

Acts.



**No one is beyond the
redemptive reach of God.**

Acts.

ACTS 1-9

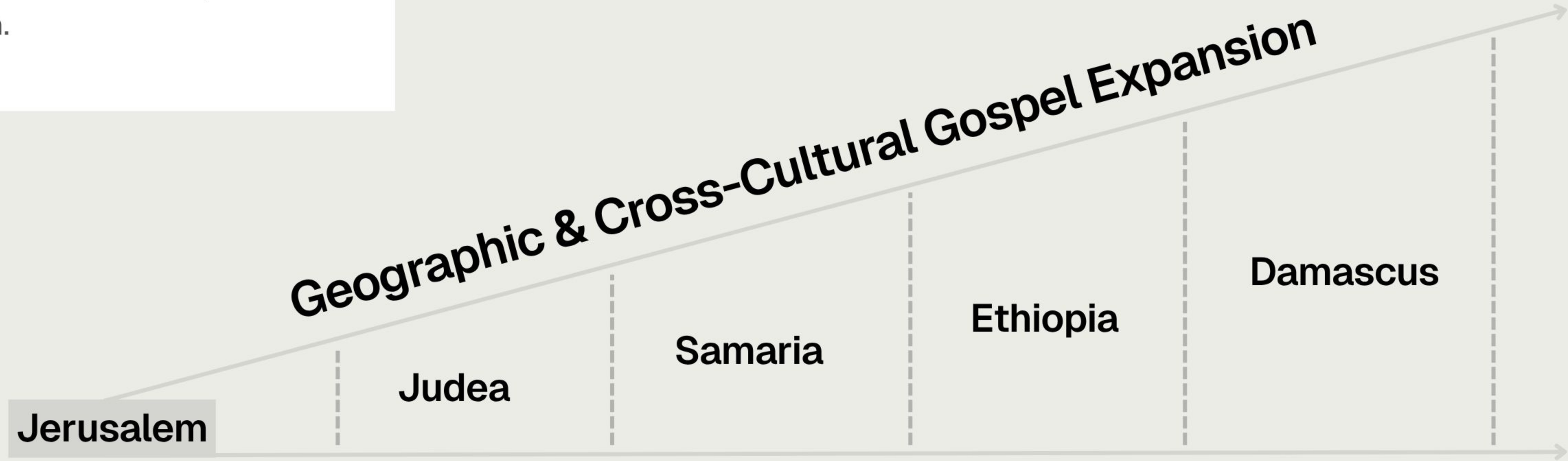
Major Themes

Rapid Advancement of the Gospel

Ever-increasing Intensity of Persecution

...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the
ends of the earth.

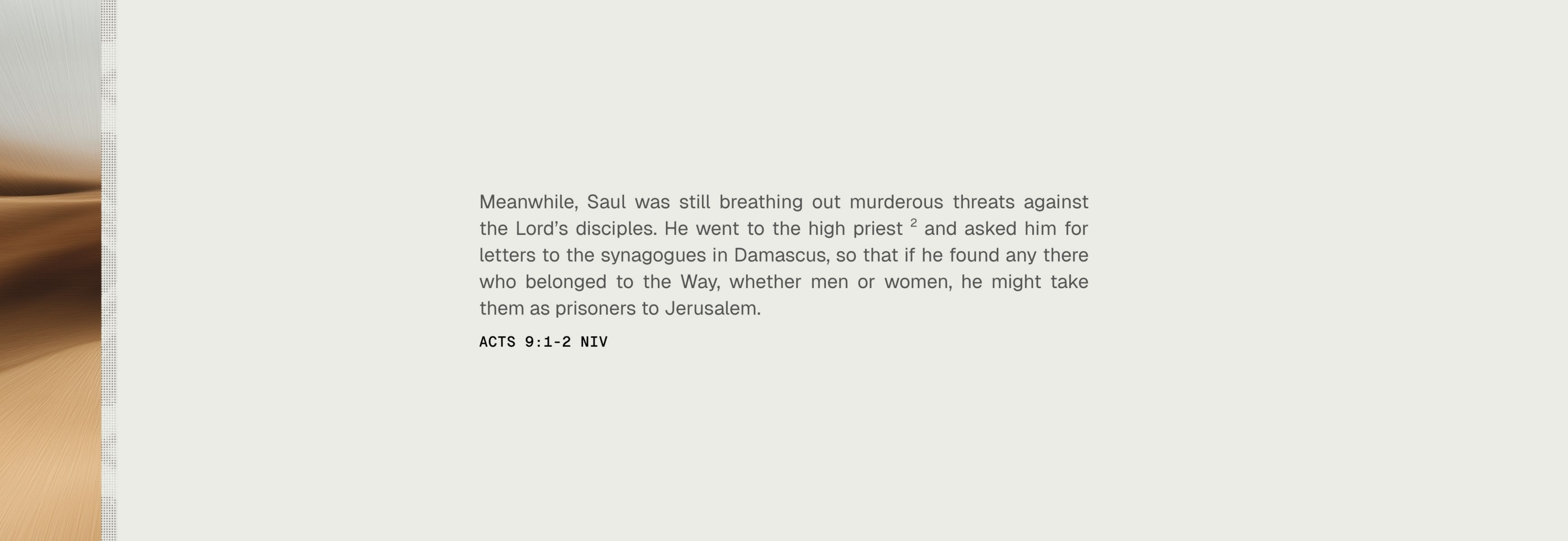
ACTS 1:8B NIV





How far is the redemptive reach?

- + The people of Israel
- + Samaritans
- + Simon the Sorcerer*
- + Ethiopian Eunuch
- + Saul the Persecutor?



Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him 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.

ACTS 9:1-2 NIV

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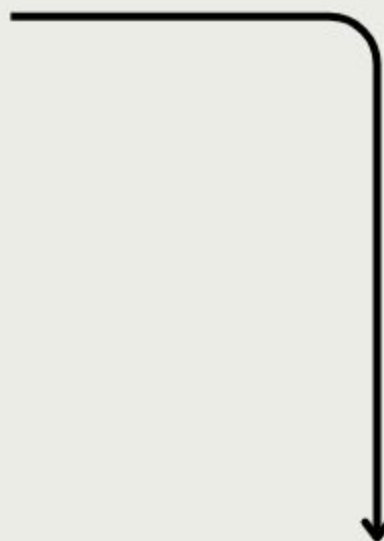
ACTS 9:1-2 NIV

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 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; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-6

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ACTS 9:1-2 NIV

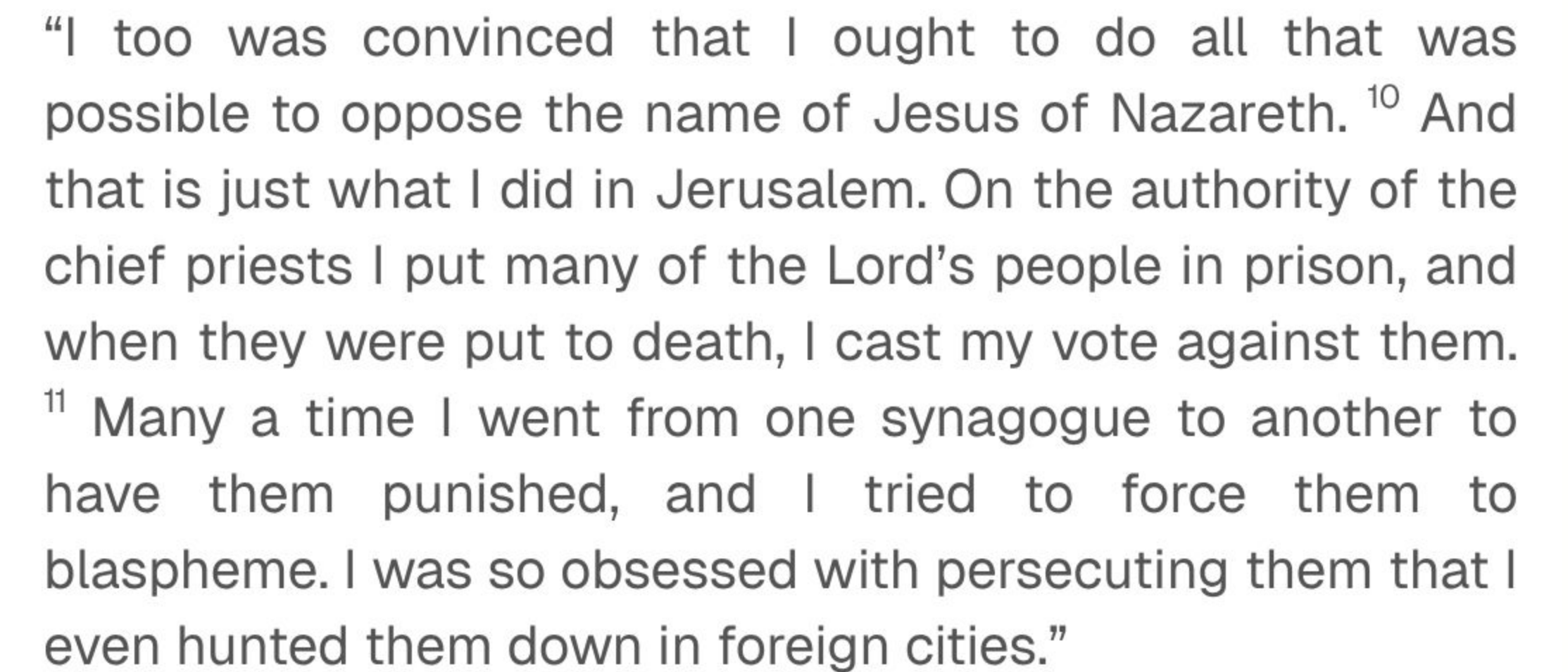


For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.

GALATIANS 1:13

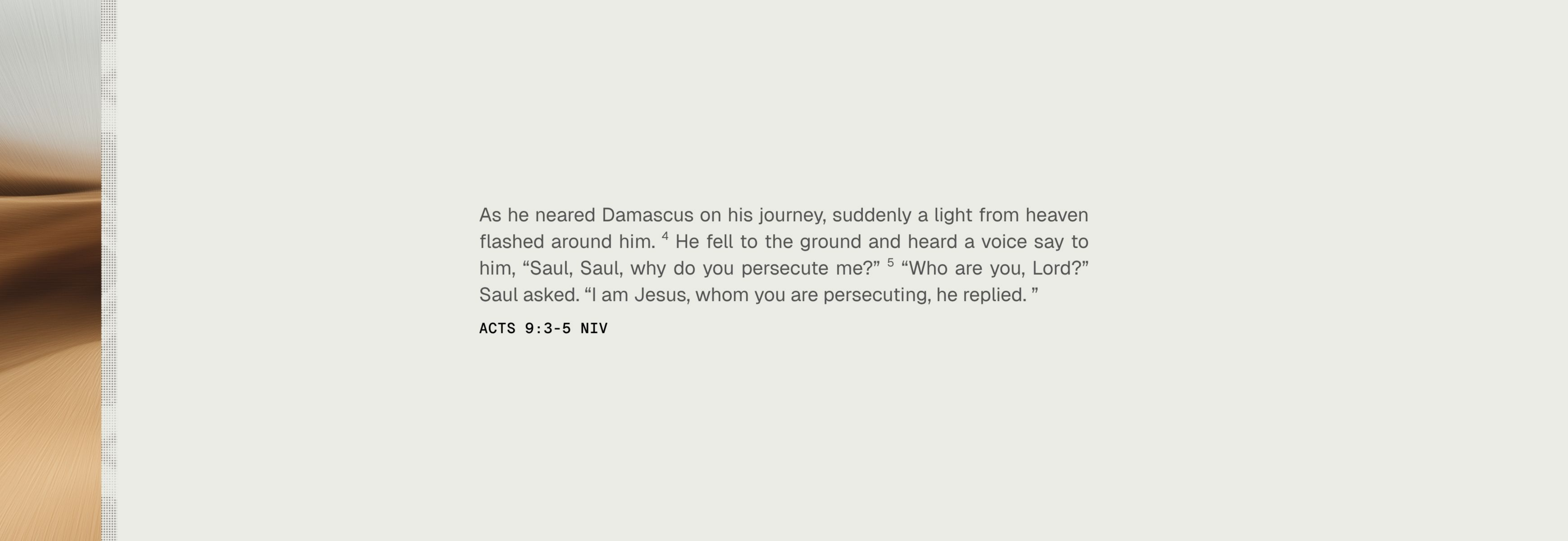
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ACTS 9:1-2 NIV



"I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord's people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities."

ACTS 26:9-11

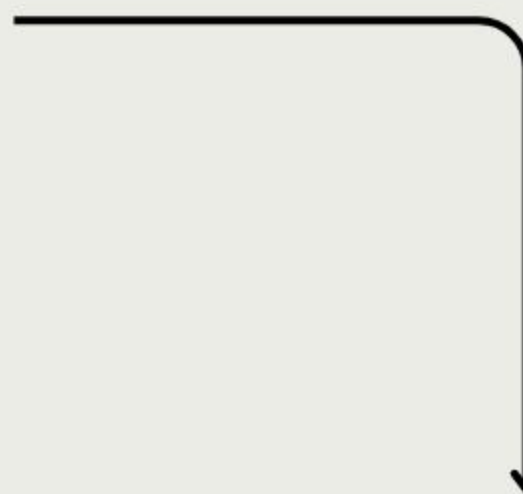


As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting, he replied. ”

ACTS 9:3-5 NIV


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ACTS 9:3-5 NIV




“...as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me...”

ACTS 26:13B NIV



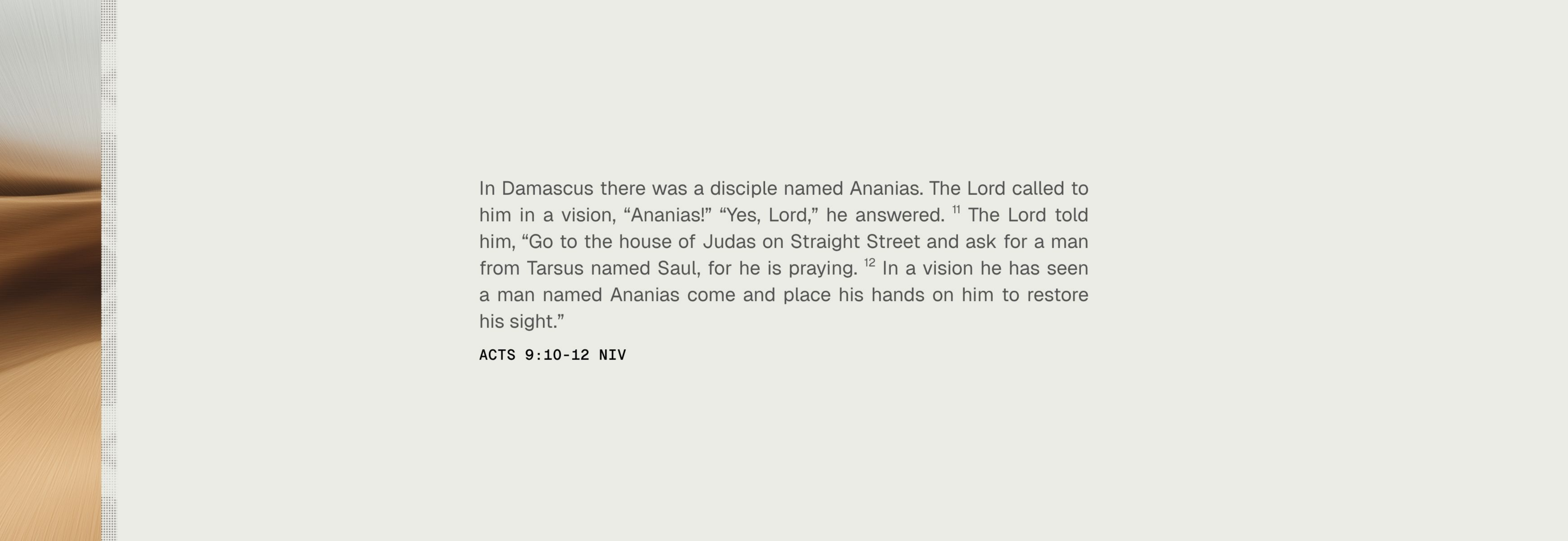
“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

ACTS 9:6-9 NIV



“He who had expected to enter Damascus in the fullness of his pride and prowess, as a self-confident opponent of Christ, was actually led into it, humbled and blinded, a captive of the very Christ he had opposed.”

JOHN STOTT, THE MESSAGE OF ACTS



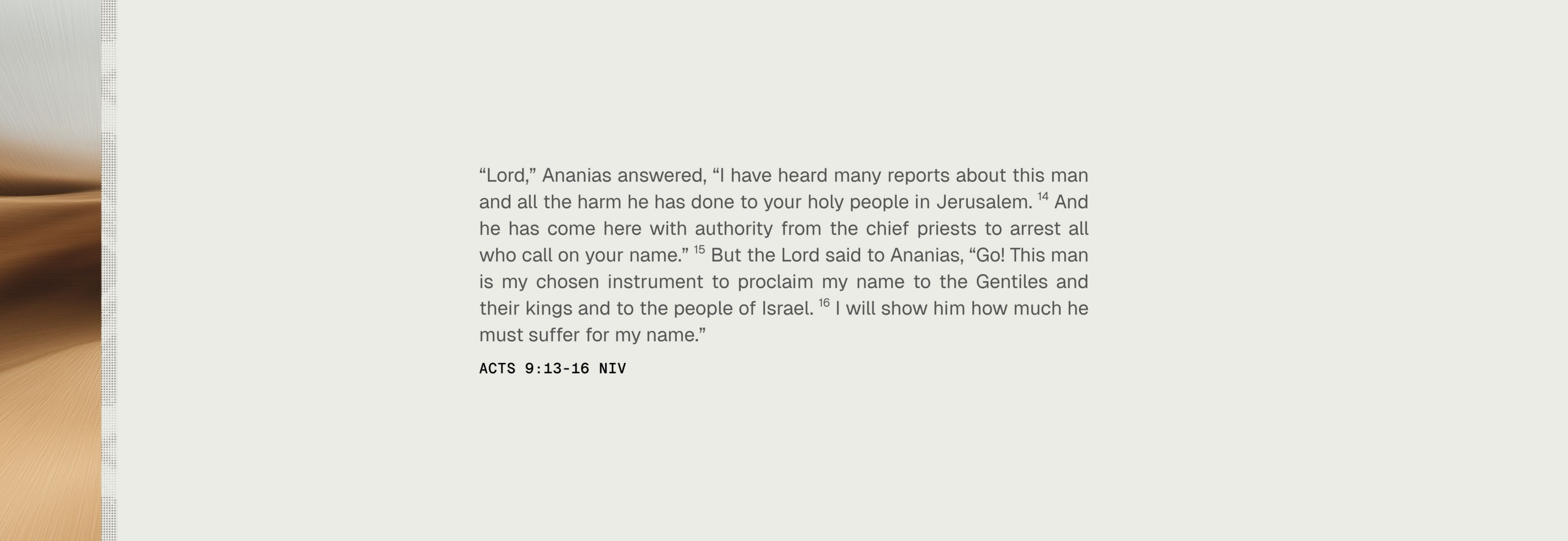
In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered. ¹¹ The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

ACTS 9:10-12 NIV

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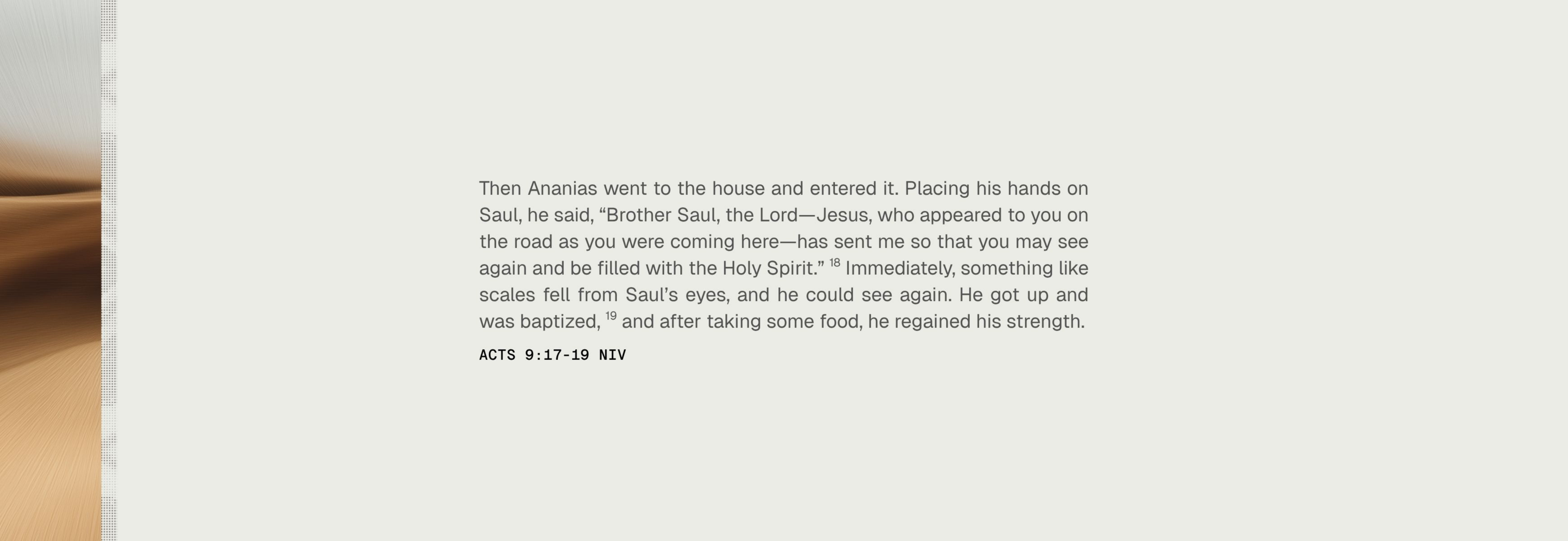
ACTS 9:10-12 NIV





“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem.¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

ACTS 9:13-16 NIV



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 and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

ACTS 9:17-19 NIV

“The conversion of Saul (Paul) is believed by some to be the most important event in the church since Pentecost. Luke certainly considered Saul’s conversion significant for he recorded it three times in Acts (chapters 9, 22, 26).”

DR. STANLEY D. TOUSSAINT, THE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY



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