

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

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

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

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

εὑρεν δὲ ἐκεῖ ἄνθρωπόν τινα Αἰνέαν ὀνόματι ἐξ
he found **And** **there** **man** **a certain** **Aeneas** **named** G1537
G2147 G1161 G1563 G444 G5100 G132 G3686

ἐτῶν ὀκτὼ κατακείμενον ἐπὶ κραβάτῳ ὃς 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

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?