve first sinned when they disobeyed God's command not to eat of the fruit of a certain tree. Their punishment was death. We all die because we are descended from Adam, and like him, we all sin (read Romans 5:12).

Q What do you think happens to a person when he dies?

A The life processes stop and then gradually the body begins to decay (rot).

Q Don't you believe your soul will go to heaven when you die?

A No, this is one of the wrong beliefs that men have made up. The Bible does not speak of immortal souls, and when the Bible uses the term `soul' it means `life' or `person', for example: "The soul that sins, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). This means that the person who sins will die, and that includes everyone. There is no need for anyone to go to heaven since the Lord Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth.

Q So we are all going to die, and death is the end of everything. Not very cheerful, is it?

A Well you would be right if it wasn't for the one person who broke the rule.

Q What rule?

A That all men sin and therefore all men die. The Lord Jesus Christ never sinned, even though he was very sorely tempted, He was completely obedient to his Father. Because he did not sin he did not deserve to die.

Q Ah, but he did die, didn't he?

A Yes, but he did not stay dead, because he had conquered sin. He broke the rule - that sin leads to death. He was raised from the dead with an immortal body, one which will never again die. (Read Acts 2:24; 1 Corinthians 15.)

Q But how does this help us?

A If we have truly committed our lives to God and been sorry for our sinfulness, then our sins will be forgiven and we will no longer be "sentenced to death". Then we too will be raised from the dead when the Lord Jesus returns to this earth. We will be given immortal life, and live on this earth under the kingship of Jesus Christ.

Q But how do we commit our lives to God?

A We try to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. He was baptised as an adult, and so we, as adults, should be baptised and then follow his example of love and self-sacrifice in serving God.

Q But what is baptism, and why do Christ's followers today have to be baptised?

A Baptism is a complete burial in water. Romans chapter 6 tells us that just as Jesus died, and was buried, so we must die, in symbol, by being buried in water, and then, as Jesus rose to a new life so we should leave behind our old sinful ways and start a new life of serving God. Our sins are removed by baptism, and, unless our sins are removed, we will not have life after death. So yes, there is hope beyond the grave!

Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 11

In verse 2 it says "they that were of the circumcision". This refers to Jews. In verse 3 where it says "men uncircumcised" it means Gentiles.

From Abraham's time all Jewish baby boys were circumcised. In Genesis 17:10-14 we find that circumcision was given to show the covenant (agreement) God made between Himself and Abraham, the father of the Jews.

Questions - Acts Chapter 11

In this chapter we find that Peter had to convince the Jewish Christians that it was right to baptise Cornelius.

- 11.1 What eventually convinced them? (verses 15-18)
- 11.2 Finish this: "Then hath God also to the Gentiles"
- 11.3 Where were the disciples first called Christians?
- 11.4 What did Agabus prophesy would happen?
- 11.5 What did the Christians do because of Agabus's prophecy?

Although Cornelius was obviously a very good man (chapter 10:2) he still needed to be baptised. Even though he was baptised by the Holy Spirit (see chapter 10:45 and chapter 11:16), he still needed to be baptised with water (chapter 10:47-48) so that he could have his sins washed away and start a new life. Chapter 11:18: "Then has God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life".

Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 12

Questions - Acts Chapter 12

- 12.1 Who was killed by Herod?
At the time of the Passover (Easter), Peter was imprisoned. Notice that Peter was sleeping when the angel came to rescue him. He could sleep because he had confidence that his life, whatever would happen, was in God's hands. He would not be afraid to die.
- 12.2 Q12.2 How did Peter get out of prison?
- 12.3 Q12.3 What were the believers at John Mark's house doing?
- 12.4 Q12.4 Why was Herod* killed? (Give at least 2 reasons.)
- 12.5 Q12.5 What does the chapter teach us about the way we should live our lives?

*A point to note:
This Herod was the grandson of another cruel Herod, Herod the Great (Matthew 2:16).



Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 13

Questions - Acts Chapter 12

- 13.1 What do we already know about Barnabas? (see Acts 4:36-37; 9:27; 11:22-25; 12:25).
- 13.2 What do we already know about Saul? (See Acts chapter 9.)

13.3 What had the Lord Jesus told Ananias about Saul? (Acts chapter 9:15)

Barnabas and Saul were sent out by God to preach in other countries. They started from Antioch (in Syria) and went to the island of Cyprus (to Salamis and Paphos). Then they went on to Perga in Pamphylia, Antioch (a different one), Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. They returned the same way except that they did not visit Cyprus.

Note that Barnabas was from Cyprus (chapter 4:36), so they started preaching in his homeland.

13.4 Q13.4 In what verse, at the beginning of this chapter, is Saul also called Paul?

13.5 What did Elymas (Bar-Jesus) try to do?

13.6 What happened to him?

Notice that John Mark had been travelling with Paul and Barnabas until now, but leaves them (verse 13). John Mark was a relative of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10) where he is called Marcus. We first read about him in chapter 12:12.

13.7 Q13.7 To whom did Paul and Barnabas preach first: Jews or Gentiles?

13.8 Q13.8 Was it the Jews or Gentiles who did not like Paul?

(REMEMBER: Jews are the descendants (children) of Abraham and Isaac. Gentiles are all people who are not Jews. Most of us are Gentiles).

PAUL'S SPEECH IN ANTIOCH (Pisidia) (verse 16 onwards)

Notice how Paul shows that God was in control of what happened to Israel. Verse 17 says: "..... God chose our fathers" and "He brought them out of Egypt".



Paul's First Journey - Acts 13

13.9 Complete these:

- (i) verse 19 says God.....
- (ii) verse 20 says God.....
- (iii) verse 21 says God gave them their first king called.....
- (iv) verse 22 says God removed him and gave them..... to be their king.
- (v) verse 23 says God raised them up a Saviour called.....who was the seed of.....as He had promised (2 Samuel 7:12-16).

Not only was God in control of what happened, but He wrote about many of these things in advance, for example, the birth of Jesus and his resurrection are prophesied in the Old Testament. Also the fact that his flesh would not corrupt (return to the earth) (see verses 34-37). This shows that God must have inspired the Old Testament writers.

God also knows in advance who will turn to Him (see verse 48). This doesn't mean that these people are forced to believe. We all have a free choice as to whether we will obey God or not, but God knows which we will choose because He knows everything.

A few other points to note in this chapter:

- ▶ Jesus was sinless (verse 28)
- ▶ There is forgiveness of sins by belief in Jesus (chapter 13:38) and for those who fear God (verse 26)
- ▶ The Jews were given the first opportunity to follow Jesus, but most of them rejected him. Paul therefore turned to the Gentiles (see verses 46,47).
- ▶ Verse 31-Witnesses: we are not expected to believe fables or anything false. The Apostles were chosen to preach about Jesus because they had actually been with him, heard his words and seen his miracles, and were witnesses of his resurrection (Acts 2:22; 4:33; and 32).

Please return your answers to:

Please include your reference number which is: _____