

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

ἡγέρθη δὲ ὁ Σαῦλος ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἀνεῳγμένων δὲ
arose And G3588 Saul from G3588 the earth were opened And
G1453 G1161 G4569 G575 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.