

Father Forgive

by

the Apostle Paul

When your dad descends from Benjamin
And your mom's a noted Jew
You must strive for perfection
And excel in all you do

Raised as fully Jewish
Tarsus was my home
Born in that key city
Made me a citizen of Rome

In Rome you do as they do
In Israel you stay
And when in ships between them
You might sink unless you pray

The Romans were audacious
Their pride worn like a seal
A Hebrew of the Hebrews
I'd surpass them in my zeal

Gamaliel taught me Torah
I memorized it all
But my father wanted action
So I embraced the name of Saul

I thought that I could do it
Be both rabbi and a "king"
Little did I know that
In a jail cell I would sing

A sect arose in Israel
Nazareth their home
Proclaimed a false Messiah
Crucified by Rome

A sect boosts expectations
Then death brings hopes back down
But this sect was still growing
The corpse had not been found

So I took it much upon me
To save us from this mess
Steven must be SPEECHLESS
We were all in great duress

His silence didn't stop it
It was spreading far and wide
We'd bring them back and try them here
To Damascus I would ride

When Jesus spoke right to me
I quickly called him Lord
We Jews need Revelation
To see as flesh, the Word

Off I went to study
How could I be so wrong
I read how God had planned it
Twas intended all along

I grieved my former actions
I repented of them all
Why had Jesus stopped me, for
what purpose did He call?

And when I saw Cornelius
It confirmed what I still know
That Jesus great commision was
To ALL the world we go

So I took it now upon me
To preach to rich and poor
Gentiles now would hear of Him
Whom I came to adore

Father was aghast now
Reports had him confused
He wanted from me action
Not desertion of the Jews!

I never did convince him
From me he turned away
When I wished to be accursed
For Jews, I was thinking of that day

It didn't feel so noble
To turn my face towards Rome
I would try to do for Caesar
what I could not do at home

When your father will reject you
And your mother is a Jew
God's love must be higher
Deeper wider than you knew

Some see me as a great one
Some see me just as dung
But I see one who forgave me
On that tree from which He hung

Father, Forgive

The above poem was written by Bob O'Dell and was first recited at the Jerusalem Channel 2018 Feast of Tabernacles Convocation in Jerusalem. The poem may be freely reproduced and distributed, as long as this description is attached.