

8/26/07

Acts 13

Tonight we begin the third and last section of the book of Acts according to the table of contents that Jesus gave in the first chapter. Acts 1:8

* The apostles would be witnesses to Him in Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria and the ends of the earth.

1. In chapter 1-7 we saw the birth, and development of the church at Jerusalem.
2. In chapters 8-12 we saw the disbursement of the church through persecution to all Judea & Samaria
3. Now in chapters 13-28 we are going to see the extension of the church to the ends of the world.

The central figure has been Peter in the first twelve chapters and the central place of worship has been Jerusalem, but now Saul of Tarsus, later to be called Paul, will become the central figure and the central place of worship will be Antioch.

1. Men of Cyrene and Cyprus had preached to the Greeks and Jerusalem had sent Barnabas to confirm the work. Acts 11:19-23
2. Barnabas sought Paul out and they both taught at Antioch for one year. Acts 11:25-26
3. The church at Antioch had sent relief to the poor saints at Jerusalem by the hand of the elders, Barnabas and Paul. Acts 11:27-30

4. Now they are back at Antioch and ministering to the Lord.

13:1-3 The church at Antioch.

13:1 The church members, prophets and teachers.

- 1) The church “ekklesia” means “the call out” by God from the world of darkness into His marvelous light.
 - a) It appears 24 times in Acts.
 - b) The context will determine of a local church, house church, the church as a whole or the universal church in heaven and earth.
- 2) The city of Antioch was the third largest city in the Roman world, Rome being first then Alexandria.
 - a) It was located on the Orontes River, 15 miles from the Mediterranean Sea.
 - b) It was founded by Seleucus Nicator of the Seleucid dynasty, was the capital of Syria, named after his father.
 - c) It was a wealthy city called “The eye of Asia”, with a large Jewish colony but prominently Greek, the city was a byword for luxury and immorality.
 - d) It had a temple to Daphne, who was said to have been changed into a laurel bush to avert Apollo's sexual pursuit, the sacred priestesses in the

laurel groves reenacted the account with sexual rites 5 miles outside the city.

e) It's population was about 500,000.

3) The prophets were primarily men chosen by God to speak as His representatives, secondly they revealed future things periodically, both all O.T. & N.T.

4) Teachers were the men gifted by God to instruct the people of God in the things of God. Eph. 4:11-16

* These offices are second and third to apostles. 1Cor.12:28

13:2 The present activity of the church.

1) They were ministering, which means to officiate an office of the state at ones own expense.

a) The word is used in the LXX for the priests service.

b) We get our word "liturgy" from it.

c) They served the Lord in fasting and prayer with all their hearts.

2) The Holy Spirit spoke, calling out Barnabas and Paul to the mission field not men, 49 A.D., six years after Paul's arrival!

a) The Holy Spirit spoke through the prophets present, the Holy Spirit would do His work.

b) The Holy Spirit was the director over the First church council. Acts 15:28

c) This was an imperative command, the perfect tense indicates an action in the past and present, so this was confirmation to both men, not news.

d) When they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy **Spirit** to preach the word in Asia and Mysia." Acts 16:6, 7

e) The Holy Spirit spoke clearly about people departing from the faith in the latter times. 1Tim. 4:1

13:3 The obedience of the church.

1) The church sought the Lord by fasting and prayer.

* The implications is worship and reverence to seek the will of God!

2) They laid hands on them and released them for the work they were called.

13:4-14:28 **The first missionary journey**

13:4-12 *The mission to Cyprus.*

13:4 -5 Their arrival to Cyprus.

1) The Holy spirit sent them out to Seleucia, the port of Antioch, 5 miles north of the mouth of the Orontes River. vs. 4a-b

2) Then they sailed to the Island of Cyprus, 60 miles off the coast of Syria on the

Mediterranean Sea, 150 miles long and 40 miles wide and Barnabas was a native. vs. 4c

- 3) The city of Salamis was the administrative center on the east coast of the island. vs. 5a
- 4) Paul always went to the synagogue first as a springboard to the gentiles. vs. 5b
- 5) John Mark was the nephew of Barnabas, he was not called but taken. vs. 5c

13:6-8 The journey to the west side of the Island.

- 1) They encountered a sorcerer. vs. 6
 - a) Paphos was the capital of the Island, on the southwestern side, a few miles north from the old site from the Temple of Venus. vs. 6a
 - b) The term sorcerer “magos” means a wise man, a magician an soothsayer, like Simon the sorcerer. vs. 6b
* Acts 8:9; 19:11-13; Deut. 13;18:10-
11
 - c) A false prophet, his message and source was not of God. vs. 6c
 - d) A Jew named Bar-Jesus means son of Yahweh. vs. 6d
- 2) They came before the governor of Paphos. vs. 7
 - a) The proconsul, Sergius Paulus was in intelligent “sunetos” man, prudent and

having understanding, yet he had this sorcerer as his councilor. vs. 7a-c

- 1)) Many have tried to fault the Bible historically but archeology has always proved the accuracy of the scriptures.
- 2)) Paphos was annexed by Rome in 57 B.C. and incorporated in the province of Cilicia two years later.
- 3)) In 27 B.C. it became a Senate province and governed on behalf of Augustus in 22 B.C. and administered by a proconsul.
 - b) The proconsul petitioned them to hear the word of God. vs. 7d
- 3) They were opposed regarding the gospel. vs. 8
 - a) Elymas withstood them when they presented themselves. vs. 8a
 - b) Elymas was trying to hinder Sergius Paulus from hearing the Gospel.

13:9-12 The power encounter by the Holy Spirit.

- 1) Saul confronted Elymas the sorcerer. vs. 9
 - a) Saul means ask, the name of the first king of Israel.
 - b) Paul means little one, appearing here for the first time.

- c) Saul was filled with the Holy spirit, literally having been filled with the Spirit.
- d) Looked intently “atenizo”, to focus steadfast, he “pinned him” or “mad-dogged him’.
- 2) Saul addressed himself to Elymas. vs. 10
 - a) Saul addressed him by his character, “O Full of all deceit and all fraud, meaning one who baits people as an impostor, unscrupulous and cunning. vs. 10a-b
 - b) Saul identified his spiritual relationship, “You son of the devil “diabolos” accuser, slanderer. vs. 10c
* He was not “Bar-Jesus” but “Bar-Satan”, son of Satan!
 - c) Saul him by his activity, “You enemy of all righteousness, all that is just and right”. vs. 10d
 - c) Saul described his persistency, “Will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?” vs. 10e
- 3) Saul pronounced the judgment of God on him not Paul. vs. 11
“And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord *is* upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.”
 - a) Immediately a dark mist fell on him, he could not see. vs. 11a

- b) He went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. vs. 11b
- 4) The proconsul got saved. vs. 12
 - a) He believed, the expression through the book of Acts implies conversion, there is no reason to believe otherwise. vs. 12a
 - b) He believed when he say what had been done, the power of the Holy Spirit defeating the power of darkness. vs. 12b
 - c) He was astonished at the teaching of the Lord. vs. 12c

13:13-41 *The ministry at Antioch.*

13:13-14 The journey to Asia Minor.

- 1) The phrase “Paul and his party” set sail from Paphos. vs. 13a
 - a) The name of Paul has changed and will be so, with few exceptions.
 - b) Paul is now the leader, there has been a definite change in the leadership of the mission and through the rest of Acts.
 - c) The phrase set sail “anago” The phrase is a nautical term.
- 2) They arrived at Perga in Pamphylia. vs. 13b

- a) Perga was 170 miles from Cyprus and was the capital of Pamphylia, about 7 miles inland from the river Cestrus.
 - b) Pamphylia was between the Tarsus range and Mediterranean, bordered in the west by Lycia and in the east by Cilicia. (modern day Turkey)
- 3) John deserted them at this point. vs. 13c-e
- a) He was the nephew of Barnabas and the son of Mary the sister of Barnabas who occupied an important role in the early church. Acts 12:12
 - b) He could of departed for different reasons.
 - 1)) Sea sickness.
 - 2)) Homesickness.
 - 3)) Paul's leadership role.
 - 4)) The encounter at Paphos.
 - 5)) Dangers in Asia Minor.
 - 6)) Wrong view of the ministry.
 - c) But let me give you mine, since the scriptures are silent and all are mere speculations.
 - * I think, it was because he was not called out by the Holy Spirit!
 - d) It is believed by some, that it was here that Paul contacted malaria at this point and wanting to recover he left the swampy low lands to the mountain regions of Galatia of 3,600 feet above sea level.

13:14 The journey to Antioch of Pisidia.

- 1) They went from Perga to Antioch of Pisidia. vs. 14a-b
 - a) This was Antioch in Pisidia distinct from the one in Syria.
 - b) Antioch in Pisidia, directly 100 miles north, through the Tarsus mountains.
 - c) The area was called Phrygia Galatica,
- 2) They went to the synagogue and sat down. vs. 14c

13:15-16 The rulers of the synagogue asked them if they had a word of encouragement.

- 1) This was after the reading of the Law and Prophets, which is the same all over yearly. vs. 15a
 - * The passages were out of Deuteronomy and Isaiah.
- 2) The rulers were the ones responsible for the oversight of the service. vs. 1b-f
- 3) Paul addressed the congregation. vs. 16
 - a) He the Jews, Israel. vs. 16a-c
 - b) He addressed the proselytes, those that feared God, the Gentiles. vs. 16d

13:17-41 Paul's first recorded sermon which is very similar to Stephen's.

- 1) Paul reviews their history from the exodus to David to show God's faithfulness to Israel. vs. 17-22

- 2) Paul proclaims Jesus the Messiah through the seed of David using the Old Testament scriptures. vs. 23-41
- a) History.
 - b) Apologetical.
 - c) Doctrinal, Justification by faith the great theme of Paul. Rom. 5; Gal.. 2
 - d) Practical.

13:42-52 *The outcome at Antioch.*

13:42-43 Some believed the gospel of Christ.

- 1) The Gentiles begged them to preach the next Sabbath, hungering after the word of God. vs. 42
- 2) Many Jew and devout proselytes spoke and persuades Paul and Barnabas to continue in the grace of God. vs. 43

13:44-47 The following Sabbath meeting.

- 1) The entire city gathered to hear the word of God. vs. 44
 - a) This is not an exaggeration but the truth!
 - b) This was the work of the Holy Spirit they had been called out to do!
- 2) The unbelieving Jews opposed the work of God. vs. 45
 - a) The Jew seeing the multitudes were filled with envy. vs. 45a

- b) They contradicted and blasphemed and opposed the things spoken by Paul. vs. 45b
 - * Jesus brought a sword to divide. Matt. 10:34

- 3) The apostles proclaim the prophetic scripture their rejection and their turning to the Gentiles. vs. 46-47
 - a) Is. 49:6
 - b) They judge themselves unworthy of eternal life, God did not predestined them to reject the gospel! Acts 28:25

13:48-49 The outcome of the preaching of the word of God.

- 1) The Gentiles responded with gladness and glorified the word of the Lord. vs. 48a-b
- 2) The ones appointed to eternal life believed. vs. 48c
 - a) The phrase “ordaining to eternal life” focuses on man’s “free will” more than God’s Predestination as Paul shows by their own rejection, judging themselves unworthy of eternal life, for God has never predestined anyone to damnation but that all come to repentance. vs. 46
 - b) Predestination is very much part of salvation and is found in the scripture and always involves God’s

foreknowledge. Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:4, 5, 11, 12; 1Pet. 1:2

- c) The fact is that word ordained or appointed “tasso” is found eight times in the New Testament and has a variety of meanings and none of them carry the meaning of a decree from God or of anything that is unchangeable or eternal.
- d) Liddell and Scott Greek dictionary offers a number of alternate meanings, but “ordain” or “foreordain” is not one of them.
- 1)) The word is translated “addicted”, speaking about the house of Stephanas, who had addicted themselves to the ministry. 1Cor. 16:15
 - 2)) Three other times it is translated “appointed”. Matt. 28:16, Acts 13:48, 22:10, 28:23
 - 3)) Once “determined”. Acts 15:2
 - 4)) Once “placed under”. Lk. 7:8
* These are all from the NKJV.
 - 5)) Many Greek experts suggest that the word in Acts 13:48, should be translated “determined” (decided) like in Acts 15:2, suggesting that the Gentiles had disposed themselves or determined to believe. (Hunt:210)

13:50-52 The persecution by the Jews an joy of the Christians.

- 1) But the Jews stirred up prominent men and women of the city to persecute Paul and Barnabas, expelling them from the city. vs. 50
- 2) They shook the dust off their feet and were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. vs. 51
* They were innocent of their blood, the word they had rejected would judge them in the end. Matt. 10:14; Mk. 6:11; Lk. 9:5
- 3) The disciples, those who had excepted the gospel were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. vs. 52