

36 AD – CONVERSION OF SAUL ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

“O House of Jacob! Come ye, let us walk in the light of the LORD.” (Isaiah 2 v 5)

SAUL BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

On the authority of the high priest, Saul was throwing Christians in jail. He asked for a letter from the high priest to take to synagogues in Damascus so he might take them prisoner back to Jerusalem. (Acts 9:1-19)

As he neared Damascus on his journey **suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven**: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecute thou me?

And he said: ‘Who art thou, Lord?’ And the Lord said: ‘I am Jesus whom thou persecute: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks’. And he trembling and astonished said: ‘Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?’ And the Lord said unto him: ‘Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do’.

And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision: ‘Ananias’. And he said: ‘Behold, I am here, Lord’. And the Lord said unto him: ‘Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he is praying, and has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight’.

Ananias answered: ‘Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name’.

But the Lord said unto him: ‘Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake’.

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said: 'Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared to thee in the way as thou came, hath sent me, that thou might receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost'.

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

PROPHECY OF ISAIAH 2 V 5

"O house of Jacob. Come ye, let us walk in the light of the LORD." (Isaiah 2 v 5)

Scripture is right on the mark. Here was Saul... walking... right into a light... of the LORD.

Saul would be a servant of the LORD to take that light to the House of Jacob.

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Chapter **2** of Isaiah is the **2nd** chapter of The Prophets.

The spiritual number **2** means 'Division' or 'Discern'

This marks the next key turning point in the history of the church. (See our paper [33 AD.](#))

God now has a full time apostle to take the gospel to the Gentiles and to the dispersed Jews.

Even though the church scattered after the persecution of Stephen, for some reason most of the apostles stayed in Jerusalem. Philip did some work in Samaria. Peter rambled as far as the territory of Judah. But no apostle was yet taking the gospel to the world. (Later they did).

Paul, who ironically was saved while on a journey to a Gentile land, would continue on the journey. Furthermore, for his preparation God steered him away from the religious center of the faith – the apostles in Jerusalem. Paul was led to learn the gospel directly from God.

PART TWO

Isaiah 2 v 5 is the **17,691st** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen 1 v 1.

The number **17,691 = 3 x 5897 [776th prime]**

The spiritual meaning of **3** is 'Binding'

The spiritual meaning of **776** is 'Second Coming of Christ'

The spiritual meaning of **5897** is 'Man of Lawlessness Snuffed Out'

Recall that Stephen 'saw the light'. He had a vision of the Lord seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. Stephen was a 'light for the LORD' carrying a testimony for the LORD in Jerusalem. Saul was a leader among those who dragged Stephen outside the city and stoned him to death.

Saul was guilty of snuffing out the light of the LORD. Fitting then that Saul's light was snuffed out – he was blinded: 'Man of Lawlessness Snuffed Out'.

But by the mercy of God the sentence of blindness was commuted. It was 'Bound' by the prayer of Stephen! "**LORD hold this not to their charge.**" (Acts 7:60)

PART THREE

Isaiah 2 v 5 is the **36th** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah 1 v 1.

The spiritual meaning of **36** is 'Exalted Man'

Paul was rising fast in the honor of the Jewish people. Paul says '**a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regards to the Law a Pharisee**' (Phil. 3:5). Even more '**brought up in this city [Jerusalem] at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers**' (Acts 22:3)

Paul had reason to boast. He had attained his position in the Jewish religious hierarchy by great diligence of learning and strict control of his personal life.

But Paul met a more exalted man than himself – Jesus Christ the Righteous – and all Paul's accomplishment he counted rubbish for the privilege of knowing the Messiah.

APPLICATION

Dear believers.

Are you an admirer of high priests? Bishops? Popes? Priests? Paid ministers? Religious men who have attained an exalted position in a religious system?

God is not impressed with them.

God was impressed with Stephen. Stephen 'got it'. He was able to stand in the midst of the most religious group in the world and tell them by observing their religion– they weren't attaining the righteous of God – but were only perpetuating the hard hearted stiff-necked rebellion of their religious forefathers.

God is on the lookout for a man like Paul who 'sees the light' and is heading as far away from religion as he can go. (After Damascus he sojourned in Arabia for three years).

Paul wanted to tell people the gospel – which is expressly – how to be saved and know God without becoming religious. (Read the Book of Galatians)

After visiting a city or town for a short time, Paul wanted to keep moving on and tell more people the gospel.