



*The*  
**ACTS**  
OF THE APOSTLES

The image features a central graphic of a stylized flame in shades of orange and red. The word "The" is written in a white, cursive font above the flame. The word "ACTS" is written in large, bold, orange block letters, with the flame graphic integrated into the letter "A". Below "ACTS", the words "OF THE APOSTLES" are written in a smaller, white, serif font. The background is a dark, textured brown with stylized, wavy patterns in a lighter brown color, suggesting a landscape or a decorative border.



## *Today's Scripture Reading*

*Acts 9:1-19*



<sup>1</sup> But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” <sup>5</sup> And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”



<sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”



<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.



<sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” <sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened.



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# Sovereignty





Acts 1:1 He presented himself for 40 days

Acts 1:5 Wait for the baptism

Acts 1:9 He was lifted up

Acts 2:1-4 Pentecost arrives, sound from Heaven, different tongues of fire, all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in various tongues, all men heard them speak in their own language

Acts 2:7 They were amazed and astonished

Acts 2:14 Peter preaches hard, bold and confident.

Is this the same guy?

Acts 2:42 Devotion, fellowship, prayers, having all things in common, selling all possessions, Lord adding to their number daily

Acts 3 Beggar healed



Acts 4 Peter and John preach before council, are threatened and rejoice. Prayers for boldness

Acts 5 Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 5:12 Many signs and wonders regularly done

Acts 5:17 Apostles arrested, released by angels, guard and council dumbfounded

Acts 6 Stephen seized, full of grace and power, doing great signs and wonders among the people

Acts 7 Stephen preaches summary of OT pointing to Christ, refuting all opposition

Acts 8 Philip and the Eunuch



## Hebrews 4:1-2

Let us therefor fear lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached as well as unto them but the word preached did not profit them not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.



# SOVEREIGNTY:

*God can and will do what He wants*

1) Saves the most unlikely



# SOVEREIGNTY:

*God can and will do what He wants*

2) Irony of choosing Saul



## SOVEREIGNTY:

*God can and will do what He wants*

3) Swiftmess and surety of God's ability



## SOVEREIGNTY:

*God can and will do what He wants*

### 1) Saves the most unlikely

**Numbers 11:23:** The Lord answered Moses, “Is the Lord’s arm too short?”

**Phil 2:13:** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

**Proverbs 21:1:** The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.



## ETERNAL OPTIMISTS

- 1) Not apart from God
- 2) Not foolish
- 3) Confident that He knows all and has planned before time began

Alvin's sermon





## SOVEREIGNTY:

*God can and will do what He wants*

### 2) Irony of choosing Saul

Using the foolish things to shame the wise

*WHO WOULD WE CHOOSE TO REPRESENT THE GOSPEL?  
BRAD PITT OR OSAMA BIN LADEN?*

God wants to blow our minds with His sovereignty.  
Remember our initial recap of the book of Acts.  
Hebrews 11:23-38



## 2) Irony of choosing Saul

**1 Corinthians 1:27:** But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;



## SOVEREIGNTY:

*God can and will do what He wants*

### **3) Swiftness and surety of God's ability**

A) Swiftness of His hand to act

B) Surety of His hand to act



## 3) Swiftmess and surety of God's ability

**2 Peter 3:9:** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

**1 Timothy 1:15-16:** The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.



*What's the point?*

# ACTS of the APOSTLES | 9:1-19

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Isaiah 30:8-21

Lollo



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The image features a central graphic of a stylized flame in a vibrant orange-red hue. The flame is composed of several pointed, overlapping shapes that create a sense of movement and heat. To the right of the flame, the word "ACTS" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Above "ACTS", the word "The" is written in a smaller, elegant, cursive script. Below "ACTS", the words "OF THE APOSTLES" are written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. The entire text and graphic are set against a dark, textured background with a mottled olive-green and brown color palette. The background is framed by large, stylized, light-colored shapes that resemble flames or smoke, creating a layered and dramatic effect.