Who did Paul think he was?

Daniel I. Block Veritas Class College Church February 19, 2023



Sarcophagus of the Twelve Apostles Ravenna, Italy (AD 5th century)

Paul's Status as "Prophet Like Moses"

- 1. Paul's Self-Designation as "Apostle" (ἀπόστολος) of Jesus Christ (Gal 1:1)
- 2. Paul's Self-Designation as "Servant" (δοῦλος) of Jesus Christ (Gal 1:10)
- 3. Paul's note that the people treated him as "an angel of God" (ὡς ἄγγελον θεοῦ) as if he were Christ Jesus himself" (4:14)
- 4. Paul's Call to Divine Service (Gal 1:15–16)

The Structure of Biblical Prophetic Appointment Accounts						
Elements	Moses (Exodus)	Paul (Acts)	Samuel (1 Samuel)	Isaiah (Isaiah)	Jeremiah (Jeremiah)	Ezekiel (Ezekiel)
(1) Divine Confrontation	3:1–4a	9:1–4a 22:3–7 26:9–14		6:1–4	1:4	1:1–28
(2) Introductory Word (and Response)	3:4b-9	9:4b–5a 22:8–9 26:15	3:2–10	6:5–7	1:5	2:1–2; 3:12–15, 22–24
(3) Divine Commission	3:10	9:5b-6a 22:10, 14-15 26:16, 18	3:11–14	6:8–13	1:10	2:3-5a; 3:4-6, 10-11, 22-27
(4) Objections	3:11, 13 4:1, 10, 13				1:6	[2:6–8a] [3:16–21]
(5) Divine Assurance	3:12, 14-22 4:2-9, 11-12, 14-17	9:10–17 26:17			1:7–9, 17–19	3:7–9
(6) The Sign	4:2–9, 17	9:18–19 22:9, 11–13			1:11–16	2:8b-3:3
The square brackets suggest that objections are implied, rather than explicitly declared.						

- 4. Paul's Message (Gal 1:16)
- 5. Paul's Inspiration (Gal 1:11–12)
- 6. Paul's Retreat to Arabia (Gal 1:17–18a)
- 7. Paul's Absolute Authority (Gal 1:6–9)