



# The Apostle Paul

*So he (Saul), trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." (Acts 9:6)*

# Early Life

- St. Paul the Apostle was born as 'Saul' in Tarsus (in modern day Turkey) two years before Christ's birth.
- He was a Jew, of the tribe of Benjamin,
- He was well learned in the Law of the Torah, and he was very zealous in the faith.
- His zeal for the faith fed his hatred and persecution of Christians.



# *32 A.D. - Martyrdom of Stephen*

- As we know, St. Stephen was the first Christian martyr, stoned for his testimony about Christ (Acts 6 & 7). Saul in fact consented to and witnessed St. Stephen's death (Acts 7:58-8:1)
- After this, Saul led a great persecution against believers of Christ (Acts 8:1-4).



# *33 A.D. – Saul of Tarsus' Conversion*

- Saul received written permission from the High Priest (Sanhedrin) to search in Damascus' synagogues for those who believe Jesus is the Messiah.
- Saul was also given the authority to arrest and bring these believers to Jerusalem for trial and punishment. (Acts 9:1-2)



# *33 A.D. – Saul of Tarsus'*

## *Conversion*



Saul, accompanied by several others, travelled to Damascus. As he approached the city a burst of light suddenly appeared and caused him to fall to the ground (Acts 9:3-4). He then heard the booming voice of Jesus saying: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:4)

# *Saul Meet Ananias*

- Saul was struck blind and led into Damascus by his traveling companions. Three days later Jesus inspired a disciple named Ananias to visit Saul and heal him of his blindness. After he healed Saul, Saul was baptized and received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 9:4-18)



# *Saul Becomes St. Paul*

- Saul (first referred to as Paul in Acts 13:9) stayed in Damascus and powerfully preached the gospel. After learning of the plot against his life, Paul fled the city at night by having Christians lower him down a gate wall using a basket. Once out of the city he travelled to Arabia. (Galatians 1:11-12, 15-18).

