

A SEASON OF EAR TINGLING

THE BENJAMIN GENERATION - PART VI

²⁷ *“Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he devours the prey, in the evening he divides the plunder.”*

Genesis 49:27

¹² *“On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. 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.’ ¹⁵ “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ “ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. ¹⁶ ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. ¹⁷ I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them ¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’”*

Acts 26:12-18

²³ *But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.*

Galatians 1:23 KJV

¹ I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.

Romans 11:1

⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;

Philippians 3:5

- I. Benjamin's bad side.
 - A. Benjamins can be as mean as they are favored and anointed.
 - B. When Benjamin goes wrong, look out.
 - C. Benjamins must sometimes be struck down and struck blind.
 - D. Benjamins can easily want to die on the wrong battlefields.
 - E. Benjamins, out of focus and aimed at the wrong target, can virtually destroy the world.
 - F. God uses goads to change our direction.
- II. The conversion of Saul of Tarsus (a Benjamite) was a living miracle.
 - A. One conversion removed the church's most violent enemy.
 - B. Three strands of lightning.
 - * Saul's mind - Stories and witnesses that disagreed with Saul's belief that Jesus wasn't the Messiah.
 - ** Saul's memory - Stephen (Acts 6,7)

*** Saul's conscience - Outside he kept the rules. (Philippians 3:6) Inside his conscience ate him alive. (Romans 7:7-9)

[Phl 3:6 NIV] ⁶ *as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.*

[Rom 7:7-9 NIV] ⁷ *What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." ⁸ But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead. ⁹ Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.*

III. Saul's conversion was unique, because it was the conversion of a deceived, religious man.

A. Saul had to change everything he had ever learned about:

- * The nature of God.
- * The hope and nature of the Messiah.
- * The meaning of the promised kingdom.
- * The place of Israel and the non-Jewish world in God's purposes.

B. The whole basis upon which salvation was built:

- * Not obedience to the law in good works.
- * But rather by trust and divine mercy revealed in the Savior Messiah.

IV. Benjamins are being struck down.

A. Blinded in order to see.

B. To fall in order to rise again. (I Samuel 10:6,7)

⁶ The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. ⁷ Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

C. Years of rebelling like wild beasts will stop in a moment.