



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 37 – Acts 13

People — Who is involved?

Barnabas, Simeon (Niger), Lucius, Manaen, and Saul – prophets and teachers at Antioch.
Barnabas and Saul – sent out to preach
John Mark – assisting them on Cyprus, departed from them at Perga.
Bar=Jesus (Elymas) – a sorcerer at Paphos
Sergius Paulus – proconsul at Paphos (Cyprus)

Places — Where does it happen?

Antioch in Syria – prophets and teachers there. Paul & Barnabas sent out.
Salamis – city on Cyprus
Paphos – port location on Cyprus
Perga – in Pamphilia, southern Asia Minor
Antioch in Pisidia – in central Asia Minor.

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

- Vs 1 – Antioch was an important Syrian city on the northeast side of the Mediterranean, sixteen miles inland from Seleucia. The church later became one of five centers that led to the development of Roman Catholicism in early centuries (with Jerusalem, Alexandria, Constantinople, and Rome).
- Vs 1 – Prophets received direct revelation from God.
- Vs 3 – “Fasting and prayer” are mentioned occasionally in Scripture (Jer. 14:12; Neh. 1:4; Matt. 6:5, 16).
- Vs 4 – The journey to Cyprus via Seleucia is approx. 60 miles. The disciples traveled about 900 miles on this trip; probably about 15 miles avg. per day by foot. Cyprus is 140 miles long and 60 miles wide. In Acts 11:19, we read that the church had already been established on Cyprus.
- Vs 5 – Salamis was on the east coast of Cyprus and was a commercial and Jewish center on the island.
- Vs 6 – Paphos was about 90 miles to the west of Salamis on the southwest coast of the island.
- Vs 6 – It is ironic that the first opponent of Paul and Barnabas has the name “Son of Jesus.” His other name is Elymas (v. 8) which means “wise.” He was a “sorcerer” (magician) and a “false prophet.”
- Vs 7 – Sergius Paulus was proconsul; i.e. the Roman magistrate who headed the government in a senatorial province (like Cyprus) where no troops were generally required.
- Vs 8 – Elymas was an unscrupulous (v 10) Jew and tried to prohibit the proconsul from believing.
- Vs 13 – Pamphilia is a region in the south-central part of Asia Minor about 400 miles from Jerusalem. Perga was about 12 miles inland from the coast of Pamphilia and about 112 miles from Paphos.
- Vs 14 – From Perga to Antioch in Pisidia was another 100 miles. This was one of at least 16 Antiochs.
- Vs 34 – This comes from Isaiah 55:3. Verse 35 comes from Psalm 16:10. Vs. 41 comes from Habakkuk 5:1.
- Vs 47 – The reference here is to “light” in Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; and 9:2.
- Vs 51 – Iconium is ninety miles southeast of Antioch in Phrygia.

Perspectives – What may I learn from this chapter?

1. God Himself superintended the spread of the gospel; the Holy Spirit called these men.
2. The apostles were enabled to do miracles which established the truth of what they said.
3. The history of the Old Testament Jews is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.