

“You Who Fear God”

Acts 13:13-26, ESV

Introduction: Solomon, at the conclusion of his observations and musings about life, wrote: “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.” - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

In this portion of Scripture Paul addresses those who fear God. Paul addresses these individuals regarding the message of “this salvation.” What does this mean? What does it mean to be identified with those who fear God? What was at the heart of Paul’s first recorded sermon?

A Report of the Situation [Context]: (v. 13-16).

A Record of the Sermon (v. 16-26):

1). **The Audience**-- Men of Israel and those who fear God (v. 16). Term used by Jews to refer to Gentiles who had left their pagan religion in favor of **worshiping** God. They did not have NT salvation. Yet. Similar to Cornelius.

2). **The Address**—(v. 17-26):

Paul gives a **brief survey of the history** of Israel (God’s sovereignly chosen people).

Key Events:

The stay in Egypt (v. 17).

The Exodus (v. 17).

The 40-year wilderness wondering (v. 18).

Conquest and possession of Palestine (v. 19).

The period of the Judges and monarchy under Saul and David (v. 21-22).

Transition to the Savior, Jesus Christ (v. 23).

Mention of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Christ (v. 24-25)

The 450 years would include the oppression in Egypt, the wilderness period, and the Conquest of Canaan under Joshua’s leadership.

3). **The Application**--

- ❖ The very Scriptures the Jews carefully studied **pointed clearly to Jesus**. Many could not accept Jesus as the Messiah because they had the wrong idea of what kind of Messiah Jesus would be. He came to serve and defeat sin in the hearts of men.
- ❖ The Jews were **proud to be God’s chosen people**. Paul would labor to explain how the gospel fulfilled the covenant, but many found this message hard to swallow.
- ❖ Paul was wise to **begin where is audience was** and move directly to Christ. The heart of faithful preaching is to move the listener in the direction of the Savior!