

Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"First Missionary Journey"
Acts 13:1-13 | Study 24

Acts 13 Marks a change in Acts in several ways. "Christ To The Nations."
Acts 13-28 The remainder of the book is evangelizing Gentiles and Jews.

The Gospel taken to the World - Matthew 28:18-20

Peter is no longer the main character in Acts - Saul is called Paul and leads.

Outline – Acts 1:8

**Acts 1-7 Witness To Jerusalem: My witnesses both in Jerusalem,
Acts 8-12 Witness To Judea And Samaria: and in all Judea and Samaria,
Acts 13-28 Witness To The Ends Of The Earth: remotest part of the
earth."**

Acts 13-14 Paul's 1st Missionary Journey. Paul will go on three tours, and it will culminate in him being taken in chains to Rome.

Thought Of Our Passage: "God Set Apart His Ministers, The Church Recognized It, So Did The Devil, Resulting In Opposition, And Desertion."

- 1. Verses 1-5 Commission**
- 2. Verses 6-12 Opposition**
- 3. Verse 13 Desertion**

1. Verses 1-5 Commission:

Acts 13:1 Now Luke left off with recording the 5th Persecution of the Church, which was political in nature through Herod. James was **murdered**; Peter was arrested and delivered through prayer and an angel. God then struck Herod in Judgment for his sins. **Acts 12:24-25**

at Antioch, in the church that was there, we see a shift from the church of Jerusalem to the church of Antioch. From **Acts 1-12**, It has been Jewish, with Samaritans, Cornelius' household, and Antioch. Now in **Acts 13**, Gentile's as the focus.

Verse 1 Church Leadership: prophets – *"To speak forth or to speak before, to speak forth boldly or speak in advance" Men that guide.* Prophets helped lay the foundation for the church as they proclaimed the Word of God (**Ephesians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 14:29-32**).
and teachers: These are the *"Men that ground the believers."* Instruction in the doctrines of the faith (**2 Timothy 2:2**) **Ephesians 4:11-12**

Barnabas, *Son of encouragement.* Born in Cypress. A Hellenistic Jew who was brought up outside of Judea.

Simeon who was called Niger - Latin meant "*black, dark-complexioned*" from Africa, possibly the same Simeon of **Luke 23:26** who helped carry the cross.

and Lucius of Cyrene, (*North Africa*)

and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, (*companion*) perhaps adopted, foster brother) of Herod Antipas, who had killed John the Baptist; Brought up in the court with Herod Antipas who ruled during the time of Christ.

and Saul. A religious leader turned Christian. Tribe of Benjamin, Pharisee.

Verse 2 Church Activity: Acts 13:2 While they were ministering to the Lord - We first minister to the Lord before we minister for the Lord.

and fasting, This is not commanded but assumed in the NT. **Matthew 6:17** "**But you, when you fast,**

the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul This was not man's doing but it was of the Holy Spirit. **(Divine Side)**

for the work to which I have called them." God has specific things that He has called us to do. Paul to minister to the Gentiles **Acts 9:15; 21:17-21**

Verse 3 Church Sent Off: Acts 13:3 when they had fasted and prayed

and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. OT Worshipper laid hands on the offering. *The church identified, said we are with you!*

Acts 13:4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit called by God, sent by the Holy Spirit.

Seleucia was a seaport on the Mediterranean sea just 16 miles below Antioch.

Acts 13:4-14:28 Paul's 1st Missionary Journey: took place AD. 46-to AD. 47 or 48 1-3 years is the duration.

from there they sailed to Cyprus. (127 Miles) Nicknamed "*The Happy Isle,*" Cyprus, the home of Barnabas, **Acts 4:36**. Largest populated island in the Mediterranean.

Acts 13:5 When they reached Salamis, this was on the East coast of Cyprus.

They Begin To Preach The Word: they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; the Synagogue becomes Paul's pattern for evangelism.

John-Mark Is The Team Helper: and they also had John as their helper. This word **helper** – *"one that does the hard work of another, attendant, assistant, underling."* This is John Mark, who wrote the gospel of Mark.

He was a cousin to Barnabas (**Colossians 4:10**), and his mother's home in Jerusalem was a gathering place for the believers (**Acts 12:12**).

2. Verses 6-12 Opposition:

Acts 13:6 Paphos moved ninety miles south-west to **Paphos** on the west end of the island.

Encounter With A False Prophet: They found a magician, sorcerer

a Jewish false prophet - Babylon that Israel learned about keeping clear of idols, and the occult. **Deuteronomy 18:20-22**

whose name was Bar-Jesus, which means *"Son of Jesus, Joshua, Son of Salvation, Spiritual Son of Jesus"* **Acts 13:8 Elymas** – *"Wizard, or sorcerer."*

Acts 13:7 who was with the proconsul, this Bar-Jesus was a court wizard.

the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, He was a Roman official placed over an entire province. This area was off the coast of Turkey.

a man of intelligence. This was a man who was able to think. The rational man.

This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. He has had a fascination with the occult and wants to hear the Scriptures!

Acts 13:8 But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) *"the skillful, or expert, the wise man."*

was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. There will be those who will try to get others away from Jesus and the truth.

Acts 13:9 Saul, who was also known as Paul, Jewish Roman citizen, the apostle's full name was probably *"Saul Paulus"* Jewish name – Saul Roman name - Paul

filled with the Holy Spirit, We see this over and over again, that we need to be filled.

fixed his gaze upon him, Saul had discernment of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:10 and said, "**You who are full of all deceit and fraud**, this is what the Devil uses to deceive and defraud to advance his program.

Genesis 3:1-5

you son of the devil, Paul saw him as a (tare), Barnabas and John Mark were (wheat). **John 8:44**

you enemy of all righteousness, He saw right through him and saw him as a tool of the devil to draw others away from the faith.

will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? Here was a man who was bent on doing and leading others off the correct path.

Acts 13:11 you will be blind Here was temporary blindness that came upon him.

who would lead him by the hand. God is humbling this man

Acts 13:12 Holy Spirit's Witness Was Visible: What we do - Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened,

Holy Spirit Witness Was Verbal: Empowered Teaching, what was said - being amazed "deeply impressed, shaken to the core" at the teaching

3. Verse 13 Desertion:

Acts 13:13 Now Paul and his companions - Note that Paul's name is mentioned first.

to Perga in Pamphylia; Crossed the Mediterranean to Perga. The district of Galatia, which is Asia Minor. 150 miles across the sea. Perga was 12 miles inland.

but John left them and returned to Jerusalem. We are not told the reason for this defection? Later in **Acts 15:38**, Paul considered it a weak excuse for doing so.

Later, Paul would enlist Timothy to take John Mark's place **Acts 16:1-5**. John Mark did redeem himself and was eventually accepted and approved by Paul **2 Timothy 4:11**.

Application:

- 1.** Opportunities For Greater Service Came To Those Who Were Faithfully Ministering To The Lord And Performing Their Duty.
- 2.** Those That Are Called By God Will Know It, And God Will Confirm It To Others.
- 3.** A Fellowship Should Be Willing To Let The Best Of The Fellowship Go For The Greater Progress Of The Gospel.
- 4.** We Need To See Beyond The Present Fellowship And Community: