

Acts 13:13-23

Background: Following Saul's persecution of the church in Jerusalem, followers and believers in Jesus were dispersed to other parts of Judea, Samaria and to the remote parts of the world.

Acts 11:19-26 ¹⁹ Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists^[a] also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent **Barnabas to Antioch**. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ **So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul**, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to **Antioch**. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

- There are 3 cities named for Selucid kings named Antiochus. This is Antioch of Syria. In today's lesson we will travel with Paul to Antioch of Pisidia.

Acts 13 – Bryan covered the first 12 verses of chapter 13

Verses 1 – 3:

- Prophets and teachers in the church in Antioch of Syria.
- Barnabas, the encourager, was a prophet. **Barnabas was the leader** of the church in Antioch. **Paul**, the persecutor of the church, was named last in importance was a Rabbi and teacher.
- **The Holy Spirit said**, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” – The Holy Spirit chose Barnabas and Saul for a specific work.
- Barnabas and Saul felt an **irresistible call** to take the gospel to the Gentile nations.
- Following prayer and fasting the church laid their hands on them and sent them off.

The Ahart's - Not unlike in our own church, Eric and Jen Ahart felt that irresistible call to take their 4 kids across the world to share Jesus – “Isa” with the Muslim world. After prayer and fasting we laid hands on them and sent them off to Turkey. Apparently the Holy Spirit wanted them in Pakistan.

Verses 4 - 12

- Barnabas and Paul travel to Barnabas' hometown of Cyprus and preached in the Synagogues. John Mark was with them. The same as the John Mark whose mother's house Peter went to in Jerusalem after he escaped from prison and author of the gospel of Mark.
- They followed the pattern on their missionary journeys to teach to the Jew's first and when rejected would go and teach the Gentiles.
- The Proconsul Sergius Paulus summoned Barnabas and Paul. They encounter their first resistance with Bar-Jesus, "son of Yeshua".
- **Verse 8** Paul shares word of God with the proconsul
- Elymas, the magician, opposed him – Whispering in ear or mocking Paul
- **Verse 9** "But Saul, who was **also called Paul**" –
- Paul performs his **first Apostolic miracle** causing Elymas to become blind. The Proconsul sees the power of the Spirit and hears the gospel message from Paul and he believes.

Verse 13

- Paul and his “companions” – Paul is the leader

MAP

- Crossed the Mediterranean traveling north about 180 miles landing at Perga, a small town just a few miles inland from the coast. It was in the district of Pamphylia.
- Pamphylia and Pisidia are districts in the greater province of Galatia,
- Galatia and other provinces make up Asia Minor, the center of east – west traffic
- Antioch was a very important city in Southern Galatia. Had a large settlement of Jews
- John left them and returned to Jerusalem – We don’t know why John left the group, but we do not that Paul considered his departure as abandoning the mission.

Acts 15:37-38 ³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.

Verses 14 – 15

- So now it is just Paul and Barnabas headed to Antioch in Pisidia – Pisidia was at an elevation of 3600 feet and they had to cross the Taurus mountains which were treacherous and jagged rocky paths. They had to cross two treacherous rivers and the mountains were notorious for robbers who would hide in caves and rob and kill travelers.

Verse 14 “And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.”

- The Synagogue had a ready-made audience.

Verse 15, we get the order of service for synagogue in the first century. If you were to go to an orthodox Jewish synagogue you would find much the same order of service.

Synagogue Order of Service:

1. Recite the Shema:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.^[a] ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ----- ⁶ And these words that I command you today

shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

2. Immediately following the reciting of the Shema they would offer prayers.
 3. Read Scripture from the Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible which contains the Law and the **HISTORY of ISRAEL**
 4. Then they would read Scripture from the Prophets – **The Prophecies of a coming Messiah**
 5. Following the reading of the Law and Prophets the Rabbi would give instruction and teaching.
- If there was a guest they may be invited to read the scroll or if they were a special guest may give them the opportunity to provide the instruction and teaching from the Scripture.
 - Somehow, they recognized Paul and offered to have him offer words of encouragement for the people. Maybe Paul wore the robes of a Rabbi or very possibly knew his credentials being a former member of the Sanhedrin and trained by Gamaliel.
 - **You can sit in church for years and hear the Scripture read every Sunday and not know the Word of God.**
 - We have the Word of God preserved for us in our hands, on our phones, readily accessible all the time.

2 Timothy 3:16 ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Paul's first recorded sermon follows the pattern of Jesus at the Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:27 ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Sermon Outline.

1. **Israel's history and God's promises to them**

2. – We should all know the history from Genesis to Jesus
3. God's plan of redemption through the prophets – Jesus perfectly and completely fulfills the prophecies of the prophets.
4. Closing argument – By Faith in Jesus your sins are forgiven.

Verses 16 – 23 God's Plan of Redemption in ISRAEL'S HISTORY

- **Verse 16 “Men of Israel and those who fear God.”** Jews and non-Jews, “God fearing Gentiles.” LISTEN: Paul is commanding attention. He is about to teach the Word of God.

Verse 17

- “The God of this people Israel chose our fathers” – This would have been music to their ears. The history of the Jews begins with God's choosing the fathers; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.
- God's sovereign election made the nation great while living in the land of Egypt
- God led them out with the “uplifted arm” – Paul quotes

Exodus 6: 6 says, I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.

Verse 18 “He put up with them” – Even though they were disobedient, “He put up with them.” He cared for them providing manna and water for them to drink. God cared for them because He had a promise and a redemption plan for all men through his chosen people.

Verse 19 – After destroying the seven nations he divided up the land amongst the 12 tribes of Israel.

Verse 20 - 450 years included the captivity, wandering in desert and conquering the land of Canaan.

- Then came the time of Judges ending with Samuel who was a Judge but became a prophet.

Verses 21 The people cried for a king, so Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. Saul failed to obey God and failed as a king. God had instructed Saul to kill all the Amalekites, but Saul spared the king. When you have a cancer, you must cut all of it out. It is the same that Israel is trying to do with Hamas today.

Verse 22 God removes Saul.

1 Samuel 13:14 ¹⁴But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

- God raised up a proper king from the line of Judah and the Messiah would come from the line of David. David is described as someone who will “do all my will.”

2 Samuel 7:12-13 ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

- Complete fulfillment would not be in David but in Jesus.

Verse 23. The punchline: Of this man’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior.”

Surely, they were recalling the promise in **2 Samuel 7** that the Messiah shall come from the offspring of David and His kingdom will last forever.

- But as Paul declares Jesus is the Messiah promised by God. I can imagine that this caught the attention of the Rabbi and those in attendance.
- **All of the history of Israel culminates in one name, the name of Jesus.**

Paul’s heart is for his Jewish brothers and he is now going to MAKE THE CASE that Jesus is the Messiah through FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY.

Verse 24 – 25 Paul reminds them of John the Baptist foretells of one who will come and deliver a baptism of repentance

Isaiah 40:3 A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord^[a]; make straight in the desert a highway for our God

- John was the last of the messianic prophets. He is the one who prepared the way of Jesus according to the prophet Isaiah. John is part of God keeping His word to Israel.

Verse 26 – 37 Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies

- **V26** Speaking to fellow Jews from the diaspora and Gentile converts,
- **V27** You are receiving this message precisely because it was rejected by your brothers in Jerusalem
 - **They failed to understand the prophets**
 - In their **denial** they fulfilled the very Scriptures they ignore.

Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men,

- **V28** – “They found no guilt in Him.”

Luke 23:22 “A third time he/Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death.

Psalm 69:4 says the Jews would hate the Messiah without cause and John says.

John 15:25 ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’

- **V29** “when they had carried out(fulfilled) all that was written of him they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.”
- **What was going on while Jesus was on the cross?** They were fulfilling scripture. (They would wag their heads at him, cast lots for his clothes, give him vinegar and gall, not break his legs, pierce his side, the words he would say. “My God My God.., Into thy hands I commit my spirit,” where he was buried. All these are prophesies and many more from the OT are fulfilled on the cross.
- **V 30 the Climax** – “But God raised Him from the dead.”
 - The great proof that Jesus was the Messiah was that he was raised from the dead.
- **V 31** Paul describes this evidence in his letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 15:4-8 ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me

V 32 – 37

- In verses 32-37 He says, “And we bring you good news!” – that God fulfilled His promises and quotes 3 Scriptures.
- **Psalm 2:7 You are my son today I have begotten you.**
- **Isaiah 55:3 – I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David**
- **Psalm 16:10 – God will not allow thy Holy One to undergo decay**

V 36-37

- David serve his purpose
- David died and decayed
- But Jesus is the royal sonship of David and he cannot be contained by death.

God is essentially saying **“I am faithful to my promise to David of an everlasting covenant, to make the nations your heritage, and I promise eternal life. –**
PRETTY BIG DEAL.

Closing Argument – By Faith in Jesus your sins are forgiven

Verse 38-39 Paul goes in for the closing arguments..

- The Law of Moses cannot save you. The Law only condemns.
- Jesus is the Messiah. All History points to Him and He fulfills every prophecy.
- God kept every one of His promises.

Verse 40-41 Paul ends this section quoting **Habakkuk 1:5**. He is essentially calling them out as scoffers who, even though I am telling you clearly, you will not believe.

The Response

Verse 42-43 – Paul lit them up and they wanted more. They could not wait until the next week. Many Jews and converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas but few believed.

Verse 44 – 47

- “The whole city” came to hear Paul
- The **SPLIT V 45**, Jews were filled with jealousy. – They did not want to share salvation with the Gentiles and turned against Paul.
- Paul and Barnabas said, The gospel is presented to the Jew first and then to the Gentile.
- Paul followed this pattern and then declares what the Lord commanded them,
“I have placed you as a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the end of the earth.”

Verses 48-52

- V 48 Where the Jews rejected Paul, **the Gentiles** rejoiced.
- And as many were appointed to eternal life believed. – Yes, a reference to election
- V49 The Gospel spread through the region.
- V50 The Jews who were excited at the first message are now jealous and return to Judaism and the Law which condemns them.
- The Jews again stirred up persecution and drove Paul and Barnabas out.
- They shook the dust from their feet and went on to the next village **filled with joy and the Holy Spirit**.

Paul's Sending & His First Recorded Sermon – A Couple things.

The Church at Antioch provides a model for sending Missionaries.

- **Holy Spirit Led** - The Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” – The Holy Spirit chose Barnabas and Saul for a specific work.
- Barnabas and Saul felt an **irresistible call** to take the gospel to the Gentile nations.
- Following **prayer and fasting** the church **laid their hands on them and sent them off.**
- Ralph and Jane Borde, Eric and Jen Ahart. Who is next?

Paul's First Recorded Sermon

1. God has a promise and a plan of redemption in Israel's history.

- He promised to Abraham (**Abrahamic covenant**) that he would be a great nation and his descendants would inherit the land.
- God made a conditional promise to Moses (**Mosaic Covenant**) that they would receive God's blessings if they followed the Law.
- God promised to David (**Davidic Covenant**) that one of his descendants would reign over an everlasting kingdom
- **God fulfilled His promises to Israel through their history. Jesus is the promised Messiah.**

Acts 13:23 ²³ Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.

2. God's has a promise and a plan of redemption through the prophets

- Jesus perfectly and completely fulfills the prophecies of the prophets

3. By faith in Jesus your sins are forgiven.

Acts 13:38 ³⁸ Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

Communion: We are called to Remember

- **Remember how God perfectly ordered history.**
- **Remember how Jesus perfectly and completely fulfilled all the prophecies**
- **Remember by faith in Jesus your sins are forgiven.**
- **Do this in remembrance of me**