

# Acts Of The Apostles

## Chapter Thirteen

### SUMMARY

With his attention now on the ministry of Paul, Luke narrates the beginning of Paul's first missionary journey. It started with the call of the Holy Spirit, who instructed the prophets and teachers at the church in Antioch of Syria to separate Barnabas and Saul for the work He has called them. With fasting, prayer, and the laying on of hands, the two men were sent out on their journey (**1-3**).

Sailing from Selucia, they arrived at the island of Cyprus, the home country of Barnabas (cf. **4:36**). Assisting them was John Mark (Barnabas' cousin who had joined them earlier, and was later the companion of Peter and author of the gospel of Mark; cf. **12:25; Co 4:10; 1 Pe 5:13**). Here they began what Luke later describes as Paul's custom: preaching in the synagogues of the Jews (cf. **17:1-3**).

Starting in Salamis, they made their way to Paphos, where they met the sorcerer Elymas Bar-Jesus along with the proconsul Sergius Paulus. When Sergius wanted to hear the Word of God, Elymas tried to prevent Barnabas and Saul from speaking. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul rebuked the sorcerer and rendered him sightless. Astonished at the power behind the teaching of the Lord, Sergius believes.

From this point forward, Saul is now called Paul and also became the more prominent member of the missionary team (**4-12**).

From Cyprus they sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John Mark left them to return to Jerusalem (later causing contention between Paul and Barnabas; cf. **15:36-40**). Arriving in Antioch of Pisidia, they attended the synagogue of the Jews on the Sabbath. Invited to speak, Paul preached Jesus by first reviewing the history of Israel from the Exodus to the time of David. Noting God's promise concerning the seed of David, Paul summarized the ministry of John the Baptist and then introduced Jesus as the Savior who was crucified, buried and raised from the dead, and seen by eyewitnesses. Offering further evidence of the resurrection from Old Testament prophecy, Paul proclaimed forgiveness of sins through Jesus with a warning against unbelief (**13-41**).

The response was positive, especially among the Gentiles, and Paul and Barnabas were invited to speak the following Sabbath. When unbelieving Jews saw that the whole city came out to hear, they were filled with envy and opposed the things spoken by Paul. Declared themselves unworthy of eternal life, Paul turned his efforts toward the Gentiles who were much more receptive. The word of the Lord spread through the region, but eventually Paul and Barnabas were forced to leave and thus went to Iconium. Their work in Antioch was not in vain, for left behind were disciples filled with joy and the Holy Spirit (**42-52**).

## REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
  - Departure from Antioch of Syria (1-3)
  - Ministry on the island of Cyprus (4-12)
  - Preaching in Antioch of Pisidia (13-52)
- 2) **Who were the prophets and teachers at the church in Antioch? (1)**
  - Barnabas, Simeon (Niger), Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, Saul
- 3) **Who told them to send Barnabas and Saul on their journey? (2)**
  - The Holy Spirit
- 4) **What activities helped to prepare them for their mission? (3)**
  - Fasting, prayer, the laying on of hands
- 5) **From what city did they disembark, and to where did they sail? (4)**
  - Selucia; the island of Cyprus
- 6) **Where did they first preach? Who was with them? (5)**
  - Salamis
  - John (Mark); cf. 12:25
- 7) **At Paphos, who wanted to hear the Word of God? Who sought to prevent him? (6-8)**
  - Sergius Paulus, proconsul
  - Bar-Jesus, a Jewish false prophet, also known as Elymas the sorcerer
- 8) **What did Saul do to Elymas? What affect did this have on Sergius Paulus? (9-12)**
  - Caused a dark mist to fall on him, resulting in blindness
  - Caused him to believe, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord
- 9) **Setting sail from Paphos, where did they go? Who left when they arrived? (13)**
  - Perga in Pamphylia
  - John, who returned to Jerusalem
- 10) **Where did Paul and Barnabas go next? What did they do on the Sabbath day? (14)**
  - Antioch of Pisidia
  - Attended the synagogue
- 11) **Invited to speak, what periods of Israel's history did Paul first review? (15-22)**
  - The exodus, wilderness wanderings, the judges, the kings Saul and David
- 12) **Skipping from David to his descendant Jesus, whose ministry does Paul review? (23-25)**
  - That of John the Baptist

**13) Focusing on the word of salvation, what does Paul proclaim concerning Jesus? (26-30)**

- His death, burial and resurrection

**14) What evidence does Paul provide for the resurrection of Jesus? (31-37)**

- Testimony of witnesses
- Testimony of scripture

**15) What does Paul preach in the name of Jesus? (38-39)**

- Forgiveness of sins
- Justification not provided by the Law of Moses

**16) With what does Paul conclude his sermon? (40-41)**

- A warning against unbelief, as forewarned in the Scriptures

**17) Who begged to hear more the next Sabbath? (42)**

- The Gentiles

**18) Who followed Paul and Barnabas? (43)**

- Many of the Jews and devout proselytes

**19) What happened on the next Sabbath? (44-45)**

- The whole city came to hear the word of God
- Envious Jews began to contradict and blaspheme, opposing Paul

**20) What did Paul say of those who rejected the gospel? (46)**

- They judged themselves unworthy of eternal life (i.e., not God, cf. **1 Ti 2:3-4; 2 Pe 3:9; Re 22:17**)

**21) What happened next, as foretold by the prophet Isaiah? (46-48)**

- Paul turned to the Gentiles, many who gladly received the word

**22) What sort of people were ordained to eternal life and thus believed? (48)**

- Those glad to hear and glorify the Word (i.e., those of good and noble hearts, willing to receive the seed of the gospel which produces faith, cf. **Lk 8:15; Ac 17:11; Ro 10:17**)

**23) What two opposite effects did Paul's preaching have in Antioch? (49-50)**

- The word of the Lord was spread throughout the region
- Persecution by the unbelieving Jews forced Paul and Barnabas to leave

**24) Where did Barnabas and Paul then go? What about the disciples left behind? (51-52)**

- Iconium
- They were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit

# Acts Of The Apostles

## Chapter Fourteen

### SUMMARY

Luke continues his narration of events during Paul's first missionary journey. Upon arriving in Iconium, Paul and Barnabas again visited the local synagogue. Response to their message was positive among both Jews and Greeks, but soon opposition again came from unbelieving Jews. Even so, Paul and Barnabas stayed "a long time" in Iconium, speaking boldly and performing signs and wonders.

Eventually the opposition became violent, forcing Paul and Barnabas to flee to Lystra and Derbe (1-6).

In Lystra, Paul healed a man crippled from birth (similar to Peter, cf. 3:1-10). The people assumed that Paul and Barnabas must be gods, and so named them Zeus (Barnabas) and Hermes (Paul). When the priest of Zeus prepared to offer sacrifices, the apostles tore their own clothes and barely restrained them by an impassioned speech. Not long after, Jews from Antioch and Iconium persuaded the multitudes to stone Paul and drag him outside the city. Though assumed to be dead, Paul was able to return to the city and departed the next day with Barnabas to Derbe where they preached the gospel and made many disciples (7-21).

From Derbe, Paul and Barnabas retraced their steps, strengthened the disciples in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch (Pisidia) and appointed elders in every church with prayer and fasting. Passing through Pisidia they came to Pamphylia where they preached the gospel in Perga. From there they went down to Attalia and then sailed to Antioch (Syria) from which they began their journey, where they reported to the church all that God had done with them. There they stayed for "a long time" (21-28).

### REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

**1) What are the main points of this chapter?**

- Preaching in Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (1-21)
- Confirming disciples and appointing elders (22-23)
- Return to Antioch of Syria (24-28)

**2) Upon their arrival in Iconium, what did Paul and Barnabas first do? (1)**

- They spoke at the Jewish synagogue, producing faith in many Jews and Greeks

**3) What did the unbelieving Jews do in response? (2)**

- They stirred up and poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against them

- 4) What did Paul and Barnabas do? Who was with them and how? (3)**
  - Stayed a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord
  - The Lord, who bore witness to His word by granting signs and wonders to be done by the apostles' hands
- 5) As the city became divided, what attempt was made against Paul and Barnabas? (4-5)**
  - To stone them
- 6) How did they respond to such a threat? (6-7)**
  - By fleeing to the cities of Lystra and Derbe, and preaching the gospel there
- 7) What miracle did Paul perform in Lystra? (8-10)**
  - He healed a man crippled from birth
- 8) How did the people react? What names did they give to Paul and Barnabas? (11-12)**
  - They thought that gods had come in the likeness of men
  - Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes
- 9) Who attempted to lead the city in offering sacrifices to them? (13)**
  - The priest of Zeus, whose temple was in the front of the city
- 10) How did Barnabas and Paul restrain the crowd from offering the sacrifices? (14-18)**
  - By tearing their clothes and crying out to the multitude
  - By professing themselves to be but men, and encouraging them to turn to the living God
- 11) How did the apostles describe the true God? (15-17)**
  - As the Creator of all things who bore witness of Himself through His blessings to mankind
- 12) Who then came to the city and persuaded the people to stone Paul? (19)**
  - Jews from Antioch (Pisidia) and Iconium
- 13) After Paul revived from his stoning, where did he and Barnabas go? (20)**
  - First back to Lystra, and then on to Derbe
- 14) What happened in Derbe? When they left, where did they go? (21)**
  - They preached the gospel and made many disciples
  - They retraced their steps, going back through Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch
- 15) What did they do as they made their way through such cities? (22-23)**
  - Strengthened the brethren, exhorting them to continue despite persecutions
  - Appointed elders in every church with prayer and fasting, commending them to God
- 16) Where they go after passing through Pisidia? What did they do there? (24-25)**
  - To Perga in Pamphylia, where they preached the gospel
- 17) From where did they then sail? (25-26)**

- Attalia

**18) What is significant about Antioch of Syria? (26)**

- It was where they started and ended their missionary journey

**19) What did Paul and Barnabas do upon their arrival? (27)**

- Gathered the church together and reported what God had done with them to open a door of faith among the Gentiles

**20) How long did Paul and Barnabas remain in Antioch of Syria? (28)**

- A long time