

## Acts 13:13-52 **Ministry in Antioch of Pisidia**

### Travel from Paphos to Perga in Pamphylia

13 Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

### From Perga to Antioch in Pisidia – Invited to speak in the Synagogue

14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. 15 And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on."

### History of Israel in a nutshell

16 Then Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: 17 The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it. 18 Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness. 19 And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment. 20 After that He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. 21 And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. 22 And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'

### Introduction of Jesus through John the Baptist

23 From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior--Jesus-- 24 after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25 And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not He. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.'

### Message of Salvation to the Jews first

26 "Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent.

### Jesus fulfilled all prophecies of the Messiah of Israel

27 For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him. 28 And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. 29 Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb.

### God raised Jesus from the dead – We are witnesses – Evidence of Scripture

30 But God raised Him from the dead. 31 He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. 32 And we declare to you glad tidings--that promise which was made to the fathers. 33 God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:

'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'

34 "And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus:

'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'

35 "Therefore He also says in another Psalm:

'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.'

36 "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; 37 but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. 38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; 39 and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. [\[Acts 13:36-39, 2:29-32\]](#)

40 Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you:

41 "Behold, you despisers, Marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, A work which you will by no means believe, Though one were to declare it to you.' "

### Jews and Proselytes (Gentiles converted to Judaism), requested to hear more next Sabbath

42 So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. 43 Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

### Preaching next Sabbath – Multitude interested offended the Jews who opposed message

44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

### Turn to the Gentiles

46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us:

'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

### Gentiles gladness

48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.

### Persecution from the Jews

50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.

### On to Iconium – Disciples filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit

51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### Travel from Paphos to Perga in Pamphylia

✚ From **Salamis** on the east coast of the Island of Cyprus, Paul and Barnabas had crossed the island to **Paphos**. [\[Acts 13:5-6\]](#)

- ✧ **Paphos** was the major seaport on the west coast of the Island of Cyprus, about 100 miles from Salamis.
- ✧ Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem. [Acts 13:13]
- ✧ **Perga** was the capital city of **Pamphylia**. It was a port city on the Cestrus river about seven miles from its mouth. The river was then navigable by ship to the city.
- ✧ **Pamphylia** was the Southern province of Asia Minor bounded on the North by Pisidia separated by the Taurus range, on the East was Isauria and on the West was Lycia, the South border was the Mediterranean Sea.
- ✧ John Mark returned to Jerusalem from Perga.

#### From Perga to Antioch in Pisidia – Invited to speak in the Synagogue

- ✧ But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "**Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.**" [Acts 13:14-15]
- ✧ Traveling Northward over the Taurus mountain range, they came to Antioch in Pisidia.
- ✧ **Pisidia** was a mountainous district in Asia Minor, bounded on the South by Pamphylia, on the north and west by Phrygia and Lycia, and on the East by Lycaonia and Cilicia.
- ✧ It was most likely in the mountains of Pisidia where Paul encountered the perils of rivers and robbers mentioned in [2 Corinthians 11:26].
- ✧ **Antioch of Pisidia** was located on a plateau near the banks of the river Anthios which flows into Lake Limnai (Egridir). Its location is on the border of Pisidia and Phrygia so some have ascribed it to the territory of Phrygia, and some to Pisidia.
- ✧ In the Synagogue on the Sabbath day Paul and Barnabas were invited to speak to the congregation after the reading of the Torah section (the Law).

#### History of Israel in a nutshell

- ✧ Then Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it. Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness. And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment. After that He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.' [Acts 13:16-22]
- ✧ Paul, being a Jew of the strictest Jewish sect, a Pharisee, in a Jewish Synagogue, and speaking to Jews, made his approach with a very brief account of Jewish history which would be recognized and accepted by any Jew.
- ✧ Speaking with religious people, it is best to start with what is commonly believed, in order to achieve the most favorable possible reception for your message.
- ✧ From this attention getter, one may then lead the person to new concepts.

#### Introduction of Jesus through John the Baptist

- ✧ **From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior-- Jesus--** after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not He. But behold, **there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.**' [Acts 13:23-25]

- ✧ Jesus was raised up by God as a Savior for Israel. [Acts 13:23]
- ✧ Jesus was first preached by John the Baptist who introduced Him as the, "One coming after me, Whose sandals I am not worthy to loosen." [Acts 13:25, Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:7, Luke 3:16, John 1:26-27]

### Message of Salvation to the Jews first

- ✧ "Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, **to you the word of this salvation has been sent.** [Acts 13:26]
- ✧ Paul is still following the pattern of taking the Gospel message to the Jews first. The message of the **Gospel was taken first to the Jews**, as they had been appointed to be the people to bring the light of God to the world. [Isaiah 42:6, 49:6, Matthew 10:5-6, 15:24, Acts 11:19, 13:5, 14:1, 17:1, 10, 17:17, 18:4-5, 19, 26:23, Romans 1:16, 2:5-10]
- ✧ John the Baptist, Jesus, and all the Apostles went **to the Jews first** with the message of Salvation.

### Jesus fulfilled all prophecies of the Messiah of Israel

- ✧ For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, **because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him.** And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. Now **when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb.** [Acts 13:27-29]
- ✧ All prophecies concerning the Messiah of Israel had been fulfilled in Jesus by the very ones who rejected Him and His message. [Matthew 26:54, 56, Mark 14:49, Luke 18:31, 24:25-27, 44, John 19:28-30]
- ✧ They had fulfilled prophecy not even knowing what they were doing, even though the messages of the prophets was read by them every Sabbath. [Acts 3:17-18, 13:27]
- ✧ They were blind regarding the identity of Jesus. [Matthew 15:13-14, 23:15-26, John 12:39-40, Romans 11:7, 25, 2 Corinthians 3:14, 4:3-4]

### God raised Jesus from the dead – We are witnesses – Evidence of Scripture

- ✧ But **God raised Him from the dead.** He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, **who are His witnesses** to the people. [Acts 13:30-31]
- ✧ Raised from the dead, seen for forty days, **we are witnesses.** [Acts 1:1-3, 2:22-24, 29-32, 13:30-31]

### Evidence of Scripture [Acts 13:32-35]

- ✧ And we declare to you glad tidings--**that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children,** in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:

'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' [Psalm 2:7]

"And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus:

'I will give you the sure mercies of David.' [Isaiah 55:3]

"Therefore He also says in another Psalm:

**'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.'** [Psalm 16:10]

### Not David but Jesus from seed of David

- ✧ "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; but **He whom God raised up saw no corruption.** [Acts 13:36-37]
- ✧ Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that **through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things** from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. [Acts 13:38-39]

- ✧ The conclusion from Scripture of Paul here, is the same as that of Peter on the Day of Pentecost, the resurrection of Jesus is proof that He is the One spoken of by the Scriptures. [Acts 2:29-32, 13:36-37]
- ✧ Only through Jesus are we granted forgiveness of sins.
- ✧ Jesus can do what the Law cannot do, that is, to provide justification from sins for everyone who believes.
- ✧ Here again, Belief is the binding factor for Salvation. [Acts 13:39, Mark 16:16, Luke 8:12, Act 16:31, Romans 1:16, 10:9, 1 Corinthians 1:21, 1 Timothy 4:10, Hebrews 10:39]

- ✧ Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you: [Acts 13:40]
  - "Behold, you despisers, Marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, A work which you will by no means believe, Though one were to declare it to you.'" [Acts 13:41, Habakkuk 1:5]
- ✧ When truths for Salvation are revealed, there are often warnings against rejection of the message, and that warning usually pertains to the Day of Judgment. [Matthew 10:15, 11:22, Mark 6:11]

### Jews and Proselytes (Gentiles converted to Judaism), requested to hear more next Sabbath

- ✧ So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the **Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.** Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the **Jews and devout proselytes** followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, **persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.** [Acts 13:42-43]
- ✧ Great interest was expressed by many of the Jews and devout proselytes (Jews and Gentiles who had converted to Judaism).
- ✧ The Gospel message was new, exciting, and brought hope not found in the rituals of Jewish law to which they were accustomed.
- ✧ Paul and Barnabas were being faithful to the command of Jesus to: **"Teach them to do everything I have commanded you."** [Matthew 28:20]

### Preaching next Sabbath – Multitude interested offended the Jews who opposed message

- ✧ **On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.** [Acts 13:44]
- ✧ But when **the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.** [Acts 13:45]
- ✧ Two aspects of human nature are revealed here.
  - ✧ When a new doctrine comes along that seems to be an improvement over the doctrine to which they were accustomed, Everyone wants to hear it out of normal curiosity.
  - ✧ The religious leaders who had held the position of traditional authority concerning things of God, resent the interest shown toward that new doctrine, just as the religious leaders in Jerusalem had rejected the message of Jesus to the extent that they killed the Lord of Glory. [1 Corinthians 2:7-8]
- ✧ This has no bearing on whether the doctrine is true or false, but it reveals the heart of mankind on both sides.

### Turn to the Gentiles

- ✧ Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, **"It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.** For so the Lord has commanded us: **'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'**" [Acts 13:46-47]
- ✧ Paul is still following the pattern of taking the **Gospel message to the Jews first.** The message of the Gospel was taken first to the Jews, as they had been appointed as the

people to bring the light of God to the world. [Matthew 10:5-6, 15:24, Acts 11:19, 13:5, 14:1, 17:1, 10, 17:17, 18:4-5, 19, 26:23, Romans 1:16, 2:5-10]

- ✧ When they turn to the Gentiles with the Gospel, Paul and Barnabas are fulfilling prophecies of prophets of old regarding the **Messiah of Israel, as a light of Salvation to the ends of the earth.** [Isaiah 42:6, 49:6, Luke 2:32]
- ✧ It was also in keeping with the commandment of God regarding the ministry Paul had been called to perform. [Acts 9:15, 13:47]
- ✧ By rejecting the message of the Gospel, the Jewish leaders made themselves **unworthy of everlasting life.**
- ✧ The presence of the **Holy Spirit** in both Paul and Barnabas was apparent in the **boldness** by which they spoke to the Jewish religious leaders. [Psalm 138:3, John 7:26, Acts 4:13, 29-31, 9:27-29, 13:46]

### Gentiles gladness

- ✧ Now **when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.** [Acts 13:48-49]
- ✧ All who had been appointed to eternal life believed. [Acts 13:48]
  - ✧ This text expresses the idea that some are appointed to be saved while others are not. Peter also agrees with the same concept, speaking of Those who believe and those who do not believe. [1 Peter 2:6-8]
  - ✧ The defining factor is whether or not one believes, Individual choice, Predestined result.
- ✧ The Word of The Lord spread throughout all the region.

### Persecution from the Jews

- ✧ **But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.** [Acts 13:50]
- ✧ Enemies of the Gospel do their best to incite others to join them in condemning the message of Salvation through Jesus our Messiah (Christ).
  - ✧ The religious leaders who had held the position of authority concerning things of God based on their traditions, resent the interest shown toward that Gospel doctrine, just as the religious leaders in Jerusalem had rejected the message of Jesus to the extent that they killed the Lord of Glory.
  - ✧ It was the traditional doctrines of men that Jesus condemned. [Matthew 15:3-6, Mark 7:6-9]
  - ✧ It is the same traditional doctrines of men that are spoken against through the Epistles. [John 7:17, Ephesians 4:14, Colossians 2:20-23, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, Hebrews 13:9, Revelation 2:14-15]

### On to Iconium – Disciples filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit

- ✧ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. [Acts 13:51-52]
- ✧ Paul and Barnabas shook off the dust from their feet as a testimony against those who reject the Gospel message in keeping with the command of Jesus. [Matthew 10:14, Mark 6:11, Luke 9:5, Acts 13:51]
- ✧ The Disciples in Antioch of Pisidia, those who believed, were filled with Joy and with the Holy Spirit.
  - ✧ There is great joy when one receives the message of the Gospel and is filled with the Holy Spirit.
- ✧ Paul and Barnabas went on to Iconium.