

## **LESSON 21 - GENTILE BYWAY JOINS KINGDOM HIGHWAY**

### **Acts 8 and 9**

**THEME:** *To present the call of Christ to service.*

As we begin our journey today, we must look back at CONFUSION CORNERS. Back there mankind gave up God, so God in turn gave them up. Then He chose one man Abram to begin an entirely new dealing with men. The others turned away to GENTILE BYWAY, and only Abram followed God on PROMISE ROAD. This lesson begins on KINGDOM HIGHWAY, and now we will see how Israel continues to reject God's offer of the Kingdom and how God called out a *new* apostle, not one of the 12 apostles, to begin something totally new for both Jew and Gentile.

When Stephen was being stoned, there was a man standing nearby guarding the clothes of those throwing the stones. He was Saul, a brilliant Jew, a student of the best teachers in Palestine. He was fearless and very religious, a Pharisee. After the burial of Stephen, Saul began to destroy the church, entering into every house and forcing men and women into prison. Acts 8:1-4. But then we read about Saul's amazing conversion to Christ on the road to Damascus in Acts 9:1-16. The Lord tells Ananias about Saul: "He is a chosen instrument /vessel to Me." Acts 9:15.

Thus Saul is chosen as the one to bear the Lord's name among the Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. Then too, he is chosen to suffer, to suffer many things for the Lord's name. Saul had a special ministry of suffering, but he later wrote that he counted it as a privilege to suffer for Christ's sake. Philippians 1:29.

Immediately Saul began to preach Christ in the synagogues, telling the Jews that Jesus is the promised Son of God. All who heard him were amazed. Acts 9:20-22. But the unbelieving Jews were not going to receive the testimony of this new apostle, in fact, after some days the Jews plotted together to kill him. However, their plan was known to Saul, and though the Jews watched the city gates night and day to kill him, the Lord's disciples took him out at night and let him down over the wall in a basket and he escaped. Acts 9:23-25.

Saul soon went into Arabia and for several years nothing was heard about him. He tells us, however, that during those years he was receiving revelations from Jesus Christ concerning the new Gospel which he was to

proclaim. Galatians 1:11-17. Saul was a new apostle, and God had a new message to reveal to him and a new work for him to do. Since this message concerns Gentile salvation, it is here on the chart that GENTILE BYWAY joins KINGDOM BOULEVARD.

Did you ever kick against a nail or thorn? How did it feel? The more you kicked, the more it hurt. That was the experience of Saul as he fought against Christ and refused to listen to His voice. There are many people like Saul today. Although they are very religious, like Saul was, yet they are moving along in their own way and not the faith way.

Others have received Christ as Saviour, but they still are kicking against the call to serve Him with their whole heart and life. Some are called to be missionaries or preachers or Bible women, but they do not want to surrender their lives to Christ because they fear suffering. But they will never be happy until they surrender to Him, even as Saul did on the road to Damascus. God wants each one of us to be an Ambassador for Him. 2 Corinthians 5:20.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20.

## LESSON 21 - WORK SHEET

1. Back at the tower of Babel called CONFUSION CORNERS on our chart, something happened to the Gentiles because they rebelled against God. See what it was by looking up the following Scriptures:  
Romans 1:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 1:26 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 1:28 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Stephen said that Israel was guilty of what three things? Acts 7:51-52.  
You do always \_\_\_\_\_  
You \_\_\_\_\_ which announced the coming of the Just One.  
They were now the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
3. Israel quickly becomes as bad as the Gentiles, so God prepares to do a new thing. His first step is to conclude or shut up all \_\_\_\_\_ that He might \_\_\_\_\_ to all. Romans 11:32.
4. The man at whose feet the killers laid their clothes while they stoned Stephen was \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 7:58.
5. Christ told Saul that he was to bear His name to three groups of people. Name them. Acts 9:15-16.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. GENTILE BYWAY joins KINGDOM HIGHWAY here because God chooses Saul /Paul to be the APOSTLE of \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 11:13.
7. God spoke to Saul from Heaven. How does He speak to us who live over at GRACE AIRPORT? Romans 10:17, John 20:31. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is an AMBASSADOR? Look up the word in a dictionary or ask someone to explain it to you. Write a brief definition. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. According to 2 Corinthians 5:20, what should we be doing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Write 2 Corinthians 5:20. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_