

Acts 9 Timeline

Acts 9:1-6

Saul encounters Christ on the road to Damascus

Acts 22:1-10

Acts 26:9-19

Acts 9:7-9

Saul's travel companions hear a voice but see no man.

Acts 22:11

Acts 9:10-16

Lord appears to Ananias and tells him lay hands on Saul

Acts 9:17-18

Ananias visits Saul restores his sight and baptizes him.

Acts 22:12-16

Acts 9:19a

Saul receives meat prior to leaving the city for Arabia

Gal. 1:17-18

Acts 9:19b-22

Saul is many days in Damascus Gal. 1:17-18

What is Saul told, i.e., what does he know at this point?

- Arise and go into the city where he will be told what to do next (Acts 9:6, 22:10). Acts 26:16-18 gives more details about what Paul is told at this point:

- Saul was to a minister of the things which he had seen (Christ on the road) and things that would appear unto him (v. 16).

- Sent to the gentiles to open the eyes of their understanding, turn them from darkness and from the power of Satan that they might receive the forgiveness of sins (v. 17-18).

- This is when the Apostleship of the Gentiles begins (Rom. 11:13)

Saul is blinded and led by the hand into the city. For 3 days Saul is blind and eats no food. Acts 22:11—Saul is blinded and led by the hand into the city.

Ananias is a kingdom saint. There is no further record of this exchange. The Lord tells Ananias that Saul is a chosen vessel to bear his name before Gentiles, kings, and the Children of Israel (v. 15)

According to Acts 22:16, Ananias tells Saul to “be baptized, and wash away thy sins.”

According to the chronology there appears to have been no way that Saul knew his unique gospel at this point. It appears therefore, that Saul's sins were remitted under the details of the gospel of the circumcision. This is all that Ananias, or any other human being would have known at this point.

After Saul ate and was strengthened, he left Damascus for Arabia, according to Gal. 1:17-18. Halfway through Acts 9:19 is the only sensible location to place the events of Gal. 1:17-18 because Paul explicitly states that “immediately he conferred not with flesh and blood.”

It seems to follow then that Paul did not know the content of his unique gospel described in Gal. 1 until halfway through Acts 9:19 at the earliest.

Upon returning from Arabia, Saul spent time with the disciples in Damascus. The many days of Acts 9:23 are the three years spoken of in Gal. 1:18.

During Paul's time in Damascus, he preached the gospel of God in the city (Acts 9:20, 22).