

## Acts 13 & 14

## Lesson 13

# Beginning the First Missionary Journey, Opposition Faced, Completion of the First Journey

### Outline Chapter 13

- I. From Antioch to Cyprus** (vv. 1-12)
  - A. *Saul and Barnabas sent forth* (vv. 1-3)
  - B. *Preaching in Cyprus* (vv. 4-12)
  
- II. At Antioch in Pisidia** (vv. 13-52)
  - A. *From Paphos to Antioch* (vv. 13-15)
  - B. *Paul's sermon in Antioch* (vv. 16-41)
    - 1. A brief history of Israel awaiting the Messiah (vv. 16-22)
    - 2. Israel has a savior: Jesus (vv. 23-39)
      - a. John's testimony about Jesus (vv. 23-25)
      - b. Jesus put to death –fulfilled prophecy (vv. 26-29)
      - c. Jesus raised from the dead (vv. 30-37)
      - d. Remission of sins proclaimed (by faith) through Jesus (vv. 38-39)
    - 3. A warning about unbelief (vv. 40-41)
  - C. *Results of the sermon* (vv. 42-52)
    - 1. Interest of the Gentiles aroused (vv. 42-43)
    - 2. Jews become envious (vv. 44-52)
      - a. Refused the word and persecute (vv. 44-49)
      - b. Paul and Barnabas depart to Iconium (vv. 50-52)

### Key Verse that Summarizes the Chapter

#### Acts 13:2

*As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said,  
"Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work  
to which I have called them."*

## Outline Chapter 14

### Opposition Faced and Completion of the First Journey

#### I. At Iconium (vv. 1-7)

- A. *Great multitudes (Jews and Gentiles) believed (v. 1)*
- B. *Some unbelieving Jews created a stir (vv. 2-7)*
  - 1. Poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against the brethren (v. 2)
  - 2. Great debate (vv. 3-4)
  - 3. Attempted to abuse and stone the apostles (v. 5)
  - 4. Paul and Barnabas fled to Lystra and Derbe (vv. 6-7)

#### II. At Lystra (vv. 8-20a)

- A. *Crippled man healed (vv. 8-10)*
- B. *People attempted to worship Paul and Barnabas (vv. 11-18)*
  - 1. Offered praise and prepared to sacrifice (vv. 11-13)
  - 2. Paul and Barnabas responded (vv. 14-18)
    - a. We are men like you (vv. 14-15a)
    - b. Preach: that you should turn from these things to the living God (vv. 15b-17)
  - 3. Scarcely restrained them (vv. 18)
- C. *Jews (from Antioch and Iconium) persuaded the multitudes and stoned Paul (vv. 19-20a)*

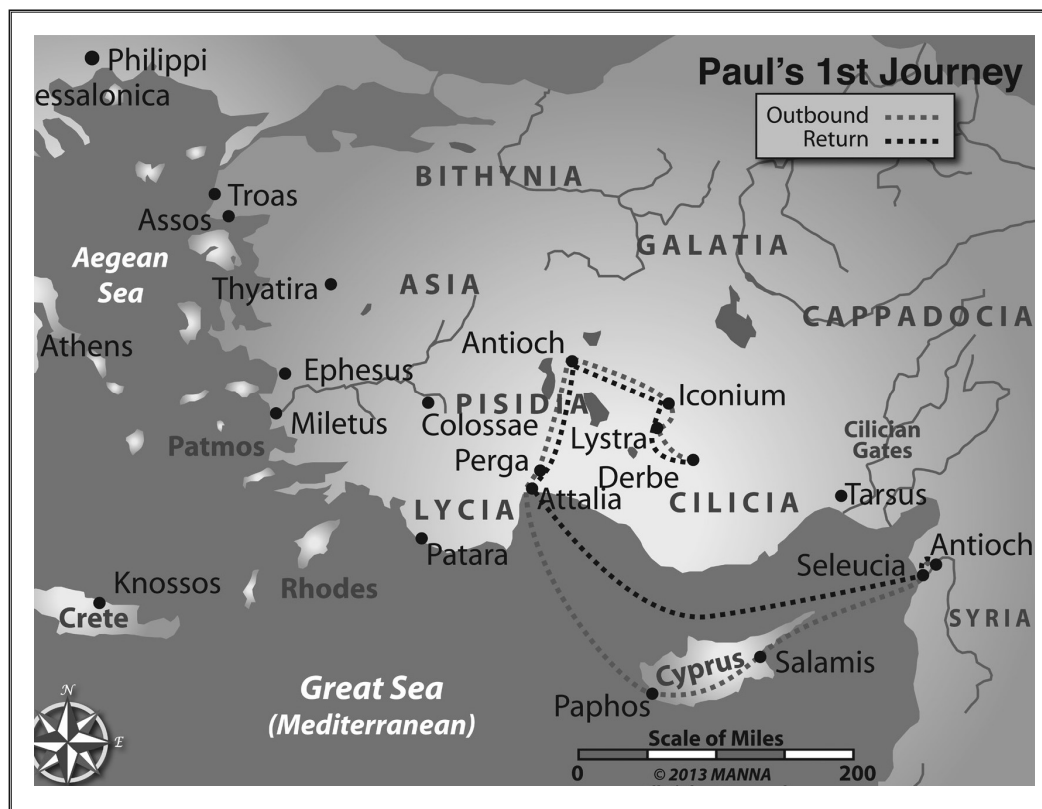
#### III. At Derbe and the Return Trip Home (vv. 20b-28)

- A. *Many believed at Derbe (vv. 20b-21a)*
- B. *Returned home via revisiting churches (vv. 21b-28)*
  - 1. At Lystra, Iconium and Antioch (vv. 21b-23)
    - a. Strengthened and exhorted (vv. 21b-22)
    - b. Appointed elders in every church (v. 23)
  - 2. At Perga – preached (vv. 24-25a)
  - 3. Back at Antioch (vv. 25b-28)
    - a. Reported their work (v. 27)
    - b. Stayed a long time (v. 28).

### Key Verse that Summarizes the Chapter

#### Acts 14:22

*Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."*



With this lesson we begin the second section of the book – The Gospel to the Uttermost Parts of the World (13-28).<sup>1</sup> The focus will be on Paul and his work among the Gentiles. These two chapters record Paul's first missionary journey. This journey covers 1200 miles and lasts 3-4 years (45 A.D. – 49 A.D.). Antioch becomes home base for Paul and his work. The church at Antioch is the first church among the Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas spend a year working with the church. This congregation is a notable example of an evangelistic church that has a real interest in spreading the gospel beyond their region

### From Antioch to Cyprus (13:1-12)

*Saul and Barnabas sent forth* (vv. 1-3). There are five prophets<sup>2</sup> and teachers listed here. Barnabas<sup>3</sup> and Saul have been seen previously in the book. Little is known about the other

1 Refer back to the outline in the introduction.

2 Prophets had come to Antioch with Agabus (Acts 11:27-28). Perhaps these were some of those prophets.

3 Acts 4:36-37; 9:27; 11:22-30; 12:24-25.

three: Simeon was called Niger,<sup>4</sup> Lucius was of Cyrene,<sup>5</sup> and Manaen was identified as having been brought up with Herod the tetrarch.<sup>6</sup>

The Holy Spirit instructed them to send Barnabas and Saul out to do the work of preaching (v. 2). The brethren fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on them (to appoint them to the work<sup>7</sup>) and sent them away (v. 3).

*Preaching in Cyprus*<sup>8</sup> (vv. 4-12). They first came to Salamis on the east side of the island and preached in the synagogues. John Mark was taken along on the trip to help in the work (v. 5; cf. 12:25). Then they crossed over the island to Paphos. There they taught a man, Sergius Paulus, who was a Roman official, the proconsul. However, there was a false teacher there named Bar-Jesus (Aramaic), but also called Elymas (Greek) who was a sorcerer and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith (v. 8). Saul, whose name is changed here to Paul, severely rebuked him calling him a deceiver, a fraud, son of the devil, and an enemy of righteousness (v. 10). Paul said he was perverting the ways of the Lord (v. 10). Elymas was struck blind by the apostle (v. 11). When the proconsul saw this, he believed (v. 12). He was astonished at the teaching of the Lord. Here is a progress report.

### At Antioch in Pisidia (13:13-52)

*From Paphos to Antioch* (vv. 13-15). Leaving Paphos they came to Perga (in Pamphylia). There John Mark left and went back to Jerusalem (v. 13).<sup>9</sup> From Perga they came to Antioch of Pisidia, went into the synagogue and listened to the reading of the Law and Prophets. The leaders in the synagogue asked Paul and Barnabas if they wanted to speak (v. 15).

*Paul's sermon in Antioch* (vv. 16-41). Paul's sermon had three major points.

1. **A brief history of Israel awaiting the Messiah** (vv. 16-22). Paul's summary of Old Testament history is very brief. His point: God was working with the nation of Israel through whom the Messiah came.
2. **Israel has a savior: Jesus** (vv. 23-39). From the seed of David God raised up a savior, Jesus (v. 23). John the baptizer prepared the way for the coming of the Jesus (vv. 23-25). However, those in Jerusalem and their rulers didn't understand what John and the prophets foretold, though they had opportunity in the reading of the prophets every

4 "Niger is a Latin name meaning black, and the title evidently had some allusion to his color. It appears that he was a Black" (Gareth L. Reese, *Acts*, 454). This was probably given to distinguish him from others named Simeon.

5 From North Africa. Probably the same one mentioned in Romans 16:21.

6 "The word translated here as 'which had been brought up,' *suntrofos* (NT:4939), denotes 'one who is educated or nourished at the same time with another.' It is not used elsewhere in the New Testament. He might have been connected with the royal family, and, being nearly of the same age, was educated by the father of Herod Antipas with him. He was, therefore, a man of rank and education, and his conversion shows that the gospel was not confined entirely in its influence to the poor" (Albert Barnes, *Barnes' Notes*, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by BibleSoft).

7 This was done in the appointment of the seven (Acts 6:6).

8 Home of Barnabas (Acts 4:36).

9 We do not know why he left, but Paul didn't think his decision was good (cf. Acts 15:36-41).

Sabbath (v. 27). Consequently, they fulfilled the scriptures in condemning him to death (vv. 28-29). But God raised him from the dead (v.30). The evidence he gave included the eyewitnesses (vv. 31-32), fulfillment of prophecy (vv. 33-37), and the empty tomb (v. 37). Thus, remission of sins is proclaimed (by faith) through Jesus (vv. 38-39). This justification was not possible by the Law of Moses.

3. **A warning about unbelief** (vv. 40-41). The sermon concluded with a warning (from Habakkuk 1:5) that those who reject the message and do not believe would perish.

*Results of the sermon* (vv. 42-52). The interest of the Gentiles was aroused so they begged for more the next Sabbath (vv. 42-43). When they came together the next Sabbath, the Jews became envious (vv. 44-45). They refused the word and opposed it (v. 45). Paul and Barnabas were expelled from the region, so they departed to Iconium (vv. 50-52).

### **At Iconium (14:1-7)**

*Great multitudes (Jews and Gentiles) believed* (v.1). At Iconium they went to the synagogue and a great multitude believed. Here is another progress report.

*Some unbelieving Jews created a stir* (vv. 2-7). Some unbelieving Jews poisoned the minds of some against those who accepted the truth (v. 2). Paul and Barnabas stayed a while preaching and defending the truth, but the city was divided (vv. 3-4). There was an attempt to abuse and stone the apostles (v. 5). When they became aware of it, they went to Lystra and Derbe (vv. 6-7).

### **At Lystra (14:8-20a)**

*Crippled man healed* (vv. 8-10). At Lystra a man crippled from birth was healed. He leaped and walked.

*People attempted to worship Paul and Barnabas* (vv. 11-18). Because of the miracle, the people treated Paul and Barnabas as gods (v. 11). They called Barnabas Zeus<sup>10</sup> and Paul Hermes.<sup>11</sup> The priest of Zeus brought oxen and attempted to sacrifice them in worship to Paul and Barnabas (v. 13). The apostles refused the worship saying they were just men and they preached that men were to turn away from such practices to serve the living God (vv. 14-18).

*Jews (from Antioch and Iconium) persuaded the multitudes and stoned Paul* (vv. 19-20a). Unbelieving Jews came from Antioch of Pisidia and Iconium and persuaded the multitude to turn against Paul. So they stoned Paul, dragged him out of the city, and left him for dead (v. 19). The brethren gathered around him and he rose up and went back into the city (v. 20). The next day he and Barnabas departed for Derbe.

---

10 Zeus (Greek name). The KJV uses the name Jupiter (Roman name). "Jupiter was the most powerful of all the gods of the ancients...The Father of gods and men" (Albert Barnes, *ibid.*)

11 Hermes (Greek name). The KJV uses the name Mercury (Roman name). He was the god of eloquence, the messenger of the gods.

### At Derbe and the Return Trip Home (14:20b-28)

*Many believed at Derbe* (vv. 20b-21a). Here is a brief progress report. They preached in Derbe and made many disciples.

*Returned home via revisiting churches* (vv. 21b-28). Leaving Derbe they revisited Lystra, Iconium and Antioch. Two things were accomplished in their visits with these churches.

1. **They strengthened the souls of the disciples** (v. 22).<sup>12</sup> They encouraged them to continue in the faith and not give up, but warned that it would not be easy (v.22). We don't know how much time they spent with each church but they stayed long enough to instruct, encourage, and organize each church.
2. **They appointed elders in every church** (v. 23). God's plan is for each local church to have elders.<sup>13</sup> The importance of a church having elders is seen in how quickly elders were appointed. From the time these churches were established they had elders in less than five years. It did not take decades to have elders.

Next they came to Perga and preached there and then on to Attalia (v. 25). From there they sailed back to Antioch (of Syria), not going back to Cyprus (v. 26). Paul and Barnabas reported to the church at Antioch the information of the work that had been done (v. 27). They had an interest in the work of the gospel in other places.

Paul and Barnabas stayed awhile in Antioch before traveling again (v. 28).

### Questions

1. List the "progress reports" that are found in these chapters. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Approximately how long did this first missionary journey take? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What descriptions are given about Elymas? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>12</sup> This is part of "teaching them to observe all things..." (Matt. 28:20).

<sup>13</sup> Every reference to a church having elders is always a plurality of elders.

4. What do we know about John Mark's leaving and going back home? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How would you summarize Paul's sermon at Antioch? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Paul makes a point that the Jewish leaders didn't get what the prophets were saying (13:27). Can you think of some practical application(s) from this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What was the reaction to Paul's sermon at Antioch? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What two extremes happened at Lystra that shows how fickle the people were? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How were the brethren strengthened (14:22)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. For class discussion: Discuss how quickly elders were appointed. Why do some churches not have elders after 20, 30 or even 40 years? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. For class discussion: Discuss the interest that the church at Antioch had in the work Paul and Barnabas had done. Why are some churches not that interested in the work in other places? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For Congregational Use Only