

### **Acts 13: The First Missionary Journey**

- The return of Barnabas and Saul sets the stage for the beginning of Ch.13
- This is stage 3 of Jesus' plan of evangelism—See Acts 1.8
  - Up to this point: Peter is the key figure; the key city is Jerusalem; the key recipients of the gospel are the Jews.
  - Now: the key figure is Paul, the key city is Antioch in Syria, and the key recipients of the gospel are the Gentiles.
  - It has been approximately 15 years since church started.
  - Paul's missionary journeys begin (approx. 15/20 years).
- In the O.T. fasting generally indicated penitence; in the N.T. primarily indicates priorities.
- “Set apart for Me, Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” God stepped in to speed up the process.
- “Laying on of hands”: symbolic of the church at Antioch expression of fellowship with Paul and Barnabas. They already possessed miraculous spiritual gifts.
  - When they returned, they made a report to the whole church (14.26)
  - The word apostle means “one who is sent whether by the Lord or by a congregation. See Acts 14.14: both Paul and Barnabas are referred to as “apostles.”
- They went about 15 miles west down to Seleucia—
- They traveled by ship to Cyprus...70 mile trip.
  - 140 miles long X 60 miles wide
  - Famous for its shipbuilding and copper mines
  - Cyprus means “The Happy Isle”
  - Barnabas was from Cyprus
- The group started preaching in the Jewish synagogues. Why??
  - Rom.1.16: It gave the Jews the 1<sup>st</sup> opportunity to hear the gospel
  - John Mark went as an assistant to Barnabas and Paul
    - Also helped develop him for future service to God

- Notice: Luke did NOT say anything about the people's response to the Gospel like in earlier chapters. May have been discouraging to them.
- Paphos (western end of island), they encounter a magician who is also called a false prophet, Bar-Jesus.
- Sergius-Paulus, the pro-consul, wanted to hear the gospel.
- Elymas kept interrupting Paul and Barnabas; he knew his job might be on the line if Sergius Paulus accepted the Gospel.
  - When the devil could not stop Barnabas and Saul with discouragement and dejection, he tried defamation and deceit.
  - The Lord of light had been challenged by the prince of darkness...and Paul could not let the challenge go unanswered!
  - "You are full of deceit(Gk. To trap or bait) and fraud;
  - V.11: Paul pronounces a curse of Elymas...blindness. This is the only miracle performed by an apostle to the physical detriment of another human being.
  - Ananias/Saphira (ch.5) came as a direct punishment from God.
  - The Pro-Consul believed what he saw and heard from Paul.
- To Perga: (13.13). (approx. 150 mile trip)
  - John Mark left at this point and returned to Jerusalem.
    - John Chrysostom (A.D. 347 to 407), historian, wrote "that the lad wanted his mother."
    - Maybe not comfortable preaching the gospel to Gentiles??
    - Intimidated by the perilous journey??
    - Mission work is NOT glamorous work but very hard work in less than ideal conditions.
    - Paul and Barnabas did not quit though probably discouraged by John's departure.
- Paul Reviews Israelite History (13.14-52).
  - Comes to Antioch in Pisidia on the Sabbath day...went to Synagogue.
  - Today: modern-day Turkey (treacherous territory and terrain). 100 miles north and 3,500 ft. up. (Wild beasts and bandits). 2 Cor.11.26.

