

# Acts 9:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

## Analysis

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The Lord told Ananias 'I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.' This is remarkable - immediately after conversion, Saul learns his calling includes suffering. The persecutor would become the persecuted. This reversed his expectations: Saul thought following Christ led to judgment, not realizing it leads through suffering to glory. Reformed theology emphasizes that God's elect are ordained not only to believe but also to suffer (Philippians 1:29). Suffering for Christ's sake is not anomalous but normative for faithful discipleship. Paul's sufferings (2 Corinthians 11:23-28) would vindicate this prophecy.

## Historical Context

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Paul's missionary journeys recorded in Acts and his epistles catalog beatings, stonings, imprisonments, and eventual martyrdom (tradition holds he was beheaded in Rome circa AD 67). His sufferings authenticated his apostleship and united him with Christ's suffering (Philippians 3:10).

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. Why is suffering for Christ's sake part of God's calling for His servants?
2. How does foreknowledge of coming suffering prepare us to endure faithfully?
3. What does Paul's transformation from persecutor to persecuted reveal about God's justice and grace?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐγὼ	γὰρ	ὑποδείξω	αὐτὸν	ὅσα	δεῖ	αὐτὸν	ὑπὲρ
<b>I</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>will shew</b>	<b>he</b>	<b>how great things</b>	<b>must</b>	<b>he</b>	<b>for</b>
G1473	G1063	G5263	G846	G3745	G1163	G846	G5228
τοῦ	ὀνόματός	μου	παθεῖν				
G3588	<b>name's sake</b>	<b>my</b>	<b>suffer</b>				
	G3686	G3450	G3958				

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Thessalonians 3:3** (Parallel theme): That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

**Acts 21:11** (Parallel theme): And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

**John 15:20** (Parallel theme): Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your's also.

**2 Corinthians 6:4** (Parallel theme): But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

**1 Peter 4:14** (Parallel theme): If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

**2 Timothy 1:12** (Parallel theme): For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

**Matthew 5:11** (Parallel theme): Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

**Matthew 24:9** (Parallel theme): Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

**2 Timothy 3:11** (Parallel theme): Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

**Acts 21:4** (Parallel theme): And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.