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## Avery and Harmons' "Paul the Apostle: A graphic novel" (Book Review)

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# Book Reviews

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Avery, B. & Harmon, M. (2014). *Paul the Apostle: A graphic novel*. Carlsbad, CA: Beartruth Collective, LLC. 138 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9781945128004

*Paul the Apostle* was adapted by Ben Avery, a children's pastor and comic book writer. He is most known for adapting George R. R. Martin's *The Hedge Knight* novellas into graphic novel form. He has also written over thirty graphic novels for Zondervan, Marvel, Random House and many others. Mark Harmon illustrated this adaptation and he often works for Scholastic, Warner Press, Lamp Post and other publishing companies as a professional artist.

This visual adaptation of the Acts of the Apostles, highlighting Paul and his life, is set in a science-fiction version of imperial Rome complete with a set of anthropomorphic alien characters that represent the historical figures from the New Testament. It must be noted that this graphic novel is designed for grade-school children and older and would appeal especially to boys or young sci-fi and comic book aficionados. The illustrations are beautifully rendered, and what is particularly of note is the scripture references included at the bottom of every page. One could read this with a child and cross-reference every scene with the Bible. Or, if an older child were reading this, they could quickly look up the verse to see where in Acts the author is drawing his material.

Certain scenes are graphic in nature but carefully illustrated to be age-appropriate, like the scene of Stephen's martyrdom. Particularly moving, is the scene of Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus. This was portrayed in a visually striking manner in black-and-white by Mark Harmon.

This graphic novel would be a popular yet substantive addition to a children's library in particular, but it would not be amiss in a theological library as a different medium for a Bible translation/adaptation.

## Reviewer

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