



Saint Paul the Apostle



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The Apostle

Part 1





Saul, the Persecutor of the Church

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Saul was following the preaching of the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, and he wondered how could the Jews accept to take someone who was crucified as their Savior!

He heard that the disciples said that He had risen from the dead, and that He appeared to many people, spoke with them and He has ascended to Heaven before their eyes and that He is the Son and Word of God.

At the beginning, Saul was making fun of that, thinking that no one would accept the Lord Jesus Christ as a Savior; yet to his very surprise, he saw multitudes of people accepting the faith in huge numbers...

Some Jewish leaders caught the young St Stephen, the deacon and brought him to trial.

One of them said, “This boy spoke words that are against the Law.”

Then the High Priest asked, “Is this matter true?”

St Stephen spoke to them honestly about their forefathers who resisted the prophets and killed them, and how they crucified the Righteous...

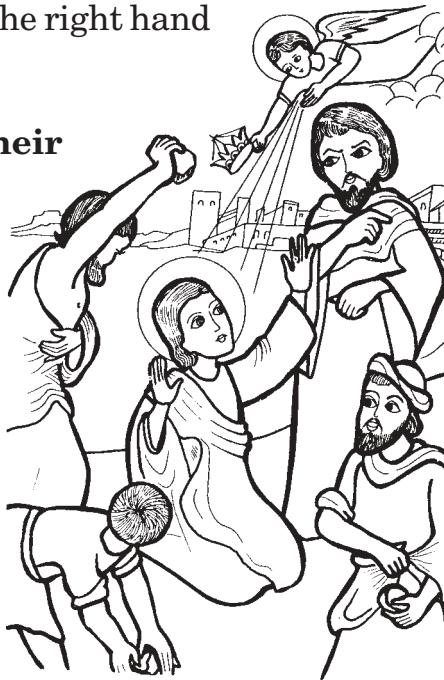
The people attending the court got very mad at him, and they became very angry, yet St Stephen, with a calm voice and sweet smile of a young boy, looked up and said, “I see the



Heavens open, and the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Father.”

The spectators put their hands over their ears and jumped at him at once and pulled him outside the city walls. Then they started to stone him, and some of them took off their clothes so they could carry heavy big stones to throw at St Stephen. They put their clothes at the feet of a man named Saul, to keep them.

St Stephen knelt on his knees, and cried out joyfully, “Lord Jesus Christ receive my soul.... Lord do not charge them with this sin, forgive them.” (The Holy Book of Acts 7)



The Great Change

After the martyrdom of St Stephen, Saul was in great amazement and confusion. He saw St Stephen’s face shining like an angel, and heard him saying that the Heaven was open... and in great love he asked forgiveness to those who killed him!

In the mean time, he was convinced that St Stephen’s teachings were not the same as the Law of Moses... In his view such teachings might not be from God!

Saul despised the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and his followers who were increasing every day. Therefore, he



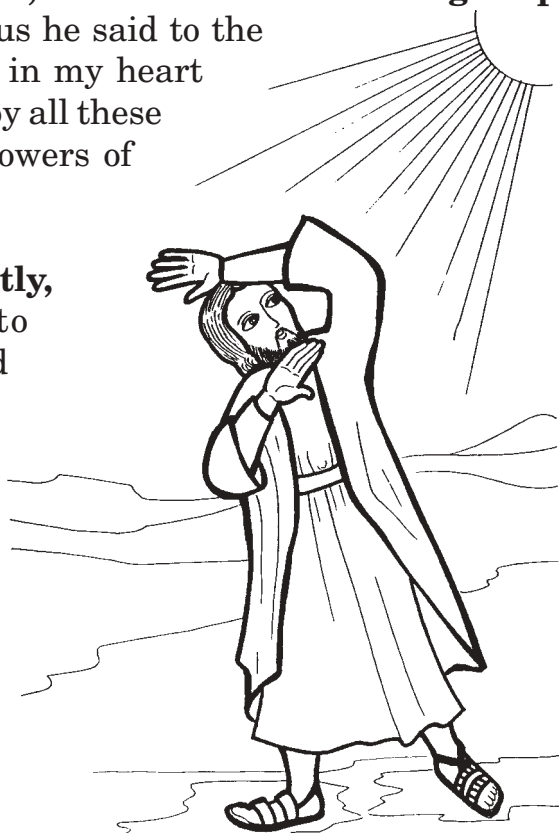
put an end to this matter in his heart. He entered the followers' houses and dragged both men and women out and put them in prison. But in spite of all that, the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ kept on preaching that He was Christ, the Savior of the world.

Saul said to the High Priest, "This matter cannot wait any longer. The name of the Lord Jesus Christ is spreading very fast even outside Jerusalem. Write several letters to the rulers and officials of Damascus, so that they help me find the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, then I will bring them to Jerusalem, bound in chains."

The High Priest wrote the letters, and Saul went with a group of soldiers. On the road to Damascus he said to the leader of the soldiers, "I have put it in my heart that my only job until I die is to destroy all these false lies that are spread by the followers of the crucified Lord Jesus Christ."

The leader encouraged him greatly, and all the soldiers hurried to Damascus, imagining how they would come back dragging the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ in chains and putting them in prisons

All of a sudden, a bright radiant light flashed at noon time, and Saul became very frightened and fell on the road.



Saul heard a voice



from Heaven saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

Saul could not look up, and very weakly said, “Who are you Lord?”

The voice said, “I am The Lord Jesus Christ whom you are persecuting...”

Saul tried to open his eyes, but the light was so bright, that he had to cover his eyes with his hands, and asked, “Lord, What do you want me to do?”

Then the Lord Jesus told him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

Saul arose from the ground, and opened his eyes but could not see anything. He had been blinded. The soldiers had to lead him by the hand and brought him into the city of Damascus. (The Holy Book of Acts 9).



Would Saul ever get his eyesight back, or would he remain blind forever? Find out in the next issue of the Mighty Angels!