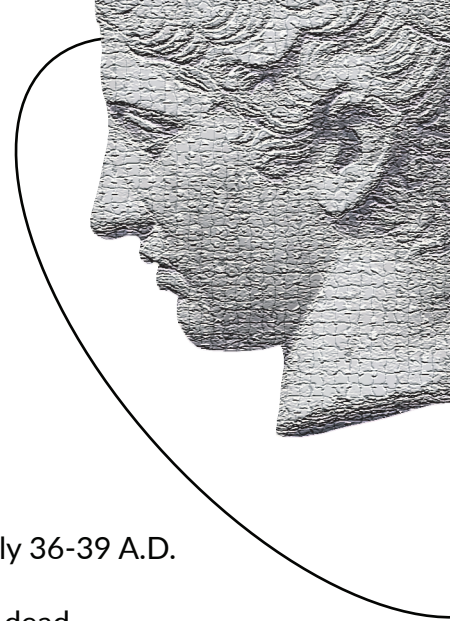


# A

# acts.

## 9



### when.

- Saul's conversion is dated to approximately 35-36 A.D.
- Saul (Paul) spent time in Damascus and Arabia (Galatians 1) from approximately 36-39 A.D.
- Saul visited Jerusalem in approximately 39 A.D.
- Saul's trip to Tarsus, the healing of Aeneas, and the raising of Dorcas from the dead occurred between 39-43 A.D.

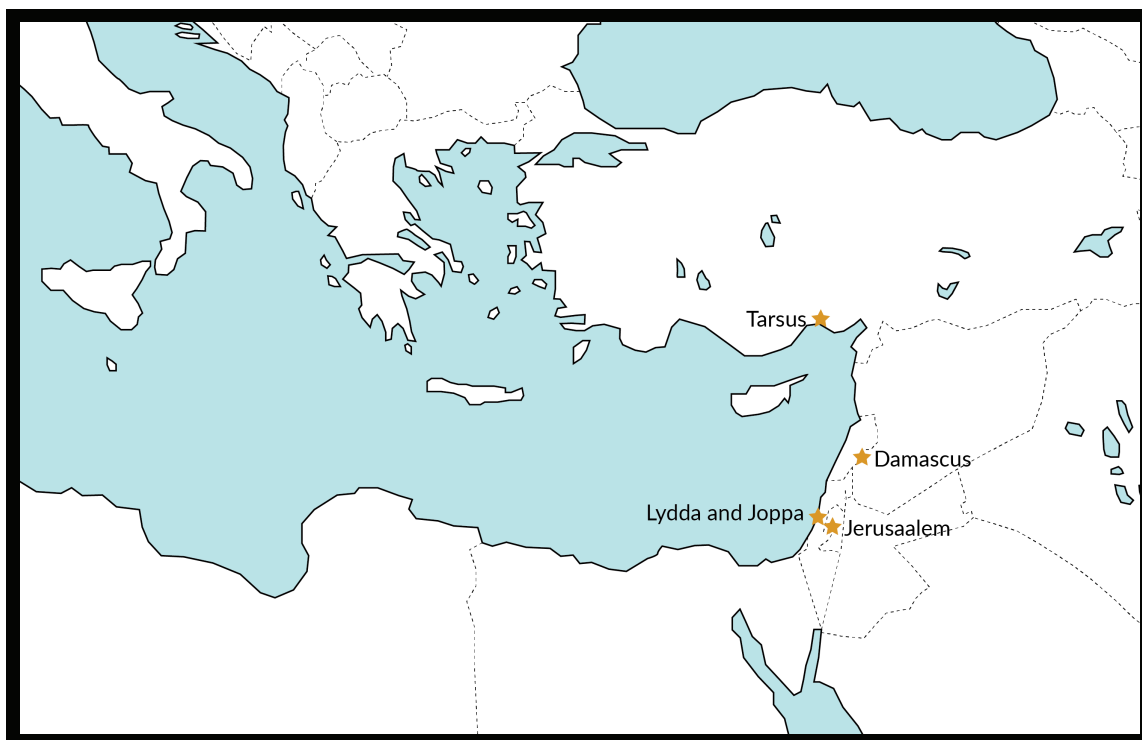
\*Read Galatians 1 when putting together a timeline of the events of Acts 9.

### characters.

- **Saul (Paul)** – A Pharisee who violently persecuted the early Jewish Christians.
- **Ananias** – A disciple of Damascus. God sent him to find Saul on the “street called Straight.”
- **Peter** – One of the 12 Apostles.
- **Aeneas** – A man paralyzed for 8 years who was healed by Jesus.
- **Dorcas** – A disciple “full of good works and acts of charity” who died of illness.

### where.

- The chapter begins with Saul making a trip from Jerusalem to Damascus.
- After being run out of Jerusalem, Saul went to his hometown of Tarsus.
- Peter met Aeneas in Lydda and Dorcas in Joppa



# acts.

## outline.

- JESUS APPEARS TO SAUL (PAUL) ON HIS WAY TO DAMASCUS (9:1-9):
  - + Saul, a Jewish Pharisee, was threatening and murdering the disciples of the Lord.
  - + He got permission from the High Priest to go to Damascus and arrest believers.
  - + On the road to Damascus, a light from heaven appeared around him and he heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"
  - + The voice belonged to Jesus, and He told Saul to go into Damascus and wait in the city until God sent him further instructions.
  - + Paul was blinded by the brightness of the light around him (22:11).
- PAUL IS BAPTIZED AFTER SPEAKING WITH ANANIAS (9:10-18):
  - + A disciple named Ananias lived in the city of Damascus.
  - + God appeared to him in a vision and told him to find Saul of Tarsus.
  - + Initially, Ananias resisted, having heard of Saul's hatred of Jesus' disciples.
  - + God assured Ananias Saul was a "chosen instrument" of His.
  - + When Ananias found Saul, he laid his hands on him and he regained his sight.
  - + Saul was baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.
- PAUL PROCLAIMS JESUS TO THE JEWS OF DAMASCUS (9:19-25):
  - + Paul went to the synagogue and started telling people Jesus was the Son of God.
  - + He "confounded the Jews" with his arguments.
  - + The Jews plotted to kill him, but he escaped the city when his fellow disciples lowered him over the city wall in a basket at night.
- SAUL VISITS JERUSALEM (9:26-31):
  - + Saul went to Jerusalem and wanted to join the believers, but they were all afraid of him because they knew his reputation.
  - + Barnabas took Paul and introduced him to the Apostles.
  - + Paul began preaching in the city, but the Hellenists wanted him dead.
  - + Paul left Jerusalem and went to Tarsus.
- THE HEALING OF AENEAS (9:32-35):
  - + Peter met a paralyzed man named Aeneas in Lydda.
  - + Peter healed him in the name of Jesus and amazed the residents of Lydda.
- DORCAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD (9:36-43):
  - + Tabitha (translated Dorcas) was a disciple who lived in the city of Joppa.
  - + She became ill and died.
  - + Peter travelled to Joppa and raised her from the dead.

## application.

- Through Jesus' blood, forgiveness is available to everyone!
- If you are worried that God won't forgive you for your past sins, study the story of Paul.
- Paul murdered Christians for professing faith in Jesus.
- He was an active enemy of everything Jesus came to accomplish.
- Yet Jesus was willing to forgive Him and use him to build the Kingdom of Heaven.
- God loves renovating sinners.
- The Bible describes us as clay in the hand of the Master Potter (God).
- No matter what you've done in your past, He can reshape you for His service.

