

Acts- Church Afire! “History is His Story, Acts 13:16-41”
Sermon Summary & 5-Day Devotional Apr. 5th, 2026 By Rev. Paul Hudson

Sermon Summary

In Acts 13:16–41, the Apostle Paul preaches his first recorded sermon, walking through the entire history of Israel to show that God has been the architect behind every moment. From choosing Abraham, delivering Israel from Egypt, raising up leaders, and establishing King David, Paul makes it clear that history is not random—it is God’s story unfolding according to His plan. Every step in Israel’s past points forward to one climactic moment: the coming of Jesus Christ, the promised Savior.

Paul then centers everything on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Though rejected and crucified, Jesus fulfilled the very Scriptures the people knew so well, and God raised Him from the dead, proving He is the true Savior who offers forgiveness and justification. Paul closes with a clear call: there are two paths—one of life through belief in Christ, and one of judgment through rejection. Easter reveals that God is writing a story of redemption, and each person must decide which side of that story they will stand on.

Key Takeaways

1. God is the Architect of history, working all things toward His plan of redemption.
From Abraham to the resurrection, Paul shows that God is behind every turning point. History is not random—it is God’s story unfolding exactly as He intends, and that same God is actively at work in your life today.
 2. Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promises throughout history.
Every promise God made over centuries finds its completion in Jesus. The entire story of Israel points forward to Him, showing that God is faithful and that His Word never fails.
 3. The resurrection proves Jesus is the true Savior who conquered death.
Jesus did not remain in the grave—God raised Him to life, confirming that He is the promised Messiah. The resurrection is the ultimate proof that sin and death have been defeated.
 4. True forgiveness and justification come only through faith in Jesus, not through the law.
Paul makes it clear that what the law could not accomplish, Jesus has fulfilled. Through Him, we are fully forgiven and set free—not by our effort, but by grace through faith.
 5. Every person must choose—accept Christ and receive life, or reject Him and face judgment.
There are two paths in history and in life. Easter brings a clear call to respond: believe in Jesus and step into eternal life or reject Him and remain under judgment. The choice cannot be avoided.
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5-Day Devotional

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Day 1: God Is Writing Your Story

Scripture: Romans 8:28

God is not distant from your life—He is actively writing it. Just as He orchestrated the entire history of Israel to lead to Christ, He is weaving together every detail of your life for His redemptive purposes. Even when things feel unclear or painful, the resurrection reminds us that God brings purpose out of suffering and victory out of defeat. Your story is not random—it is part of His greater story.

Reflection Question: *Where in your life do you need to trust that God is still working behind the scenes?*

Day 2: Jesus Fulfills Every Promise

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:20

From Abraham to David, God made promises that seemed to unfold over centuries—and every one of them found its “Yes” in Jesus Christ. Easter is the ultimate proof that God keeps His word. When Jesus rose from the dead, it confirmed that everything God said would happen has happened. You can trust Him completely, because He has proven Himself faithful.

Reflection Question: *What promise of God do you need to hold onto and trust more deeply today?*

Day 3: The Resurrection – God’s Control of Human History

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:20–22

The resurrection is not just an event in history—it is the turning point of all history. Jesus did not stay in the grave, and because of that, death no longer has the final word. What looks final in your life is not final with God. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in you, bringing new life, new hope, and eternal victory. God is in control.

Reflection Question: *What situation in your life feels “dead” that you need to surrender to God’s resurrection power and control?*

*** This experimental document contains some AI generated content, fully based on the original sermon of the week. Edited and approved by Pastor Paul for accuracy.*

5-Day Devotional

Day 4: Freedom Comes Through Jesus Alone

Scripture: Acts 13:38–39

What the law could not accomplish, Jesus has fulfilled. Through Him, we receive complete forgiveness and true freedom from sin. We don't earn this freedom—it is given by grace. Easter reminds us that the work is finished. You are not striving to be accepted; in Christ, you already are.

Reflection Question: *Are you trying to earn God's approval, or are you resting in the finished work of Christ?*

Day 5: Choose the Path of Life

Scripture: John 3:16–18

There are two paths in life—one leading to eternal life through Christ, and the other to judgment apart from Him. Easter is an invitation and a warning. God has done everything necessary for your salvation through Jesus. Now the response is yours. Choosing Christ is choosing life, hope, and eternity with Him.

Reflection Question: *What does it look like for you today to fully choose and follow Jesus without hesitation?*
