

# Biopics – Saul & Ananias

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## Saul the Zealot

### WHO:

1. **“Confident in the flesh”** – Phil 3:5
2. **“Hebrew of Hebrews”** – **“circumcised the 8<sup>th</sup> day, of the stock of Israel** – Phil 3:5
3. **Jew of the tribe of Benjamin** (part of Judea – NOT 10 tribed Israel who “fell away”) – Phil 3:6
4. **Pharisee** – “my manner of life from my youth... ..according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived as a Pharisee” – Acts 26:4-5 and “concerning the Torah, a Pharisee” – Phil 3:6
5. **Learned Jew** – “brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ Law” – Acts 22:3 and “I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers (Gal 1:14)
6. **“Blameless” Jew** – “concerning the righteousness which is in the Torah, blameless” – Phil 3:6
7. **“although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man”** – I Tim 1:13

### WHY:

1. **Zealous** – passionate defender of the faith of Judaism – “and was zealous toward God as you all are today” – Acts 22:3; “zealous for the traditions of my fathers” – Gal 1:14; “concerning zeal, persecuting the church” – Phil 3:6
2. **“I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth”** – Acts 26:9
3. **“And being exceedingly ENRAGED against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities”** – Acts 26:11

### HOW:

1. “still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord – Acts 9:1
  2. “I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women... ..and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished” – Acts 22:4-5
  3. “Many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them” – Acts 26:10
  4. “I punished them often in every synagogue and COMPELLED them to blaspheme” – Acts 26:11
  5. “for you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it” – Gal 1:13
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## Ananias the Devout

### WHO:

1. Follower of Jesus: “a certain disciple at Damascus – Acts 9:10
2. Respected Jewish elder: “a devout man according to the Torah, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there” – Acts 22:12

### WHY:

1. Chosen by God:
  - a. “Arise, and go to the street called Straight and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus” and “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel” – Acts 9:11,15

### HOW:

1. Listened and obeyed:
  - a. Ananias questioned God (vs 13-14)
  - b. Ananias obeyed God – “And Ananias went his way and entered the house” – Acts 9:17
2. Laying on of hands:
  - a. “And in a vision he has seen a man Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight – Acts 9:12
3. In Jesus’ Name/By His power:
  - a. “and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight AND be filled with the Holy Spirit” – Acts 9:17
4. With authority:
  - a. “and he stood and said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that same hour I looked up at him” – Acts 22:13
5. Delivered God’s prophecy/commission message to Saul:
  - a. “The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard” – Acts 22:15
6. Preached the Good News:
  - a. “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” – Acts 22:16

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