

ACTS 13–PAUL’S FIRST JOURNEY

In giving the great commission to the original apostles, Jesus said for them to go into all the world and preach the gospel. When the preaching was limited to the Jews, the command to “go” had been quite well obeyed. The truth had been taken to many places. Once the Gentiles were admitted into the kingdom, the field was wide open and they further understood the Lord’s instruction. The time was ripe for Saul, who was to go to the Gentiles (Acts 26:17; 22:21), to begin his first general missionary tour into foreign territory (Acts 13).

The second part of the Acts of the Apostles is generally reckoned to begin with the 13th chapter. At this point, Paul begins to appear as the principal character. The 13th and 14th chapters embrace a definite and separate subject: the first journey of the first Christian missionaries to the heathen.

I. Barnabas and Saul Sent Forth (13:1-3).

A. Prophets and teachers.

1. Prophet would most likely teach by inspiration.
2. Teachers may or may not teach by inspiration.
3. Several men are mentioned.

B. Holy Ghost said.

1. Separate Barnabas and Saul.
2. They had a special work, i.e. taking the gospel to the Gentiles.

C. Fasted, prayed, laid hands on...

1. Solemn way of commending them to God.
2. Laying on of hands was not to impart some spiritual gift, but to indicate the solemnity of the undertaking.
3. Commending a man to God for the work to which he was being set apart.
4. Sent them on their way.

II. Tour Through Cyprus (13:4-8).

A. Departure.

1. From Antioch they travel to Seleucia (Seaport town).
2. Sailed to Cyprus (Homeland of Barnabas –Acts 4:36) to Salamis.
3. Preached the word of God in the synagogues. Gospel was not limited to Gentiles.
4. John Mark is with them.
5. They went through the whole island.
6. Paphos was the residence of the Roman proconsul, Sergius Paulus, who requested to hear...
7. They encounter a sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, named Bar-Jesus, also Elymas.
 - a. A sorcerer was a necromancer, magician, fortune teller.
 - b. Withstood Barnabas and Saul. Why???
 - (1) Their preaching would show the Jewish law was abolished and his sorcery was a false practice.
 - (2) His magical arts had probably gained some influence with the proconsul.
 - (3) Also would have meant personal gain for him.
 - c. Satan knows the power of God’s word, and loses no change to get it out of hearts where it might germinate and grow.
8. Paul denounced him (Set his eyes on him) [Saul called Paul for 1st. time].
 - a. Full of all subtilty (guile, deceiver).
 - b. All mischief (villainy, trickery).
 - c. Child of the devil.
 - d. Enemy of all righteousness.
 - e. Determined to show no accommodation to any hypocrite.
 - f. “Will thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord.”
 - g. By the hand of the Lord (by his power) he caused the sorcerer to be blinded for a season.
9. The deputy believed.

III. Their Work in Antioch of Pisidia (13:13-47).

- A. Several lessons..
 - 1. Their work was not without many hindrances.
 - a. Opposition of Elymas
 - b. John Mark decision to leave.
 - c. Two missionaries would separate later.
 - 2. Set of circumstances which eventually involved Paul in great controversy.
 - a. Churches of Galatia which Paul and Barnabas would establish.
 - b. Jewish legalism.
- B. First came to Perga in Pamphylia
 - 1. Notice it is now “Paul and his company.”
 - 2. John Mark goes back to Jerusalem
 - a. For whatever reason, Paul was not pleased.
 - b. Reconciled later (2 Tim. 4:11).
- C. Came to Antioch in Pisidia.
 - 1. Went into synagogue, not to keep the Sabbath, but to preach to people.
 - 2. Verse 15 would indicate that was the reason.
 - 3. Those present were invited to exhort in Jewish synagogue worship.
 - 4. They asked them if they had any words of exhortation.
- D. Paul’s first recorded Sermon. (13:16-41).
 - 1. He gave a summary of history from Moses to John (13:16-25)
 - 2. Dealt with Christ, his death, burial, and resurrection (13:26-37).
 - 3. Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins (13:38-41).
- E. Response (13:42-45).
 - 1. Gentiles wanted to hear more (v.42) [Eager to learn more...followed].
 - 2. Persuaded them to continue in the grace of God (v.43).
 - 3. Almost the whole city came to hear (v.44).
 - 4. Jews were filled with envy, and spoke against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming (v.45).
- F. Judge yourselves (13:46-49).
 - 1. Judge yourselves unworthy.
 - 2. Lo, we turn to the Gentiles.
 - 3. Those “ordained to eternal life” and those who rejected Paul’s preaching stand in sharp contrast with each other.
 - 4. Those who believed.
 - a. They were glad when they heard the things which Paul said.
 - b. They glorified the word of God
 - c. They were ordained, i.e. disposed to or determined to secure, eternal life.
 - d. They had an attitude toward God’s Word whereby they would accept it.
 - 5. Those who rejected.
 - a. They were filled with jealousy.
 - b. They contradicted the things which were spoken by Paul, and blasphemed.
 - c. They judged themselves unworthy of eternal life.
- G. Jews stir up persecution (13:50-52)
 - 1. Devout and honorable women... religious women of standing and influence.
 - 2. Expelled them.
 - 3. Shook the dust off (Luke 10:11). . . went to Iconium.
 - 4. They rejoiced in the salvation which they had received and most likely were endowed with spiritual gifts.

Con: The gospel goes to the Gentiles. How grateful we should be. The importance of evangelizing the world, the importance of standing up for God’s word (v.9, 46). The disciples were filled with joy