

Acts 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Saul arose from the earth unable to see despite his eyes being open - the glory of Christ had blinded him physically. This blindness symbolized his previous spiritual blindness, needing divine healing for both. That his companions led him by the hand shows complete helplessness - the self-confident persecutor became utterly dependent. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates total inability: apart from God's grace, we are spiritually blind and helpless, needing God to open our eyes (2 Corinthians 4:4-6). Saul's blindness would be healed when Ananias came, symbolizing the Spirit's illumination.

Historical Context

The Damascus road experience occurred in bright midday (Acts 22:6), yet Saul saw nothing after Christ's glory departed. His three days of blindness paralleled Christ's three days in the tomb - old Saul dying, new Paul rising.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Saul's physical blindness illustrate mankind's spiritual blindness apart from grace?
2. What does Saul's helplessness teach about human inability in salvation?
3. How does God use humbling experiences to prepare us for His purposes?

Interlinear Text

ἠγέρθη	δὲ	ὁ	Σαῦλος	ἀπὸ	τῆς	γῆς	ἀνεωγμένων	δὲ
arose	And		Saul	from		the earth	were opened	And
G1453	G1161	G3588	G4569	G575	G3588	G1093	G455	G1161
τῶν	ὀφθαλμῶν	αὐτὸν	οὐδένα	ἔβλεπεν·	χειραγωγοῦντες			
G3588	eyes	him	no man	he saw	by the hand			
	G3788	G846	G3762	G991	G5496			
δὲ	αὐτὸν	εἰσήγαγον	εἰς	Δαμασκόν				
And	him	and brought	him into	Damascus				
G1161	G846	G1521	G1519	G1154				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 22:11 (Parallel theme): And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.

Acts 9:18 (Parallel theme): And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Acts 13:11 (Parallel theme): And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.