

BIBLE STUDY-FEB 8, 2023
THE BOOK OF ACTS – CHAPTER 13 & 14

Paul's Ministry (13:1-28:31)

- This second half of the book of Acts now focuses on the ministry to the Gentiles and the spread of the church around the world.
- Paul replaces Peter as the central figure in the book.
- Paul completes three missionary journeys and ends up being imprisoned in Jerusalem and transported to Rome.

13: 1-3

- By laying hands on them, the three other leaders were identifying with Barnabas and Saul's mission. They broke their emotional ties to them and released them to do God's will.
- Barnabas and Saul became the Christian church's first missionaries.

What does "they were ministering to the Lord" (Acts 13:2) mean?

Why did Paul and Barnabas go where they did?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

13: 4-12

- As a Jewish scholar, Saul was permitted to speak to those who knew Scriptures

Why did they preach "in the synagogues of the Jews" (Acts 13:5)?

- A proconsul was a _____. In this passage, his function was the governor of the island. These leaders often kept private sorcerers.
- Barnabas & Saul encountered a sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus or Elymas, which also means "_____".
- Saul's verbal rebuke of the sorcerer is one of the most dramatic denunciations of demonic power in Scripture. Instead of calling the sorcerer Bar-Jesus ("Son of Jesus"), Saul called him son of the devil.
- Note that from v.9, Saul is called Paul. Maybe out of pragmatism (his birth name was infamous) or out of grace (he was a new man), he is now known as "small" or "humble".

Can a false prophet do 'miracles'?

(Matthew 24:23-24).

How can "great signs and wonders" of evil spirits working through false prophets be distinguished from the Holy Spirit's supernatural works?

(John 16:13-14).

13:13-41

- Beginning here, Paul is mentioned first-he had become the leader of the group.
- John Mark was Barnabas' cousin who had accompanied Paul and Barnabas from Antioch but returned to Jerusalem when they arrived at Perga
- No reason is given why John Mark left Paul and Barnabas. Some suggestions are:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
- Paul implicitly accused John Mark of _____.
John Mark's departure _____
(Acts 15:37-39), _____
(Col 4:10)
- Pisidian Antioch was a different city from Antioch of Syria where there was _____ (11:26).

This Antioch, in the region of Pisidia was a hub of good roads, and trade, with a large Jewish population.

- **What happened in a synagogue service?**

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

- Since it was customary for the synagogue leader to invite visiting rabbis to speak, Paul and Barnabas usually had an open door when they first went to a synagogue
- But as soon as they spoke about Jesus as Messiah, the door would often slam shut and they were usually not invited back by the religious leaders, and sometimes they would be thrown out of town

Did Paul and Barnabas try to separate themselves from the synagogues?

Why does Paul say God "put up with" the ways of the Hebrews in the wilderness for "about forty years" (Acts 13:18)?

Which were the "seven nations in the land of Canaan" (Acts 13:19)?

(Acts 13:19) (Deuteronomy 7:1)

Why does Paul specify that "John had first preached, before His coming" (Acts 13:24)?

- Paul cites _____ Old Testament passages foretelling how God would raise Christ from the grave.
- The Resurrection _____ to accomplish the forgiveness of sins and provides hope for what is yet to come (Rom 4:25)

13:42-52

- One of the great temptations facing Jewish converts was _____. So, Paul encouraged them to remain in grace- a recurring theme in his letters (Colossians & Galatians).
- One characteristic of the early church, especially in the aftermath of Paul's preaching was _____. Those who were filled with the Holy Spirit are also filled with joy-a fruit of the Spirit (even during trial and persecution)

How and why did the Jews oppose "the things spoken by Paul" (Acts 13:45)?

14:1-7

- Much of the persecution of the early church came from Jewish religious leaders- those who should have known from the Old Testament that Paul's preaching

_____ (2Tim.3:11)

Why did they make a "violent attempt ... to abuse and stone" (Acts 14:5) Paul and Barnabas?

14:8-18

- Lystra was a city where _____.

- There were _____ therefore no audience for Paul's message. So, through the power of God, Paul reached out to a man who had been crippled from birth and healed him

What did Paul and Barnabas do when they realized that the Lycaonians intended to worship them?

(Acts 14:14).

Why?

14:19-20

- Paul would write to _____ many years later to let him know it was the Lord who delivered him at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra.
- Jews from Antioch and Iconium tracked Paul down, stoned him, and left him for dead. But _____.

14:21-28

- Rather than leave the new converts to try to figure out the Christian life for themselves, Paul and Barnabas _____ where their lives had been in danger, to fearlessly preach the gospel and teach others to obey.
- Paul and Barnabas were helping the believers get _____

Why did God let Paul get hurt so badly that they thought he was dead?

(Acts 14:20) (Acts 14:20) (Acts 14:21).

Through what did the Apostles say we "must... enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22)?

What does this mean for us as Christians today?

(Ephesians 6:10-12).

SOURCES:

1. <http://www.bibleversestudy.com/>
2. Life Application Study Bible – NIV
3. The Jeremiah Study Bible - NKJV
4. Life In The Spirit Study Bible- NIV

THE BOOK OF ACTS – CHAPTER 13 & 14 ANSWERS

Paul's Ministry (13:1-28:31)

- This second half of the book of Acts now focuses on the ministry to the Gentiles and the spread of the church around the world.
- Paul replaces Peter as the central figure in the book
- Paul completes three missionary journeys and ends up being imprisoned in Jerusalem and transported to Rome

13: 1-3

- Notice the variety in the church. The common thread among the five men was their deep faith in Christ. We must never exclude anyone who Christ called to follow him.
- Like the early church, if believers today do their part to reach out to the lost, church congregations will be filled with people from different racial and cultural backgrounds.
- By laying hands on them, the three other leaders were identifying with Barnabas and Saul's mission. They broke their emotional ties to them and released them to do God's will.
- Barnabas and Saul became the Christian church's first missionaries.

What does "they were ministering to the Lord" (Acts 13:2) mean?

the original Greek word translated "were ministering," stem from a root word that gives us the English word "liturgy" and means performing a religious service, which would include prayer (see Acts 13:3), speaking, worshipping with songs, etc.

Why did Paul and Barnabas go where they did?

1. *The Holy Spirit led them*
2. *They followed communication routes of the Roman empire. This made travel easier*
3. *They visited key population and cultural centers to reach as many people as possible*
4. *They went to cities with synagogues, speaking first to the Jews in hopes that they would see Jesus as Messiah and help spread the Good News.*

13: 4-12

- As a Jewish scholar, Saul was permitted to speak to those who knew Scriptures

Why did they preach "in the synagogues of the Jews" (Acts 13:5)?

Synagogues were where theology was discussed, and since the Jews already knew the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah, they should have understood and received Jesus, a Jew, as the promised Messiah easier and quicker than the gentiles.

- A proconsul was a high Roman official. In this passage, his function was the governor of the island. These leaders often kept private sorcerers. Bar-Jesus realized that if the proconsul believed in Jesus, he would be out of a job.
- Barnabas & Saul encountered a sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus or Elymas, which also means "Enlightened One".
- Saul's verbal rebuke of the sorcerer is one of the most dramatic denunciations of demonic power in Scripture. Instead of calling the sorcerer Bar-Jesus ("Son of Jesus"), Saul called him son of the devil. That play on words describes him accurately as the enemy of righteousness—an opponent to everything Barnabas and Saul represented.
- The Holy Spirit led Paul to confront Bar-Jesus with his sin. There is a time to be nice and a time to confront. Ask God to show you the difference and give you the courage to do what is right.
- Note that from v.9, Saul is called Paul. Maybe out of pragmatism (his birth name was infamous) or out of grace (he was a new man), he is now known as "small" or "humble".

Can a false prophet do 'miracles'?

Jesus warned us, "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matthew 24:23-24).

How can "great signs and wonders" of evil spirits working through false prophets be distinguished from the Holy Spirit's supernatural works?

All works of the Holy Spirit glorify Jesus, who said, "... When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you" (John 16:13-14). Therefore, supernatural works that do not glorify Jesus are not of the Holy Spirit

13:13-41

- Beginning here, Paul is mentioned first-he had become the leader of the group. John Mark was Barnabas' cousin who had accompanied Paul and Barnabas from Antioch but returned to Jerusalem when they arrived at Perga
- No reason is given why John Mark left Paul and Barnabas. Some suggestions are:
 1. He was homesick
 2. He resented the change in leadership from Barnabas to Paul
 3. He became ill
 4. He was unable to withstand the rigors and dangers of the missionary journey
 5. He may have planned to go only that far, but had not communicated this to Paul and Barnabas
- Paul implicitly accused John Mark of lacking courage and commitment. John Mark's departure did not sit well with Paul (Acts 15:37-39), but in time their relationship was healed, and he grew to respect him (Col 4:10)
- Pisidian Antioch was a different city from Antioch of Syria where there was already a flourishing church (11:26). This Antioch, in the region of Pisidia was a hub of good roads, and trade, with a large Jewish population.
- **What happened in a synagogue service?**
 1. *First the Shema was recited (this is in Deuteronomy 6:4, which Jews repeated several times daily).*
 2. *Certain prayers were spoken*
 3. *Reading from the prophets intending to illustrate the law*
 4. *Sermon*
 - *The synagogue leader would decide who would lead the service and give the sermon*
 - *A different person was chosen to lead each week*
- Since it was customary for the synagogue leader to invite visiting rabbis to speak, Paul and Barnabas usually had an open door when they first went to a synagogue
- But as soon as they spoke about Jesus as Messiah, the door would often slam shut and they were usually not invited back by the religious leaders, and sometimes they would be thrown out of town.

Did Paul and Barnabas try to separate themselves from the synagogues?

No. But they tried to show clearly that the very Scriptures the Jews studied pointed to Jesus

Why does Paul say God "put up with" the ways of the Hebrews in the wilderness for "about forty years" (Acts 13:18)?

During the forty years that the Hebrews spent in the wilderness after leaving Egypt and prior to entering the Promised Land, God constantly "put up" with their betrayal, complaining and doubting.

Which were the "seven nations in the land of Canaan" (Acts 13:19)?

The seven nations in Canaan that God "destroyed" (Acts 13:19) were, from north to south, Hivites (north of the Sea of Galilee), Girgashites (Galilee region), Canaanites (western plains), Amorites (eastern mountains), Jebusites (around and including Jerusalem), Perizzites (southwest, near Gaza), and Hittites (near the Dead Sea): "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, ..." (Deuteronomy 7:1)

Why does Paul specify that "John had first preached, before His coming" (Acts 13:24)?

John "preached... the baptism of repentance" (Acts 13:24) - the need for people to recognize their sinfulness and seek God's help to turn away from and to seek a solution to their sins. The recognition of the problem - sin - had to precede its solution - Christ - back then, and it must precede the solution today. The tendency of pulpits today to preach the cross of Christ but to skim over the issue of sin amounts to offering the solution without explaining what it solves.

- Paul cites three Old Testament passages foretelling how God would raise Christ from the grave.
- The Resurrection confirmed what had been done on the cross to accomplish the forgiveness of sins and provides hope for what is yet to come (Rom 4:25)

13:42-52

- One of the great temptations facing Jewish converts was to return to legalism. So, Paul encouraged them to remain in grace- a recurring theme in his letters (Colossians & Galatians).
- One characteristic of the early church, especially in the aftermath of Paul's preaching was joy among the believers. Those who were filled with the Holy Spirit are also filled with joy-a fruit of the Spirit (even during trial and persecution)

How and why did the Jews oppose "the things spoken by Paul" (Acts 13:45)?

These supposed people of God were "contradicting and blaspheming," which is against God, out of "envy" (Acts 13:45).

14:1-7

- Much of the persecution of the early church came from Jewish religious leaders- those who should have known from the Old Testament that Paul's preaching fulfilled the prophecies about the Messiah (2Tim.3:11)

Why did they make a "violent attempt ... to abuse and stone" (Acts 14:5) Paul and Barnabas?

Unable to win the spiritual war of words, they resorted to violence.

14:8-18

- Lystra was a city where pagan practices ran wild.
- There were no Jewish synagogues and therefore no audience for Paul's message. So, through the power of God, Paul reached out to a man who had been crippled from birth and healed him

What did Paul and Barnabas do when they realized that the Lycaonians intended to worship them?

They "tore their clothes" (Acts 14:14).

Why?

It was the way to express extreme outrage and anguish back then. Paul and Barnabas were outraged and anguished that a work of God was being credited to them and that people were about to worship them.

14:19-20

- Paul would write to Timothy many years later to let him know it was the Lord who delivered him at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra.
- Jews from Antioch and Iconium tracked Paul down, stoned him, and left him for dead. But Paul got up and went back into the city to preach.

14:21-28

- Rather than leave the new converts to try to figure out the Christian life for themselves, Paul and Barnabas persistently returned to the cities where their lives had been in danger, to fearlessly preach the gospel and teach others to obey.
- Paul and Barnabas were helping the believers get organized with spiritual leader who could help them grow.

Why did God let Paul get hurt so badly that they thought he was dead?

To grant another edifying miracle to Paul and to the disciples who "gathered

around" (Acts 14:20) his injured body and witnessed it being restored, but also to grant Paul and Barnabas some time free from the pestering Jews, now departed, as the two planted the church in "Derbe" (Acts 14:20) and then revisited the churches planted in "Lystra, Iconium and Antioch" (Acts 14:21).

Through what did the Apostles say we "must... enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22)?

"Many tribulations" (Acts 14:22)

What does this mean for us as Christians today?

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:10-12). Whenever a Christian is used by the Lord and bear fruit for His glory, he or she draws enemy fire, the lack of which should be cause for concern and self-examination.

