

## **Book of Acts**

### **Acts 8 - Faith Indestructible**

*Acts 8:1-4*

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We possess a faith that is **indestructible**.

You can slay the messenger but can never silence the message!

#### **Acts 8:1 (AMPC)**

<sup>1</sup> *AND SAUL was [not only] consenting to [Stephen's] death [he was pleased and entirely approving]. On that day a great and severe persecution broke out against the church which was in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles (special messengers).*

#### **Acts 8:2 (AMPC)**

<sup>2</sup> *[A party of] devout men with others helped to carry out and bury Stephen and made great lamentation over him.*

Devout men. Greek transliteration: eulabés.

This Greek word has been translated: pious, godly and god-fearing.

#### **Devout Men: Four Key usages of this word in the NT.**

1. Simeon. (**Luke 2:25**)
2. Jews Assembled in Jerusalem for Pentecost. (**Acts 2:5**)
3. Devout men who buried Stephen. (**Acts 8:2**)

#### **Ezra 9:3 (CEV)**

<sup>3</sup> *This news made me so angry that I ripped my clothes and tore hair from my head and beard. Then I just sat in shock.*

#### **Nehemiah 13:25 (NLT)**

<sup>25</sup> *So I confronted them and called down curses on them. I beat some of them and pulled out their hair. I made them swear in the name of God that they would not let their children intermarry with the pagan people of the land.*

4. Ananias. (**Acts 22:12**)

#### **Acts 8:3-4 (AMPC)**

<sup>3</sup> *But Saul shamefully treated and laid waste the church continuously [with cruelty and violence]; and entering house after house, he dragged out men and women and committed them to prison. <sup>4</sup> Now those who were scattered abroad went about [through the land from place to place] preaching the glad tidings, the Word [the doctrine concerning the attainment through Christ of salvation in the kingdom of God].*

## RESUME OF A HATER

(Saul of Tarsus)

### BACKGROUND

Born in Tarsus of Cilicia - **Acts 21:39; 22:3; 23:34**

Cilicia was a Roman province in SE Asia Minor (modern Turkey).

A Hebrew of Hebrews (his genealogy traceable back to Abraham both paternally and maternally)  
- **2 Cor. 11:22, Phil. 3:5.**

Of the tribe of Benjamin - **Rom. 11:1.**

Born a Roman citizen - **Act. 22:25-29**

Birth date probably around the time of Jesus' birth.

### EDUCATION

*Educated in Jerusalem under Gamaliel, a highly respected Pharisee and teacher of the Law*  
- **Acts 5:34-40; 22:3.**

Saul was an exceptional Pharisee - **Phil. 3:5.**

Excelling beyond his contemporaries - **Gal. 1:13-14.**

### SKILLS

Accomplished tent-maker - **Acts 18:1-3.**

### CHARACTER

A zealot who persecuted Christians, concerning the Law of God blameless - **Phil. 3:6.**

Served God out of a pure conscience - **2 Tim. 1:3; Acts 23:1**

Ignorant of his blasphemy and persecution - **1 Tim. 1:12-13.**

### EXPERIENCE

Present at the death of the first Christian martyr - **Acts 7:57-58.**

Accessory to murder consenting to the death of Stephen - **Acts 8:1;22:20.**

Entered homes, dragging out men and women to prison - **Acts 8:3; 22:4.**

Entered synagogues, arresting and abusing those who trusted in Messiah - **Acts 22:19.**

Possessed a single-minded focus to destroy the church - **Gal. 1:13**

### A MADMAN'S CONVERSION

#### **1 Timothy 1:15-17 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup> *This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. <sup>16</sup> But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. <sup>17</sup> All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.*