

Comments About Acts 13

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Acts. This week, we will talk about chapters 13.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

Overview of Paul's travels

As we enter into Acts 13, we begin reading about Paul's missionary journeys. According to some Bible commentaries, the trips can be categorized in the following manner.

- First missionary journey—Acts 13:1 until Acts 14:28
- Second missionary journey—Acts 15:36 until Acts 18:22
- Third missionary journey—Acts 18:23 until Acts 21:16
- Trip to Rome—Acts 21:17 until Acts 28:31

Barnabas and Paul were sent

Acts 13 begins with the account of Barnabas and Paul being chosen to serve and being sent to preach.

- There were five people considered to be sent (Acts 13:1).
- The Holy Spirit led the church at Antioch to identify Barnabas and Saul (verse 2).
- After the brethren fasted and prayed about the matter, they laid hands upon the two men and sent them away (verse 3).

Preached at Cyprus

- The two men sailed to Cyprus (verse 4).
- They had an assistant named John (verse 5). More information is mentioned about John in Acts 13:13 and Acts 15:37-39.
- They dealt with a sorcerer (Acts 13:6-12).

Preached at Antioch

- When they came to Perga, John left the traveling group (verse 13).

■ When they arrived at Antioch, they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day (verse 14).

■ After the reading of the Law and the Prophets in the synagogue, the rulers of the synagogue asked if anyone had a “word of exhortation” to share with the congregation (verse 15).

■ Paul delivered an inspiring message in the synagogue (verses 16-41). Notice an excerpt.

Acts 13:38-39—“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

■ When the Jews left the synagogue, the gentiles begged Paul to share similar words on the following Sabbath (verse 42).

■ Many of the Jews and devout proselytes encouraged Paul and Barnabas to continue preaching (verse 43).

■ On the next Sabbath, almost the whole city arrived to hear the Word of God preached (verse 44).

■ Many of the Jews were filled with envy (verse 45).

■ But Paul and Barnabas grew bold and declared how salvation had come to the gentiles (verses 46-47).

■ When the gentiles heard this, they were glad (verse 48).

■ The Word of the Lord was being spread throughout the region (verse 49).

■ Some Jews stirred up prominent women and religious leaders within the city to raise up persecution against Paul and Barnabas—even expelling them from their region (verse 50).

■ Paul and Barnabas shook the dust from their feet and went to Iconium (verse 51), and the disciples were filled with joy (verse 52).