

Acts of the Apostles

chapters

1 *Stand by Me*

2a *You Light Up My*

2b *He's ALIVE*

3 *When Tomorrow Starts without Me*

4a *Got Friends in Low Places*

4b *LIAR – Lying to God*

5 *Why God's Wondrous Grace*

6-7 *Ballad of Green Beret—Stephen*

8 *I Feel Like Travellin' On*

9a *You Light Up My Life*

9b *Healing*

10-11 *Including*

12 *Praying*

Acts 9:20
He is the
Son of God!



Saint Paul
by Rembrandt, 1657



Conversion of St. Paul, 1767
by Nicolas-Bernard Lepicie (1735-84)



Early Church

	Chapter	Title	Summary
June 2	1	<i>Stand by Me</i>	Gift of Holy Ghost Coming
June 9	2a	<i>You Light Up My Life</i>	Pentecost—Gift of Holy Spirit
June 16	2b	<i>He's ALIVE</i>	1st Sermon Resurrection - Unified, Devoted, Shared
June 23	3	<i>When Tomorrow Starts</i>	Peter Heals Lame – 2nd Sermon Resurrection
June 30	4a	<i>Got Friends in Low Places</i>	Crocodile Bill & Peter to Rulers of Jerusalem
July 7	4b	<i>LIAR – Lying to God</i>	Shaken, Shared - Ananias & Sapphira's Lies
July 14	5	<i>Why God's Wondrous Grace</i>	Apostles Arrested & Gamaliel's Defense
July 21	6-7	<i>Ballad of Green Beret</i>	Stephen—Church's 1st Martyr
July 28	8	<i>I Feel Like Travellin' On</i>	Angel, Phillip, Candace
Aug 4	9a	<i>You Light Up My Life</i>	Paul Blinded, then SEES & Tells ALL
Aug 11	9b	Healing	Peter Heals Aenaes & Raises Tabatha
Aug 18	10	Including	Peter's Vision—EAT
Aug 25	11-12	Praying	Peter Freed from Prison



Our Church



God Enlightens Saul of Tarsus

Chapters 9

- 9:1-2** Saul Gets Arrest Papers for “**The Way**”
 - 9:3-6** Light Blinds Saul, Voice Sends
 - 9:7-9** Companions Hear, Not See
 - 9:15-20** Ananias Heals, Saul Tells All
 - 9:20-31** Saul Preaches as Enemies Try to Kill Him
-

Next Week

- 9:32-35** Peter Heals Aeneas in Lydda
 - 9:32-35** Peter Raises Tabitha in Joppa
-



9:20 – “He is the Son of God!”

Acts 8 ended with Philip

8:40 Philip appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Note: Philip the Apostle, as in

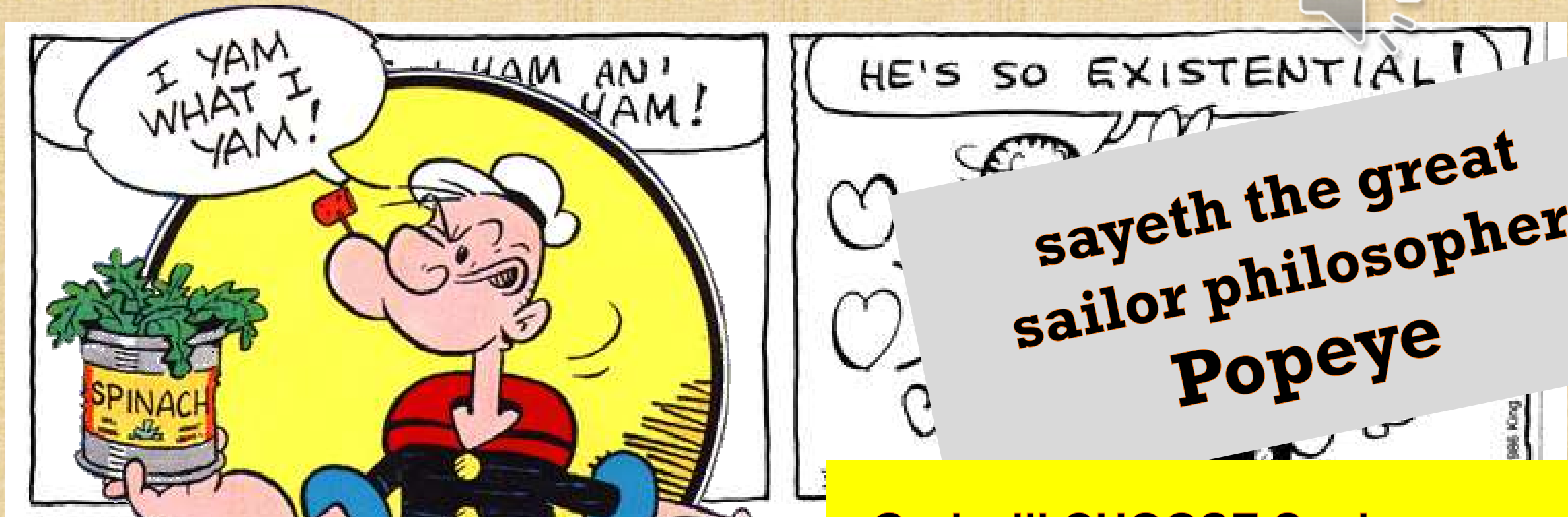
- ✓ Gospels, esp. John 6:6 where Jesus ask Philip how to feed 5,000
- ✓ NOT Acts 6 deacon of 7 chosen
- ✓ Martyred by crucifixion in Hierapolis, Egypt, c. A.D. 80 in reign of Emperor Domitian
- ✓ Patron Saint of Hatters



Alternate Title for Lesson



Alternate Title for Lesson



**sayeth the great
sailor philosopher
Popeye**



**God will CHOOSE Saul
God has chosen YOU
You cannot be Saul, Peter, or ...
You can only be the Best You**

Key Doctrine – God’s Divine *Election*

**Election is the gracious purpose of God,
according to which He**

Regenerates,

Justifies, and

Glorifies sinners.



Baptist Faith and Message (1963 & 2000) – www.PreciousHeart.net/Baptist_Faith.htm

V. God's Purpose of Grace. Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility. All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39–12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.



V. God's Purpose of Grace. Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the freedom of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the exercise of His sovereignty, His goodness, and is infinite in its extent. It is the cause of boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers, those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, shall never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they may impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on themselves, and grieve the Holy Spirit, yet they shall be kept by the power of God unto salvation.

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“free” agency AND (?) comprehends “all the means”

Hence—once saved, always saved

also called—Security of the Believer



Augustus H. Strong, *Systematic Theology: A Compendium*

(Griffith & Rowland Press, 1907; 1,166 pgs) –download *FREE* here

www.google.com/books/edition/Systematic_Theology/Uq4PAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1



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9:1-2 Saul's Arrest Papers for "**The Way**"

1-2 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out **MURDEROUS THREATS** against the Lord's disciples. [DISCIPLES—not just Apostles, but all believers]
Saul went to the high priest for LETTERS to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found

any there who belonged to **The Way**,

whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

See "*The Way*" later too

16:17 – slave girl of Paul, "they are proclaiming **The Way** of salvation"

18:25-26 – Apollos was taught in The Way of Lord;
Priscilla and Aquila took him home and

set forth **The Way** of God to him more adequately



St. Paul on “The Way”

Acts

19:9 – obstinate spoke evil of The Way

19:23 – serious disturbance broke out w/ The Way

**22:4 – Paul in Jerusalem, “I am a Jew ... feet of Gamaliel
... I persecuted this Way to the death”**

**24:14 – Paul to Felix, “I worship the God of our
fathers according to The Way.”**

24:22 – Felix ... an accurate knowledge of The Way



So, you know ... I just have to ask
Are you ashamed of the ... **The Way**

Do you know ... **The Way**

Are you on ... **The Way**

Have you helped another on ...

The Way

I'm turning for home ... finally a chance
To say, "Hey, I love you!
Never again to be all alone"



9:3-6 Light Blinds Saul, Voice Sends

³As he neared Damascus, suddenly a

LIGHT from heaven flashed around him.

⁴He fell to the ground & heard a voice say to him,

“Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

Shocking ... unforgettable

FRIGHTENING

Light BLINDS Saul



Conversion of St. Paul, 1767
by Nicolas-Bernard Lepicie (1735-84)



Conversion of St. Paul, 1767
by Nicolas-Bernard Lépicié (1735-84)





Conversion of Paul by Luca Giordano, 1690

9:3-6 Light Blinds Saul, Voice Sends

⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

Ananias is told a little—Paul’s *going to suffer*

Aahhh ... what do you do when GOD talks?

Aahhh ... “I am Jesus” ...

That must awaken the soul !!!!!

Go into what city ... **Damascus!**



St. Paul by
Rembrandt 1657





Area of Study
Acts 1-12

Rome

- 500-300 **Golden Greece**
- 325 BC **Alexander**
- 200 BC **LXX**
- 72-71 BC **Spartacus**
- **Hellenism Dominates**
... **Latin on Rise**
- 44 BC **J. Caesar killed**
- 31 BC **Battle of Actium**
- **Rome Dominates**
- AD 14 **Augustus Dies**
- AD 64 **Nero burns Rome**
- AD 70 **Temple Destroyed**
- AD 73 **Masada Falls**

Greece
Hellás

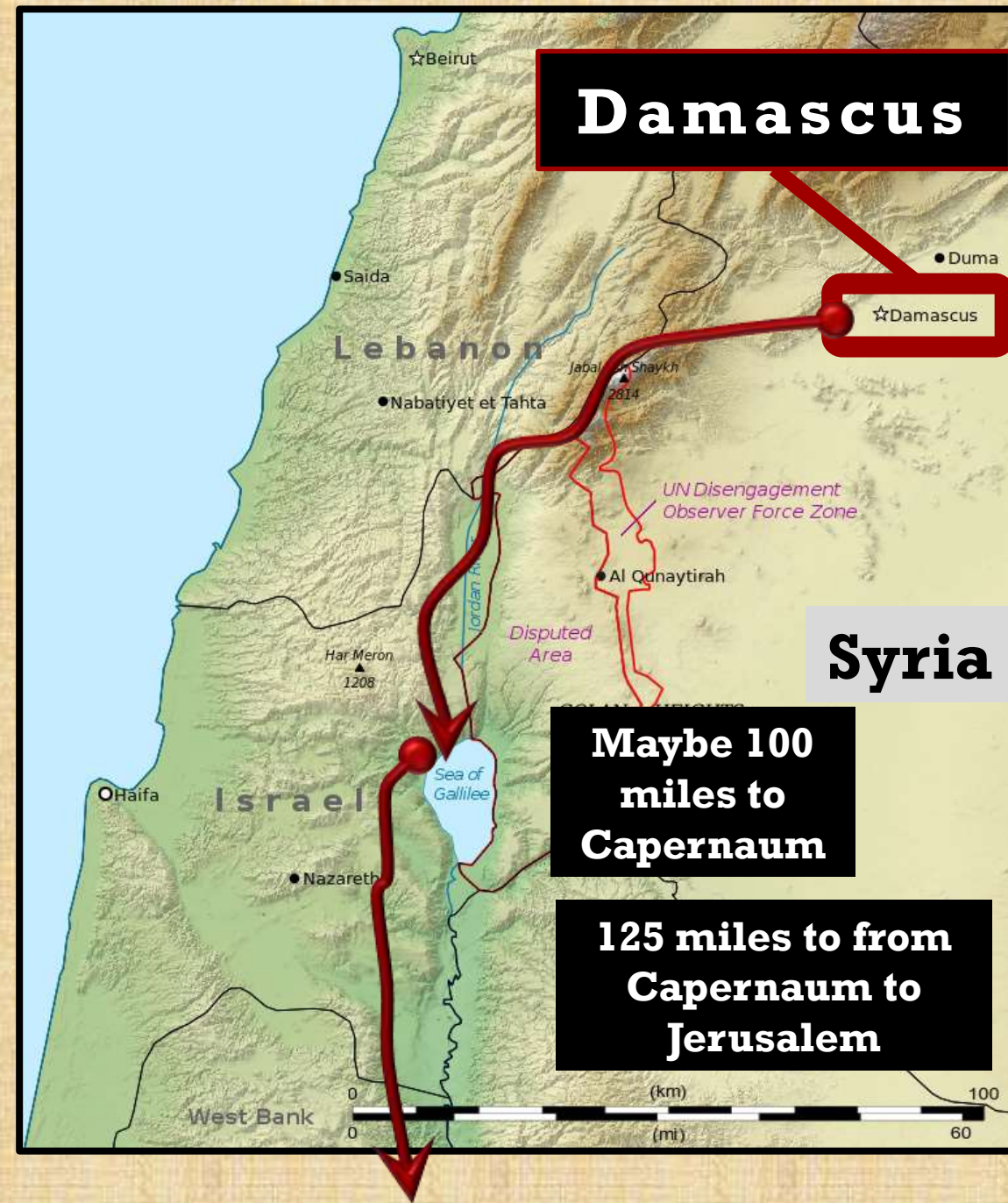


Damascus



Damascus ...

- ✓ 11,000 BC – some say as early
- ✓ 2000 – Clearly Inhabited
- ✓ 1885 – God calls Abraham
- ✓ 1100 – Significant city w/ Aramaeans
- ✓ 800 – Assyrian control
- ✓ 323 – After Alexander, shifted between Seleucid and Ptolemaic empires
- ✓ 64 – Pompey annexed it to Rome
- ✓ UNESCO World Heritage Site –
- ✓ Damascus is often said to be the longest continuously inhabited city



9:7-9 Companions Hear, Not See

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless;
They heard the sound but did not see anyone.

⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes
he could see nothing

So they led him by the hand into Damascus.

⁹ For three days he was blind,
and did not eat or drink anything.

What's going thru Paul's mind

three LONGEST DAYS?



St. Paul by
Rembrandt 1657



Ever have *three* LONG DAYS?



**St. Paul by
Rembrandt 1657**



9:15-20 Ananias Heals, Saul-Paul Tells All

In Damascus – Lord called in a vision, “Ananias!” ...

“Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for

HE IS PRAYING

“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard ... harm”

Ananias goes to Saul, tells of vision, and places his hands on him to restore his sight.



what caught my attention – **“he is Praying”**

Yeah, knocked off your donkey ... blinded ...

“I am Jesus” speaking ... *who? ... whew!*

Paul—blind three days & hungry

oooh yeah, Paul

WAS PRAYING



Praying

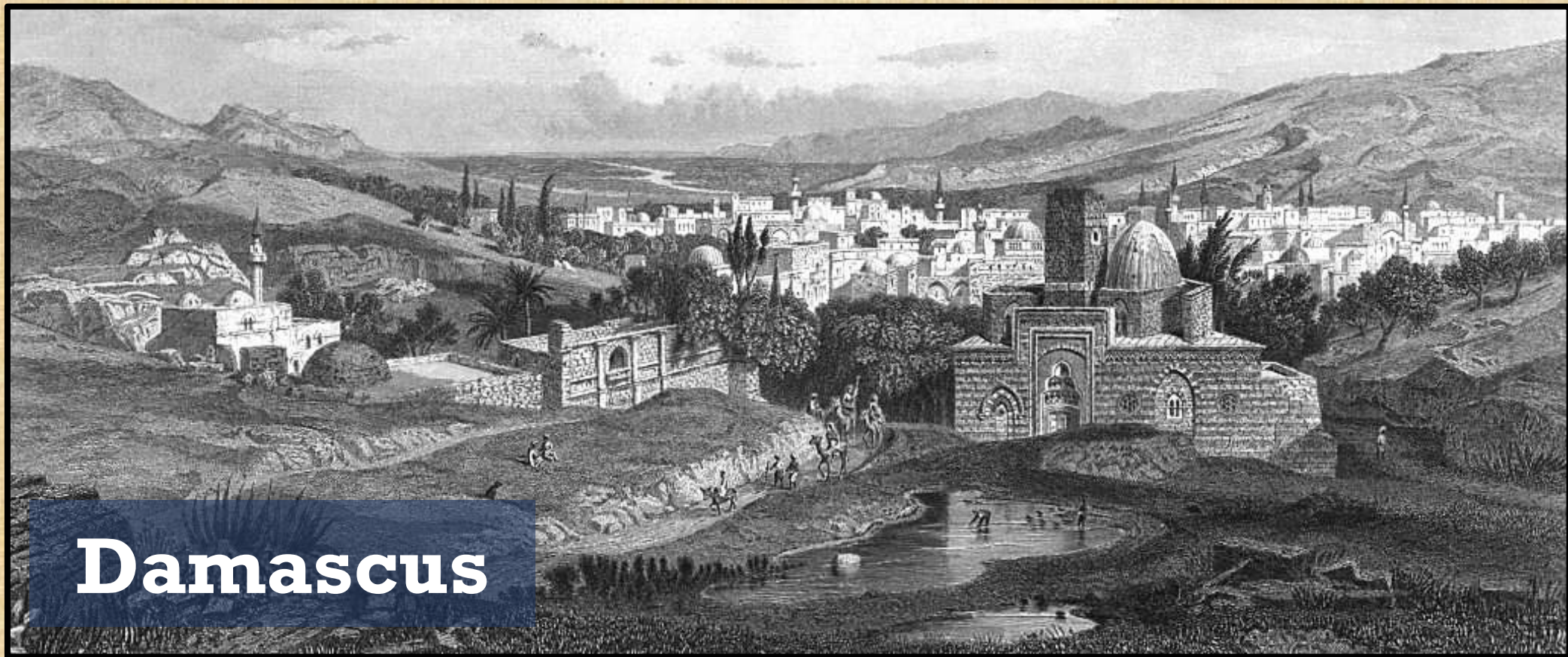


What do you think Paul PRAYED?



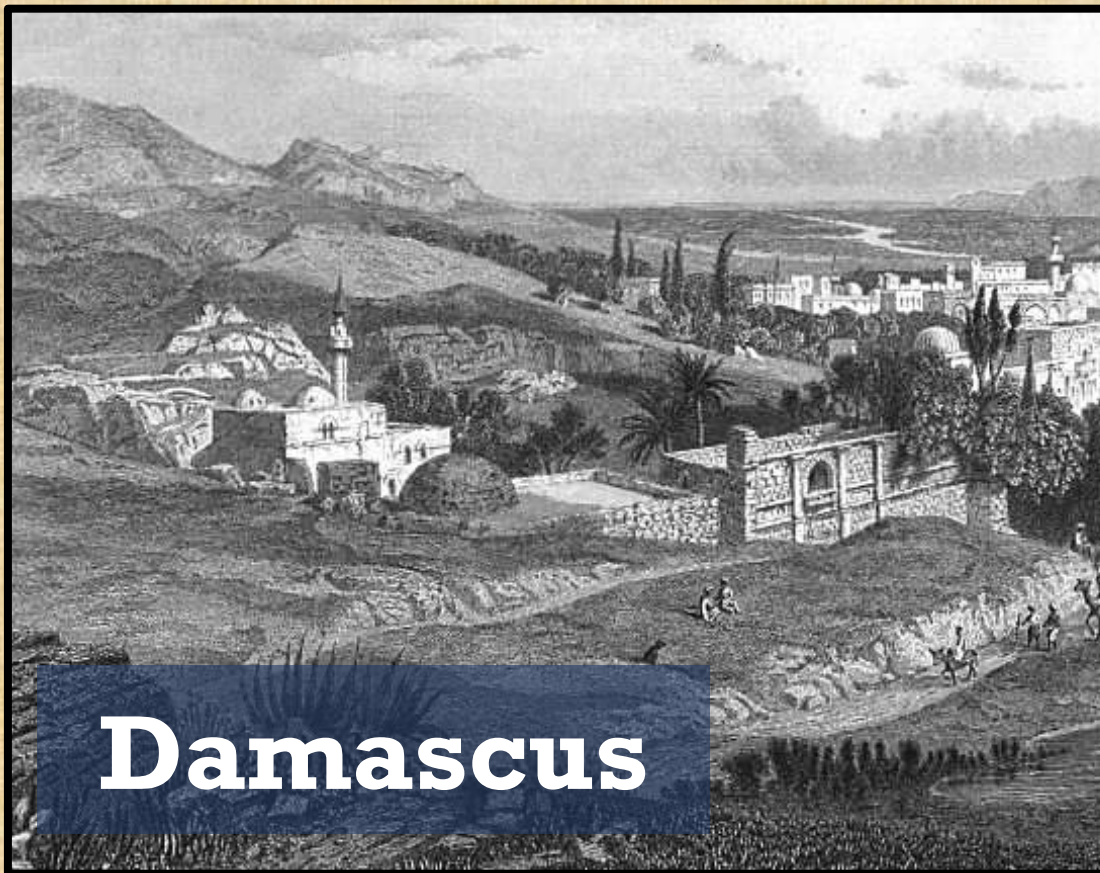
Damascus ... Street called Straight

Roman street east-west through old city



Damascus ... Street called Straight

Roman street east-west through old city



Damascus



Damascus

Roman street east-



Damascus



Street called Straight in Damascus



9:15-20 Ananias Heals, Saul-Paul Tells All

**15 But the Lord said to Ananias,
“Go! This man is my CHOSEN instrument
to proclaim my name to the Gentiles &
their kings and to the people of Israel.**

**16 I will show him how much
he must suffer for my name.”**

- ✓ **Chosen Instrument**
- ✓ **Show him how much he must suffer**
- ✓ **Suffer for my name**



Rembrandt 1657

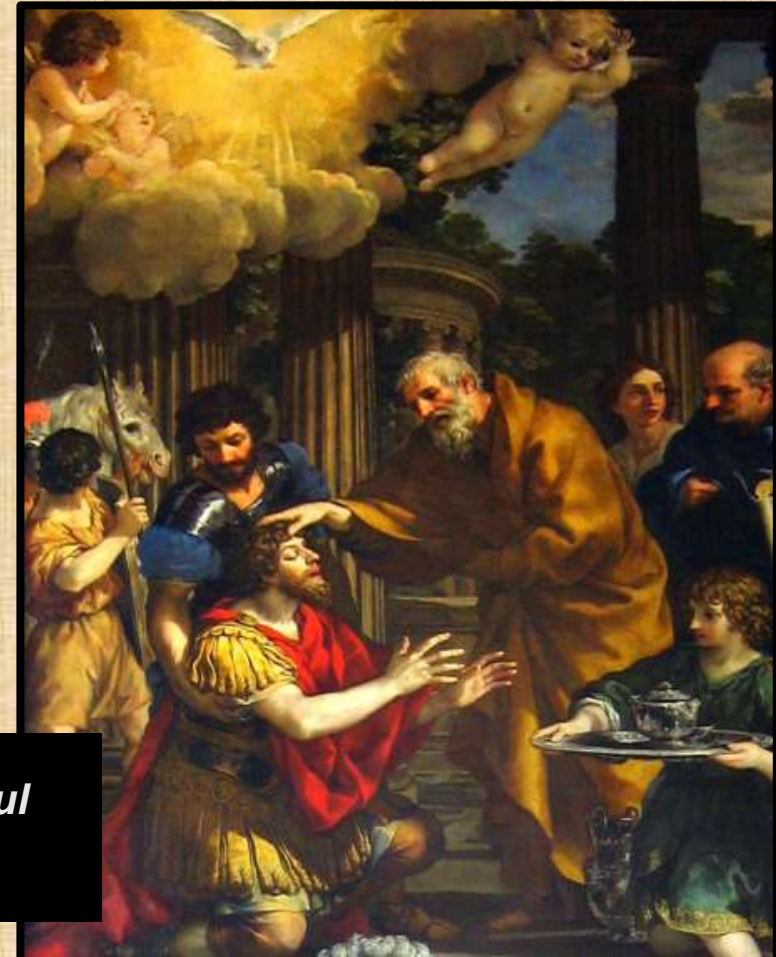


9:15-20 Ananias Heals, Saul-Paul Tells All

- 17** Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, The Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here has **SENT ME** so that you may see again & be filled with the Holy Spirit.”
- 18** Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and **Saul could see again.**



Ananias Restoring the Sight of Saint Paul
Pietro da Cortona (1596–1669)



***Ananias Restoring the
Sight of Saint Paul***
Pietro da Cortona (1596–1669)



9:15-20 Ananias Heals, Saul-Paul Tells All

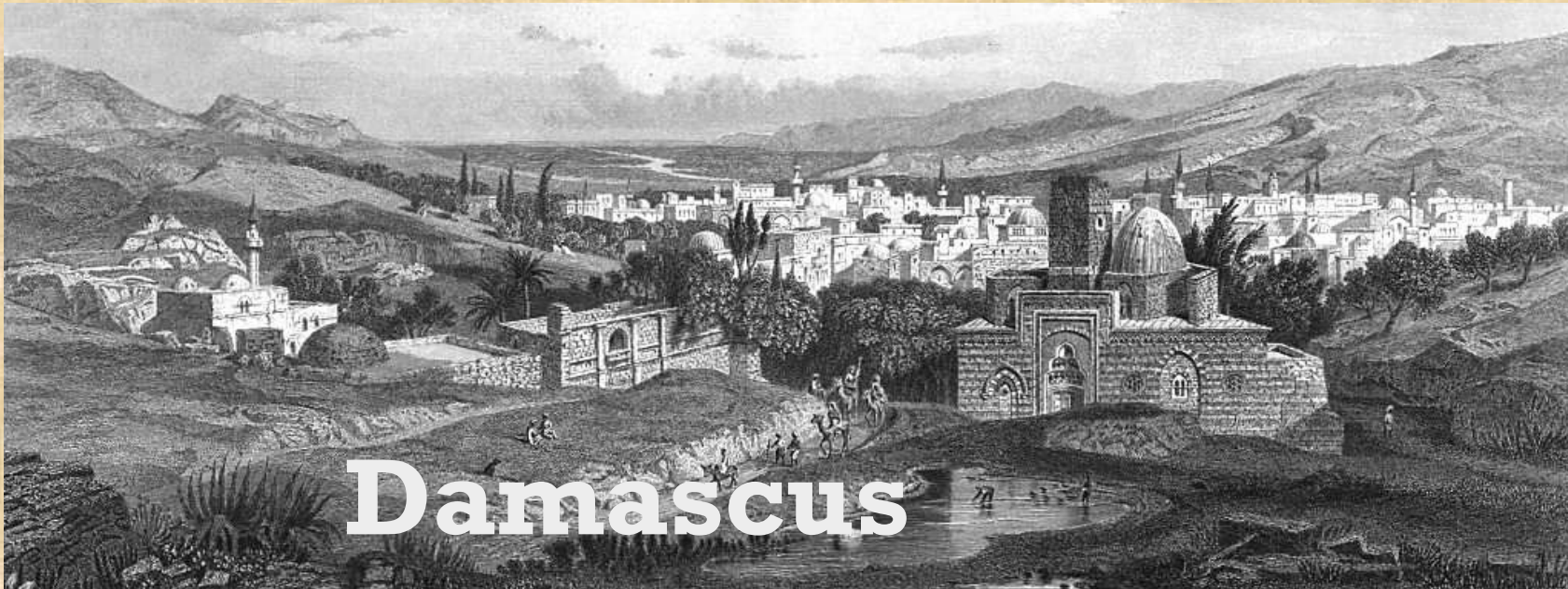
He got up and was baptized,

¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that

Jesus is the Son of God



Damascus

9:20-31 Saul Preaches as Enemies Try to Kill Him

9:21-26 – Paul goes throughout preaching ...

Damascus Jews conspire to **KILL** him ...

disciples learn & lower Saul in basket ...

and he returns to Jerusalem ...

debates with “Hellenistic” Jews

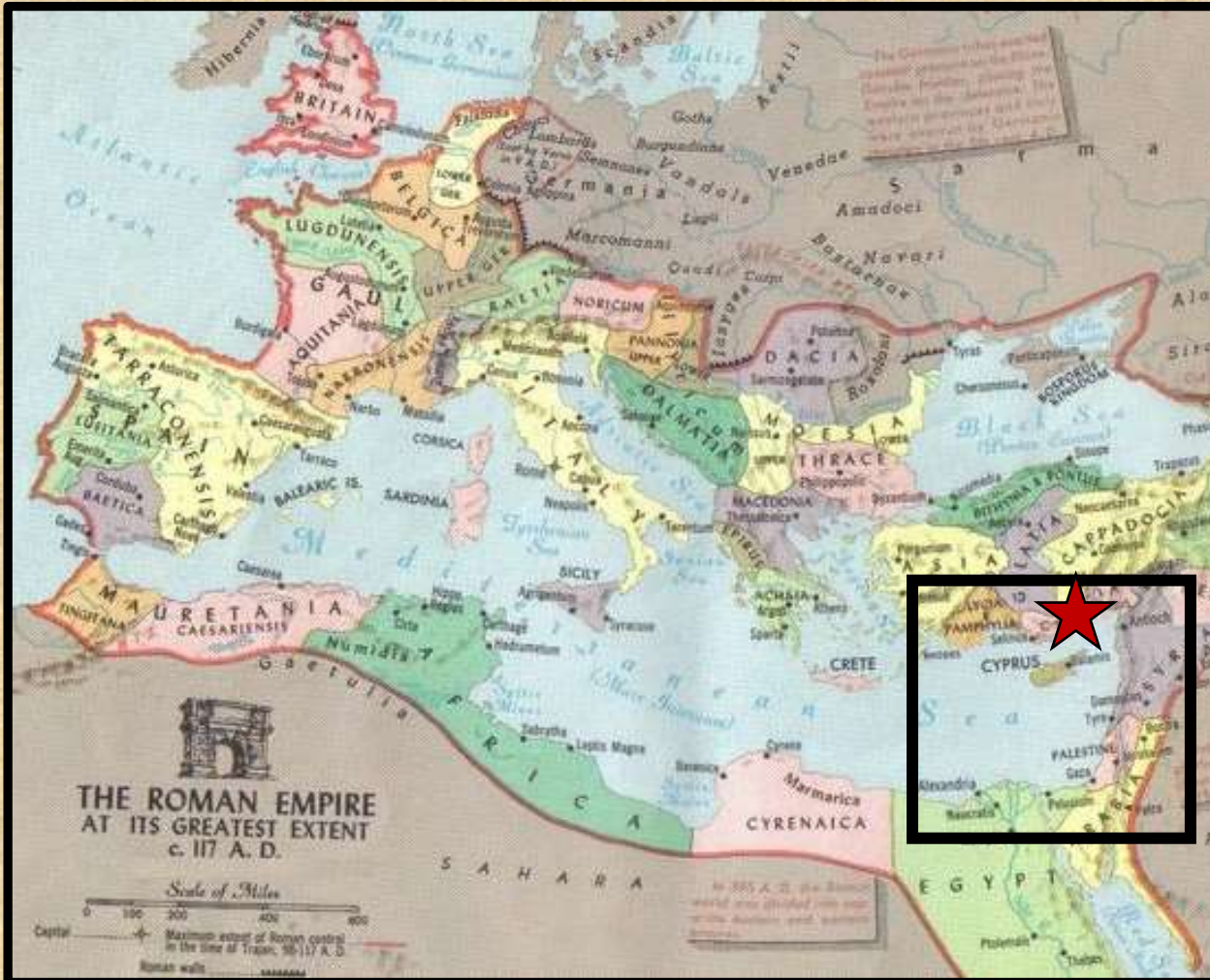
Little Help from your

NEW Friends



9:20-31 Saul Preaches as Enemies Try to Kill Him

9:26 – Believers take him to Caesarea & sent him off to Tarsus.



9:20-31 Saul Preaches as Enemies Try to Kill Him

**9:31 Then the CHURCH throughout Judea,
Galilee & Samaria
enjoyed a TIME of peace and
was strengthened.**

**Living in the fear of the Lord & encouraged
by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.**

**As the Church goes – Men & Women
are being Chosen by GOD to work**

Paul & each of us are UNIQUE



**Do NOT try to be
someone you ARE NOT**



Worst Impersonation: John Wayne as **Genghis Khan**, 1956

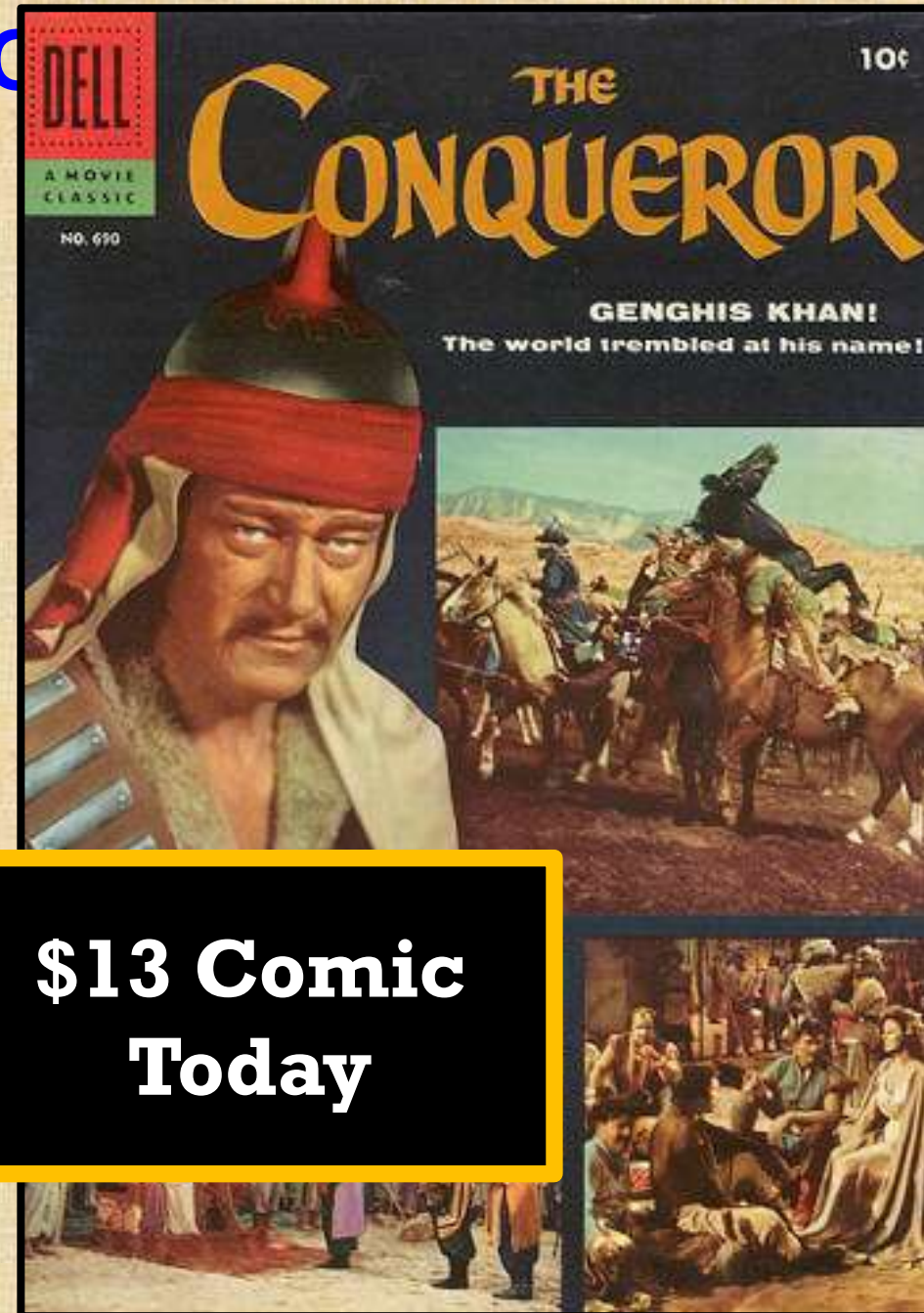
- ✓ By Howard Hughes
- ✓ Shot in Utah, took 2 years and \$6m
- ✓ Falls for red-headed Susan Hayward on the Steppes of Mongolia!?!
- ✓ Rated one of **WORST** of all time



Worst Impersonation: John Wayne as **C**

- ✓ By Howard Hughes
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- ✓ Hughes tried to buy up copies
- ✓ Wayne regretted making the movie

Wayne played a good Soldier
an iconic Cowboy



\$13 Comic Today

Worst Impersonation: John Wayne

- ✓ By Howard Hughes
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The Duke

a Rotten Mongol



Today



**What is going through Paul's mind
during his three LONGEST DAYS?**

Son of God

Paul was a scholar, learned from Gamaliel

**His vast O.T. expertise flooded his mind
as scripture confirmed who Jesus was**

*Later, he would write Romans,
Corinthians, Ephesians, etc.*



best PAUL he could be

Paul told us what he saw— **Son of God**

Rm. 2:11 – No respect of persons with God

Rm. 2:16 – God judge secrets ... by Jesus Christ

Rm. 3:4 – Let God be true ... every man a liar

Rm. 3:10 – None righteous, no, not one

Rm. 3:20 – Deeds of law ... no flesh justified

Rm. 3:24 – Justified freely by his grace

Rm. 5:1 – Justified by faith, we have peace with God



Paul told us what he saw— **Son of God**

**Rm. 8:36 – Who shall separate us from the love
Christ? ... tribulation, famine, peril, sword ... ?**

**Rm. 8:38-39 – I am persuaded that neither death,
nor life, nor angels ... things present ... to come
nor height ... depth ... shall be able to separate
from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ**



Paul told us what he saw— **Son of God**

**Eph. 1:3 – blessed us with all spiritual blessings
in heavenly places in Christ**

**Eph. 1:4 – chosen us in Him before
foundation of the world**

**Eph. 1:19 – exceeding greatness of His power to us
who believe ... in Christ, raised from dead ...
above all ... power ... might ... dominion, and
every name that is named ... in this world
also in that which is to come.**



Paul told us what he saw— **Son of God**

**Col. 1:12-13 – thanks unto the Father, which hath
made us ... partakers of the inheritance of
the saints in LIGHT**

Col. 1:14 – in whom we have ... forgiveness of sins

Col. 1:15 – Who is the image of the invisible God

**Col. 1:16 – by Him all things created ... in heaven
... in earth, visible and invisible: who is the
beginning, the first born from dead
in all things he has preeminence!**



all that & more during three LONG DAYS

What CAN we learn from Paul's journey to Christ during his three **Longest Days**?

- ✓ For one—God is the one who CALLS & grants SIGHT
- ✓ You are the best **YOU** ... no one can be **YOU**
- ✓ REST . . . in that you CANNOT be **Paul**
- ✓ Nor Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Isaiah or Luke
- ✓ You are called to be **YOU** *yeah, kind of scary ...*

I am what I yam



You Are what You Are

May you be
the best YOU
Christian
YOU



You give me hope to carry on
You LIGHT up my day
And fill my night with song

