

# Acts 9:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

## Analysis

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**And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.** Aeneas's condition—eight years bedridden with palsy—establishes the miracle's credibility while demonstrating Christ's compassion for chronic suffering.

The specific details (certain man named Aeneas, eight years, palsy) authenticate the account. This wasn't vague rumor but documented case with identifiable individual. Eight years indicates chronic, seemingly permanent condition. Palsy (paralysis) left him completely dependent, unable to care for himself.

Reformed theology sees miracles serving multiple purposes: relieving genuine suffering, demonstrating God's compassion, and authenticating gospel message. Aeneas's healing wasn't magic show but merciful intervention displaying God's character. Physical healings point to greater spiritual healing—Christ came to heal sin-paralyzed humanity.

The name Aeneas (Greek) suggests Hellenistic background, possibly Gentile. Peter's willingness to minister across ethnic boundaries foreshadows his fuller Gentile engagement at Cornelius's house (Acts 10). God progressively expands Peter's vision beyond ethnic Judaism.

## Historical Context

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Lydda's mixed population included both Jews and Gentiles. Aeneas may have been Gentile or Hellenized Jew. The healing occurred around 38-39 CE during the church's peace period. Peter's growing openness to Gentiles prepared him for the revolutionary Cornelius encounter.

Chronic illness in ancient world meant complete social marginalization—no disability support, no medical treatment, total dependence on family or charity. Eight years of suffering made Aeneas's case well-known locally. The instant, complete healing provided undeniable authentication of Peter's apostolic authority and Christ's power.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

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1. How do physical healings demonstrate Christ's compassion while pointing to deeper spiritual healing?
2. What role does suffering play in revealing God's power when healing occurs?
3. In what ways does ministry to suffering individuals authenticate gospel proclamation?
4. How should believers balance emphasis on physical healing with spiritual priorities?
5. What does Peter's cross-ethnic ministry foreshadow about gospel's universal scope?

## Interlinear Text

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εὗρεν	δὲ	ἐκεῖ	ἄνθρωπόν	τινα	Αἰνέαν	όνόματι	ἐξ
he found	And	there	man	a certain	Aeneas	named	
G2147	G1161	G1563	G444	G5100	G132	G3686	G1537
ἐτῶν	όκτω	κατακείμενον	ἐπὶ	κραββάτῳ	ὅς	ἦν	
years	eight	which had kept	G1909	his bed	and	was	
G2094	G3638	G2621		G2895	G3739	G2258	
παραλελυμένος							
sick of the palsy							
G3886							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 13:16** (Parallel theme): And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

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