

NOTE: For exceptional students, I have created links online to other material related to this chapter. Go to <http://LemmonsAid.WordPress.com> and type in the SEARCH BOX: Acts 13 Links

Peter—Acts 13

1st Missionary Journey Begun; Bar-jesus Blinded; Preaching at Antioch of Pisidia

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

01. **13:6... a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus**—“The magician's name was Bar-jesus, 'son of Jesus.' This man was a Jewish false prophet. Evidently he used his magical arts (slight of hand, illusions) to support his false prophecy. It is evident that he had some standing with the governor of the island, and he did not want Barnabas and Saul to do anything to upset his hold on Sergius Paulus” [Harold Littrell, *A Commentary on the Book of Acts*, p. 184].
02. **13:12... astonished at the doctrine of the Lord**—“...the changes that came over Elymas and Sergius Paulus upon this occasion were nothing compared to the change in relationship between Barnabas and Saul. From this point forward, Saul not only became known as Paul (v. 9), but thenceforth it was no longer Barnabas, but Paul who was in the lead. Thus verse 13 reveals that Paul (mentioned first) and his company loosed from Paphos, coming to Perga in Pamphylia” [Ira Y. Rice, Jr., in *The Book of Acts—II*, edited by Curtis Cates, p. 93]. ||||| **astonished**—“from ekplesso, to be struck (or smitten) out of; to blast out of; figuratively to be amazed. The gospel has such power (Rom 1:16)” [Littrell, p. 187].
03. **13:13... when he saw what was done, believed**—“...Ramsay discovered a monument in Antioch which contains the name of a lady named 'Sergia Paulla,' whom he believed was a daughter of the proconsul of Cyprus. Further, he argued, based upon certain evidential inferences, that she was a Christian (Cobern, 538-40). This may suggest that the Christian influence of Sergius Paulus lived on in some of his offspring” [Wayne Jackson, *The Acts of the Apostles—From Jerusalem to Rome*, p. 159].
04. **13:48... were ordained**—“The middle force of the verb shows the subject acting in some manner that relates to itself. Therefore they 'disposed themselves,' 'set themselves' to obtain eternal life. The passage does not teach Calvin's doctrine of predestination and foreordination. Rather, it shows that how a person determines in her/his heart determines his/her course of action. All who dispose themselves - set themselves - to obtain eternal life will do whatever is required to reach or attain that goal. Here in Acts 13:48, the people who set themselves to be saved eternally believed - with all that is implied in that word, including faithful obedience” [Littrell, p. 200].
05. **13:51... but they shook off the dust of their feet against them and came unto Iconium**—“Instead of allowing themselves to be discouraged by all this persecution at Antioch, Paul and Barnabas **shook off the dust of their feet** against their persecutors and traveled eastward approximately 100 miles to Iconium, which today is now known as Konya, Turkey. This does not mean, of course, that their words had produced no positive effect back in Antioch, for verse 52 tells that **the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost**” [Ira Y. Rice, Jr., in *The Book of Acts—II*, edited by Curtis Cates, p. 95].

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.

III. Summary.

This chapter presents Paul's first missionary journey. The great Antioch church sends Barnabas and Saul out into other fields, even though there was much to be done in the city of Antioch. There was a confrontation with one who was opposing the preaching of Barnabas and Saul and Saul put a stop to his interference immediately by the power of the Holy Spirit (vv. 9-11). After this incident, Saul is referred to as Paul and he seems to be considered by Luke the leader and Barnabas is mentioned as his companion. John Mark, at this point, goes back to Jerusalem. Verse 15 tells of the practice and custom that must have been repeated in a great many cities which Paul visited. He went to the synagogue and when asked if he had a word of exhortation, Paul preached Christ to the assembled Jews. In these synagogues he would have a good starting place for preaching Christ in that he would be talking to people whose religion he knew exceptionally well; he would be speaking to those who believed in the one True God; he could refer to the prophecies of the Messiah found in the Old Testament Scriptures and would be understood in making those references. Paul was highly motivated in his preaching because his message was one of GLAD TIDINGS (v. 32) about the FORGIVENESS OF SINS (v. 38). At Antioch of Pisidia, the Gentiles also were interested in hearing Paul's glad tidings. The sabbath day following the initial message found an immense crowd of almost the entire city coming to hear Paul's message. The Jews spoke against what Paul preached and Paul and Barnabas turned to teaching the Gentiles who had assembled. Many of them believed. Because of the opposition of the Jews, Paul and Barnabas "shook off the dust of their feet against them," and moved on to Iconium.

IV. Outline.

01. The church at Antioch sends Barnabas and Saul forth to evangelize (Acts 13:1-3).
02. Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark depart to Seleucia, Cyprus, Salamis, and Paphos (4-6).
03. Bar-jesus, after attempting to prevent the conversion of Sergius Paulus, the Pro-Consul, is made blind (7-11).
04. Sergius Paulus is converted (12).
05. John Mark leaves Paul and Barnabas (13).
06. Paul's sermon at Antioch of Pisidia (14-41).
07. Gentiles want to hear Paul's message also (42).
08. Many Jews are persuaded by Paul and Barnabas (43).
09. Because of Jewish opposition to the gospel, Paul turns to the Gentiles (44-48).
10. The gospel is preached throughout the region (49).
11. Jewish opposition moves Paul & Barnabas on to Iconium (50-52).

V. Questions.**True or False**

01. _____ Bar-jesus was the deputy of the country of Paphos.
02. _____ The Jews at Antioch of Pisidia had a problem with ENVY.
03. _____ John Mark listened closely to Paul's sermon recorded in this chapter.
04. _____ Forgiveness of sins was not included in Paul's preaching on the first Sabbath he spent at Antioch.
05. _____ Paul accused the Jerusalem Jews of ignorance of the Scriptures.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Which of the following does Luke NOT record about Bar-jesus: (a) he was a sorcerer; (b) he was a disciple of John; (c) he was a false prophet; (d) he was a Jew.
07. _____ What characterized BOTH Paul and Barnabas when they were opposed by the Jews: (a) they avoided any confrontation; (b) they were frightened; (c) they waxed bold.
08. _____ Paul taught the Jews at Antioch that something could NOT happen through the law of Moses, WHAT: (a) perfection; (b) revelation; (c) justification.
09. _____ Paul called the message he declared unto them: (a) a psalm; (b) glad tidings; (c) the seed of the kingdom.
10. _____ Paul said, that the Jews of Jerusalem fulfilled WHAT in condemning Christ: (a) their own wishes; (b) the times; (c) the voices of the prophets.

Fill in the Blanks

11. On the second Sabbath at Antioch of Pisidia, _____ the _____ came to hear Paul and Barnabas.
12. “_____ **Barnabas and Saul for the _____ whereunto I have _____ them,**” said the _____.
13. Paul quoted from the prophet _____ as a warning to these Antioch Jews to hearken to his message.
14. “**Paul stood up, and _____ with his _____ said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God,** _____.”
15. _____ was another preacher that Paul mentioned in his sermon who also preached about Christ.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found in next week's handout

ANSWERS to Acts 12 Questions .. (1) True, Acts 12:22; (2) False, Acts 12:3; (3) True, Acts 12:19; (4) False, Acts 12:9; (5) True, Acts 12:12-13; (6) c, Acts 12:25; (7) c, Acts 12:20; (8) b, Acts 12:19; (9) a, Acts 12:11; (10) c, Acts 12:13-15; (11) John, Zebedee, twelve, apostles, Acts 12:2, Mt 10:2; (12) not, God, the, glory, Acts 12:23; (13) iron, city, accord, Acts 12:10; (14) no, small, stir, Acts 12:18; (15) his, angel, Acts 12:15.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **...AND WHEN THEY HAD FASTED AND PRAYED, AND LAYED THEIR HANDS ON THEM, THEY SENT THEM AWAY** (Acts 13:3). This was the response of the Antioch brethren to the Holy Spirit's charge: **SEPARATE ME BARNABAS AND SAUL**. Fasting, praying, and laying hands on Barnabas and Saul was the means used to SEPARATE them. The whole congregation is not actually mentioned here, but surely the use of the word SEPARATE implies the inclusion of the whole body. On this occasion of sending out missionaries these Christians humbled themselves through fasting and asked for God's guidance through prayer. The laying on of hands seems to be an expression of their unity of purpose with Paul and Barnabas.
2. **SERGIUS PAULUS, A PRUDENT MAN** (Acts 13:7). WHO is a prudent man?...
- 01) Sergius Paulus is described as a PRUDENT man. From the word *sunetos*, which means intelligent, wise, learned, having understanding and quick and correct perceptions.
 - 02) King David, at a very young age, was also described as being prudent (1 Sam 16:18).
 - 03) The prudent man does not believe blindly (Prov 14:15).
 - 04) The prudent man is able to receive reproof properly (Prov 15:5).
 - 05) A prudent man gets knowledge (Prov 18:15).
 - 06) A prudent man is on the lookout for evil and stays away from it (Prov 22:3).

- 07) God pronounced WOE upon the man who **only THINKS** himself to be prudent (Isa 5:21).
- 08) A prudent man will understand the way of the Lord (Hos 14:9).
- 09) A prudent man will sometimes KEEP SILENT (Amos 5:4-15).
- 10) It has to be obvious that this prudent man, Sergius Paulus, demonstrated his wisdom by seeking to hear the word of God—All men who seek the word of God for answers ARE prudent!
3. **BUT ELYMAS THE SORCERER ... WITHSTOOD THEM, SEEKING TO TURN AWAY THE DEPUTY FROM THE FAITH** (Acts 13:8). Surely one of the worst acts one could engage in is seeking to turn someone away from the faith by perverting the right ways of the Lord. In our times there are MANY forces engaged in that very thing. Can you think of some?
4. **O FULL OF ALL SUBTLETY AND ALL MISCHIEF, THOU CHILD OF THE DEVIL, THOU ENEMY OF ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS, WILT THOU NOT CEASE TO PERVERT THE RIGHT WAYS OF THE LORD?** (Acts 13:10). This is a pretty graphic description of those who oppose true teaching. We need to be aware of false teachers (1 Jn 4:1) and to develop a hatred for the false teaching they do. We must continue to love them because they have a soul that is just as precious to the Lord as any, but **HATE THE TEACHING** and do whatever we can to oppose it and win the teachers away from their error. *In the place of allowing Elymas to influence the deputy away from the truth, Paul spoke up boldly in opposition to Elymas' perversion of the truth.* It is worth noting that Elymas would not be able to leave the presence of Paul without knowing that the thing he was doing was **WRONG**, seriously **WRONG** and needed to be stopped!
5. **...IF YE HAVE ANY WORD OF EXHORTATION FOR THE PEOPLE, SAY ON. THEN PAUL STOOD UP, AND BECKONING WITH HIS HAND SAID, MEN OF ISRAEL, AND YE THAT FEAR GOD, GIVE AUDIENCE** (Acts 13:15-16). What about seizing opportunities that come our way to speak up for the gospel of Christ? What an invitation Paul received! What an answer he gave. Are we ready to give an answer (1 Pet 3:15)? When ideas that contradict Bible truth are stated in our presence, do we feel any responsibility to speak up for that which is true and right and good?
6. **...JOHN DEPARTING FROM THEM RETURNED TO JERUSALEM** (Acts 13:13; cf., 15:36-41). Evidently, at least in Paul's eyes, John Mark put his hands to the plow and **DID** look back (Lk 9:61-62). However, he must have repented, becoming useful to Paul (2 Tim 4:10). We should follow Paul's example in being willing to forgive and work with one who has made mistakes in the past.
7. **...MEN OF ISRAEL, AND YE THAT FEAR GOD, GIVE AUDIENCE...** (Acts 13:16). Paul's purpose for participating in this Jewish assembly on the Sabbath was **NOT** to encourage them to continue following Moses, but to preach to them the gospel of Christ. **WE DECLARE UNTO YOU GLAD TIDINGS** (13:32).
8. **THE GOD OF THIS PEOPLE OF ISRAEL...** (13:16ff). Whenever we are given the opportunity to speak about the gospel of Christ, do we think about the **particular audience** to which we are speaking? Paul did not give the same sermon here that the later gave to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17). Paul talked here about Jewish history and how God's plan for redeeming men had been working through the history of the Jews. The more we can know about those with whom we study the Bible, the better success we should have.
9. **HE RAISED UP DAVID TO BE THEIR KING... A MAN AFTER MINE OWN HEART** (Acts 13:22; cf., 1 Sam 13:14). What qualities did David possess which fit the description?
- 1) Here, the main point is that David would be a different sort of king than was King Saul.
 - 2) In contrast to the rebellion of Saul, David would be a king who would not rebel.
 - 3) David would make the will of God the great rule and law of his reign.
 - 4) There was a strong desire in David's heart to have a close fellowship with God (2 Sam 7:2).

- 5) When David did sin and it was pointed out to him that he had sinned against God, he repented (2 Sam 12:13-14). David did indeed sin and made many mistakes, but being separated from God by sin was not anything that appealed to him.
- 6) David was unwilling to receive free of charge an offering that he would in turn offer to God (1 Sam 24:24).
- 7) To read and study the many psalms written by David will be evidence enough that David was a man after God's own heart.
10. **AND WE DECLARE UNTO YOU GLAD TIDINGS** (Acts 13:32). The resurrection of Jesus is the assurance of our own resurrection to live eternally with the Lord and the redeemed of all the ages (1 Cor 15:19). Our message to lost mankind is most assuredly **GLAD TIDINGS!** The resurrection of Jesus was a prominent part of the preaching of the first century.
11. **...I WILL GIVE YOU THE SURE MERCIES OF DAVID** (Acts 13:34). The reference here is to Isaiah 55:3. The everlasting covenant is here mentioned as a synonym for the "sure mercies of David." This speaks of the gospel which was to come through the Christ, of the lineage of David. Here is another beautiful word picture for the saving message of the gospel which Paul was proclaiming at Antioch of Pisidia.
12. **BE IT KNOWN UNTO YOU THEREFORE, MEN AND BRETHREN...** (Acts 13:38-39). Sometimes preachers try to avoid hurting the feelings of people to the extent that they leave certain subjects untouched, not Paul! The Jews needed to receive Christ and His law and put aside the law of Moses if they were to be saved and that is the very message Paul delivered. Paul told them to **BEWARE** (vv., 40-41); they might be tempted not to believe his message, but he was going to be faithful to declare it to them.
13. **...SEEING YE PUT IT FROM YOU, AND JUDGE YOURSELVES UNWORTHY OF EVERLASTING LIFE...** (Acts 13:46). Paul did not make the decision for these Jews, he preached the gospel to them and allowed them to accept or reject it. Every soul living today **DESERVES** to have the same opportunity!!! Let's don't simply "write off" some without giving them the opportunity to respond.
14. **...AND AS MANY AS WERE ORDAINED TO ETERNAL LIFE BELIEVED** (Acts 13:48). *Does this verse teach Calvinist's system of the elect and the non-elect? NO!* Before the foundation of the world God ordained that whoever would submit to His will would receive eternal life. It has **ALWAYS** been a matter of man's choice as to whether or not he is willing to do that submitting. This passage does **NOT** suggest that there is some certain number of people who are in the saved category and that this number is **FIXED** and cannot be added to nor taken from because of God's selection. The text is telling us that those who obeyed the will of the Lord were in that class of people who can have eternal life through Jesus Christ.
15. **BUT THEY SHOOK OFF THE DUST OF THEIR FEET AGAINST THEM AND CAME UNTO ICONIUM** (Acts 13:51). There comes a time when it is necessary to shake of the dust. When Paul and Barnabas did this, they were following the Lord's teaching in Luke 9:5. Some people will reject the saving message and the messengers will have to go on to others to make it available to them. In strong contrast to the Muslims who would like to **FORCE** people to become Muslims who have no desire to do so, Jesus teaches us that men must decide for themselves!

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

G B A A N T I O C H A W F H R I E J L C
 M I L B V B H X G L O R I F I E D J U I
 S V V A S H E I M G V H M D W H U Z M X
 V S A E S D D N A P A U Q U S O F R P Y
 Q A L Z A P A S T O N I S H E D G B R H
 M U S I C U H U E M W N O Y R I A A S Z
 I L S S G U D E T P F D X U P W R R H C
 H Q H E E H W I M E A H O Y E G E S G E
 D E S O U N T M E I H R E P T N T E C B
 E B R A C G E U U N N J A P L I T S M I
 S V V H B D O V C B C G B L F T R U F O
 I G J V C A D G I I I E R R E C X S I M
 A H T T O L N E A G S K O P W I R C M K
 R C B O R C U R T N R X V R Y D H S T M
 D R E F Y J D P A S Y O Z H B A C W O S
 O C R G L A D A E B A S F I X R N I L X
 G J J M B W T E X S M F D X K T F U P C
 Q Y O I L F E R Z E R O C T D N G W S L
 Z E B E S O R C E R E R A J K O J C L N
 L R V O G J P W P G S O W J J C Q U L F

[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]

Acts 13

Antioch, 1	sepulchre, 29
Separate, 2	God raised him, 30
Barnabas, 2	forgiveness, 38
Saul, 2	contradicting, 45
fasted, 3	blaspheming, 45
synagogues, 5	light, 47
sorcerer, 6	glad, 48
Bar-jesus, 6	glorified, 48
astonished, 12	
give audience, 16	

This description of the cities Paul visited in the 1st Missionary Journey comes from *The Victor Handbook of Bible Knowledge*, pp. 568-69.

Between A.D. 46 and 48 Paul and Barnabas visited the following nine cities mentioned in the New Testament...

1. **ANTIOCH.** A splendidly 'modern' city of half a million people with a spectacular boulevard constructed by Herod the Great, Antioch in Syria lay about 15 miles inland from the Mediterranean Sea. Located on a major trade route, its colonnaded 90-foot-wide main street was busy with commerce. After the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Antioch became the center of Christianity, and by A.D. 400 as many as 100,000 Christians lived there.
2. **SELEUCIA.** Fifteen miles west of Antioch, Seleucia was for a brief time capital of Syria after the death of Alexander the Great. Founded by Seleucus I in 300 B.C. and busy with naval activity during Roman times, the city declined when the harbor filled with silt. After a days journey from Antioch, Paul and Barnabas sailed for Cyprus from here.
3. **SALAMIS (on Cyprus).** Tradition tells us that the city was named after the island in Greece from which Teucer, its founder, came. In Greek and Roman times Salamis was prosperous as a result of an excellent harbor. The New Testament reveals that many Jews lived here and that Salamis had its own synagogue. How long Paul and Barnabas stayed here we do not know, but Barnabas made a second visit with John Mark and, according to tradition, was martyred here under Nero.
4. **PAPHOS (on Cyprus).** Located across the island on the west, Paphos was the capital of Cyprus. Barnabas and Paul visited New Paphos, a Roman city which had only recently been rebuilt by Caesar Augustus. The old city with its temple to Aphrodite lay about 10 miles southeast.
5. **PERGA.** Located in the roman province of Pamphylia, Perga was northwest of Cyprus in Asia Minor. Twelve miles east of Attalia (the important modern port of Antalya) on to avoid Cilician pirates, it had a famous temple dedicated to Artemis (Diana). The ruins of a theater that could have held 13,000 people and dates back to the first century can still be seen.
6. **ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA.** Seleucus, founder of the Syrian dynasty that took his name, founded this Antioch too. Strictly speaking not part of Pisidia, Antioch became part of the Roman province of Galatia in 25 B.C. and could therefore justifiably be called Galatian Antioch. A fortified Roman colony and capital of southern Galatia, it controlled the area's barbarian tribes.
7. **ICONIUM.** A two or three-day trip from Antioch along the Via Sebaste, Iconium was an oasis entrance to an enormous plain after crossing through a mountain pass. On the trade route leading west to Ephesus and Rome, it became a Roman colony under Hadrian.
8. **LYSTRA.** Twenty miles southwest of Iconium through the cool Galatian plateau, Lystra was founded by Caesar Augustus. A statue to Zeus and Hermes (Jupiter and Mercury to the Romans) has been discovered here. ...
9. **DERBE.** Today an uninhabited sheep land, Derbe was about 25 miles southeast of Lystra. On the borders of the roman province of Galatia, it was a frontier town of no special significance. To have gone further east would have taken Paul and Barnabas into Cappadocia.