

Act 22:1 "Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense." 2 When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet. Then Paul said: 3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

The inhabitants of Tarsus were granted Roman Citizenship in 66 AD by Augustus Caesar.

Gamaliel was a noted scholar, present at the trial of Peter and John Act 5:34

4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, 5 as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

v. 4 “The Way” one of several
Scriptural names for the church.
Paul’s actions are recorded in Acts
8.3-4

Act 8:3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. (4) Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

Acts 22:6 "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?' 8 "'Who are you, Lord?' I asked. "'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. 9 My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

No contradiction with Acts 9.7, where
a sound is heard, but no one
understands.

Act 9:7 The men traveling with Saul
stood there speechless; they heard the
sound but did not see anyone.

Additional information in Acts 26.14

Act 26:14 We all fell to the ground,
and I heard a voice saying to me in
Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you
persecute me? It is hard for you to
kick against the goads.'

v. 10 "'What shall I do, Lord?' I asked.
'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into
Damascus. There you will be told all
that you have been assigned to do.'

Paul remains on the ground longer
than his companions (v 9), perhaps
because he understood what was said.

Paul is not saved here but like Cornelius, he needs a preacher.

Act 11:14 He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

v. 11 My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

12 "A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. 13 He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him.

Notice that Paul receives his sight and then hears the message. He has been praying for 3 days and nights Act 9:9-11

Act 9:9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. (10) In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. (11) The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.

Acts 22:14 "Then he said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. 15 You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

Act 22:17 "When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance 18 and saw the Lord speaking to me. 'Quick!' he said. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.' 19 "'Lord,' I replied, 'these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. 20 And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' 21 "Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

Paul tries to join the disciples and they will not tell him where they are meeting.

Act 9:25 But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall. (26) When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. (27) But

Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

v. 20 Approximately 24-30 years
earlier in AD 34-39, Saul would
have been about 25

Act 7:58 dragged him out of the
city and began to stone him.

Meanwhile, the witnesses laid
their coats at the feet of a young
man named Saul.

Act 22:22 The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!" 23 As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, 24 the commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this. 25 As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?"

v. 25 Cicero, "it is a heinous sin to bind a Roman citizen, it is wickedness to beat him, it is next to parricide to kill him, and what shall I say to crucify him?"

Acts 22.26 When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. "What are you going to do?" he asked.

"This man is a Roman citizen." 27 The commander went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes, I am," he answered. 28 Then the commander said, "I had to pay a lot of money for my citizenship." "But I was born a citizen," Paul replied.

29 Those who were about to interrogate him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains. 30 The commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews. So the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the members of the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

Paul had once been a member of
the council

Act 26:10 And that is just what I
did in Jerusalem. On the authority
of the chief priests I put many of
the Lord's people in prison, and
when they were put to death, I
cast my vote against them.

