

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey**  
**Preaching in Antioch in Pisidia**  
**Acts 13:14-41**

Last time...The Holy Spirit called and sent Barnabas and Paul (ministered to by John Mark)  
on a mission trip

[ map ]

From Antioch in Syria

To Cyprus       preached the Gospel to Jews in Salamis  
                      preached the Gospel to the Roman governor in Paphos and  
                      bound and blinded the enemy in the sorcerer

To Perga

John Mark, being self-directed rather than Spirit-directed, stayed in Perga

An exhortation to

- be Spirit-filled
- be Spirit-led
- continue to finish your course

This time...Paul and Barnabas, following the Holy Spirit, proceed to Antioch in Pisidia

We are still in Acts 13

v14-15 Antioch in Pisidia...after the reading...word of exhortation:

John Mark stayed in Perga, wanting to go further west

Paul and Barnabas follow the Holy Spirit inland and up in elevation to the hills  
and plateaus of the Roman province of Galatia to the city of Antioch in  
Pisidia

On the following Sabbath, they went to the synagogue

- Synagogues  
When the Neb destroyed the Temple (Solomon's) in Jerusalem and  
took the people of Judah captive, houses of worship called  
synagogues came into existence  
There is no mention of them in the OT  
Opened where at least 10 Jewish men lived

- Order of authority
  1. Chief ruler
  2. Rulers/elders
  3. Minister (schoolmaster)
- Order of worship
  1. Blessing: High Priestly blessing in Num 6:24-26, by a priest if in attendance or by a ruler
  2. Reading of the Law: Minister gave the scroll to 7 readers chosen by the Chief ruler to read 7 portions
  3. Reading of the Prophets: Minister gave scroll to 1 reader chosen by the Chief ruler to read 1 portion
  4. Devotional teaching/Sermon: by the person chosen to teach
    - to be carefully prepared
    - to expound on the Scriptures
    - to conclude with the great Messianic hope of Israel
    - no interruptions or questions until the sermon ended

After the reading of the Scriptures (The Law and the prophets), a teaching/sermon was shared

The rulers of this synagogue notice the visiting brothers and invite them to share a word of exhortation (“implore” and “comfort”)

v16 Paul stood up...audience:

The leadership of the mission team has passed from Barnabas to Paul  
 So, Paul stands up, being instant in season to preach the Word,  
 as he would exhort Timothy in 2 Tim 4:2a

The audience Paul is facing:

- Men of Israel...Jews
- ye that fear God...Gentiles (converts to Judaism)

Those who worship the OTL God, the God of AI&J...Jews and Gentiles

Knowing the order of a worship service in a synagogue, Paul stands to share a short message to encourage the hearers

Given the gift of teaching (the very best spiritual gift in this moment) Paul will bring clear meaning of what was read this morning from the Law and the prophets

Paul's message/teaching

- v17-31 The Scriptures, the prophetic Word of God...Cliff Notes
- v32-39 the meaning of the Scriptures...John 5:39
- v40-41 the call to action

v17a The God...chose:

The...singular and exclusive

God of this people of Israel...the Maker of heaven and earth Who has chosen to give His Testimony (Word) to and thru AI&J, the fathers of Israel

Cliff Notes: Genesis

Gen 3:15, God's Savior/Messiah thru the righteous line  
(Adam/Seth/Noah/Shem/Abraham/Isaac/Jacob)

Is 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob,  
and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have  
redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art*  
mine.

Is 43:10 Ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant  
whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me,  
and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God  
formed, neither shall there be after me

v17b exalted...Egypt...them out:

Cliff Notes: Exodus

God exalted/lifted up His people, preserving the righteous line of His Savior  
by delivering them out of cruel bondage in Egypt

Note: Moses is not mentioned

Moses did not deliver Israel, their God did

Moses is not God's Savior promised in Gen 3

Shadows cast by real places, events, and people

- Egypt: the world
- strangers: the people of God living in a strange place, the world
- Moses: Jesus Christ
- bondage: to sin and death
- Exodus: freedom from sin and death

v18 suffered He their manners:

Cliff Notes: Numbers

The stiff-necked manners of the Jews in the wilderness wandering that  
God endured to preserve the line of His Savior

- unbelief
- murmuring
- rebellion
- fear

v19 land of Canaan:

Cliff Notes: Joshua (in Greek, Jesus)

Following God and Joshua, Israel was given victory and an inheritance

2 Chron 25:8b

help: Israel

cast down: Canaanites

God divided His land (Ezk 36:5) among the 12 tribes of Israel

The land, promised to AI&J, is their inheritance

This was not by chance like rolling dice, God's will was revealed by the casting of lots

There is no place for chance in the universe created and sustained by the God of AI&J

v20 gave judges...until Samuel:

Cliff Notes: Judges 1 – 1 Sam 7

The first and last verses in Judges say it all

Judges 1:1 Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?

Judges 21:25 In those days *there was* no king in Israel: every man did *that which* was right in his own eyes.

judges: deliverers, saviors (shadows) to preserve the righteous line of God's Savior

the last of which was Samuel

1 Sam 3:19 (but not true of his 2 sons)

v21 they desired a king...Saul:

Cliff Notes: 1 Sam 8-31

1 Sam 8:5-7 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

Knowing the hearts of His people, God gave them the kind of king they wanted...  
one of imposing physical stature  
(but a man of little spiritual stature)

v22 David...man after mine own heart:  
Cliff Notes: 2 Sam 1-7

Dan 2:21

The weakness of the flesh (Saul) exposed, God then chose His king –  
a man of imposing spiritual stature

David

- a man after My own heart...in one accord with Me, believes/trusts Me and will follow Me
- will fulfill My will...Plan of Redemption for Adam's fallen race will come thru him (God's Savior will be the Son of David)
- (a shadow)

Fast Forward in time about 1000 years...

v23 God according to His promises:

The righteous line of God's Savior has come (past tense when Paul is teaching)  
thru David...Adam/Seth/Noah/Shem/Abraham/Isaac/Jacob/Judah/David

Just as God promised to David in 2 Sam 7

- Ps 132:11      The LORD hath sworn *in* truth unto David; he will not turn from it; of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.
- Is 16:5          And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness
- Jer 33:17      For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel  
(in idolatrous, troublesome times led by the kings!)

God's Savior/Deliverer is Jesus/Joshua/"Jehovah is Salvation"

He is the Substance of all the Shadows in God's prophetic Word

He is the fulfillment of all of God's promises

Cliff Notes of v23-30: The 4 Gospels...not yet recorded on this day in Antioch in Pisidia when Paul is teaching

v24-25 John had first preached:

In keeping His promise to send a forerunner to prepare the way for His Savior  
(Is 40:3), God called John the Baptist to preach the baptism of repentance

Not a ceremonial/outer baptism of “cleansing”  
but a spiritual/inner baptism of reformation/reversal

John was sent to...the Jews, to whom God had promised His Savior  
The Jews came asking if he was the Savior; he was not, for he was a sinner  
(Ps 14:3) unworthy to untie the shoes of the (sinless) Savior  
And John finished well his course when Jesus began His ministry

v26 to you is the word of this salvation sent:

God’s Plan of Redemption is for whom?

Salvation (spiritual) is for whom?

- The children in the line of Abraham...Jews
- Whosoever reveres/worships the OTL God of AI&J

The word of this salvation

- the word of exhortation requested in v2
- Jesus...John 1:1, 14

And whosoever (Jew or Gentile) believes (Gen 15:6, Hab 2:4) is of the righteous  
line...because

v27-29 knew Him not...condemning...slain...sepulcher:

Whosoever believes is of the righteous line because they believe all God had said  
about His Savior

God foretold in the Law and the prophets (Gen 22, Ps 22, Is 53, etc) that His  
Savior would

- not be known/believed/accepted
- innocent of all wrong-being and wrong-doing yet be  
killed/murdered on a tree/Cross as a criminal
- be buried

1 Cor 15:3-4

And His own people, the people He created to be His witnesses, would be deeply,  
ignorantly, unwittingly complicit in this greatest of injustices, whereby He  
would accomplish His Plan of Redemption

The Gentiles would be equally complicit

Jew and Gentile would stand guilty before the Holy God

Next two words: “But God”

v30 But God:

“But God”...an arresting phrase that appears 39 times in Scripture

40 = justice

39 = mercy

But God...a declaration of the mercy of the just God for sinful man

In this word of salvation: But God raised Him (His Savior) from the dead

- The power of God over death, the wages/debt of sin
- God is greater than sin
- God defeated man's enemy, death (1 Cor 15:23)
- God delivered/saved man (whosoever will believe) from death (2<sup>nd</sup>, eternal)

Acts 2:22-24

v31 he was seen many days:

Acts 1:3...40 days

The risen Savior was seen/heard/handled (1 John 1:1) by His disciples,  
the 11 Apostles who are witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews

This is Paul's teaching on the Scriptures, a “history lesson” in which God's  
Plan of Redemption is summarily presented

This is the Biblical backstory for the word of exhortation (implore and comfort)  
Paul will now share

Next, the clear meaning of those Scriptures

v32-33 we declare unto you glad tidings:

Paul is the 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle, the Apostle and teacher to the Gentiles  
(Rom 11:13, 1 Tim 2:7, 2 Tim 1:11)

He and Barnabas are proclaiming the Good News of the promise kept by God!  
The promised Savior has come!  
God's Plan of Redemption of fallen man; God said, meant it, did it...  
it is finished!

How did He do it (past tense)?

By raising His Savior Jesus from the dead, by conquering death  
And on the victorious day of Resurrection, declaring Ps 2:7 fulfilled

Heb 2:9-10, 14-17

v34 no more return to corruption...sure mercies of David:

God's Savior Jesus, The Son of David, the Seed of the Woman, tasted death for all mankind in order to defeat death and pay the ransom for the sin of man  
And then God raised Him from the dead, clothing Him in a glorified body unto eternal life

God's Savior need not, will not, ever again suffer and die  
Instead, He has the sure mercies of David, the promise of the God Who cannot lie  
(Heb 6:18, Titus 1:2) establishing the eternal throne of the Eternal King

2 Sam 7:12-16

Is 55:1-4

1 Tim 1:15-17

v35-37 not suffer to see corruption:

God kept His promise in time also, in Ps 16:10  
His Savior, and only His Savior, did not see corruption

- decay of the physical body (starts on Day 4 after death)
- dust returning to dust (Gen 3:19 in the grave for all mankind)

David, the shadow, did see corruption

The promised Son of David did not see corruption, and never will, because God raised Him from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day

This promise (resurrection) of the power of God over our enemy is for whosoever believes in Jesus Christ

1 Cor 15:20-23

This promise...Resurrection, the victory of Life over death...  
the is central message of the Gospel

v38-39 Be it known to you...forgiveness of sins...justified...not be justified:

Therefore, since v17-37 is all true, know this truth

Only by the person and work/merit of Jesus Christ is proclaimed the

- forgiveness of sins
- satisfaction of God's justice (Ezk 18:4, 20)
- reconciliation of sinners (Is 59:2) to the Holy God
- breaking of the chains of sin and death
- freedom from serving Self as a servant of sin (John 8:34-36)
- grace of God that is greater than sin given to those who believe  
(John 1:17, Rom 5:20, Eph 2:8-9, John 1:12)
- justification from all sin

(Gal 2:16-21), Gal 3:6-14, Gal 3:22-29



Acts 4:12      Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved

The Gospel of Salvation is of grace, not works!  
The merit/work of God (His righteousness, His strength)  
The grace of God (for our wickedness, our weakness)

And Paul will later write to these people about their wandering from it (Galatians)

Finally, after teaching the Scriptures and clearly explaining the meaning of the Scriptures, Paul issues a call to action

v40-41    Beware, therefore, lest that come upon you:

Beware...a warning  
therefore...since v17-39 is all true  
lest that come upon you...Hab 1:5  
ye among the heathen...despisers of the Word of God that doubt and  
perish (2<sup>nd</sup> death due to unbelief)  
I work a work...God's work, not man's work  
an ear-tingling work, not an ear-tickling work  
though a man declare it unto you..."as I have this very day."  
ala Luke 4:21

The word of exhortation (v2):

Believe/trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sin!!!  
Be reconciled to God!!  
Come into the house of God – a new people called the Church,  
believing Jews and Gentiles

Acts 2:21      And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved

1 John 5:7-13

## Application/Lessons/Communion

As seen clearly in the passage of Scripture this morning...who did what?

<u>God of AI&amp;J</u>	<u>Israel</u>
Chose AI&J	
Delivered Israel out of bondage	
Endured Israel's bad manners	unbelief, murmuring, stiff-necked, etc
Destroyed the Canaanites, His enemies	
Gave Israel an inheritance	
Gave Israel judges/deliverers	rebelled
Gave Israel a king they wanted	rejected God as their King
Gave Israel a king He wanted	
Sent Salvation to/thru Israel	not know, rejected, despised, killed
Kept all His promises to/thru Israel	
Raised Jesus from the dead	
Forgives sins, the ransom paid	dead in sin without faith

Who did EVERYTHING good, who is righteous?

God of AI&J

Who did EVERYTHING bad, who needs a Savior?

Israel

This demonstrates the weakness of the Old Covenant...

The weakness of man (work, merit) to keep the commands of God

But God...[Jer 31:31-34](#)

The power of the New Covenant...

The promises of God and the power of God to keep it...Jesus' work, merit

Jesus Christ, the mediator of the New Covenant in His Body and Blood

[Matt 26:26](#) partake

[Matt 26:27-28](#) partake