



Book of Acts – Chapter 13

Lesson 12

A good trivia question for you!

Where was the first gentile church?





Who were the key figures mentioned in Acts 13:1, and what were their roles in the church at Antioch?

- ▶ **Barnabas**, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and **Saul**.
- ▶ They were prophets and teachers.



Who were these men?

- Barnabas
- Simeon who was called Niger
- Lucius of Cyrene
- Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch
- Saul



While they were worshiping and fasting, what did the Holy Spirit say to the men? (13:2)



“Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

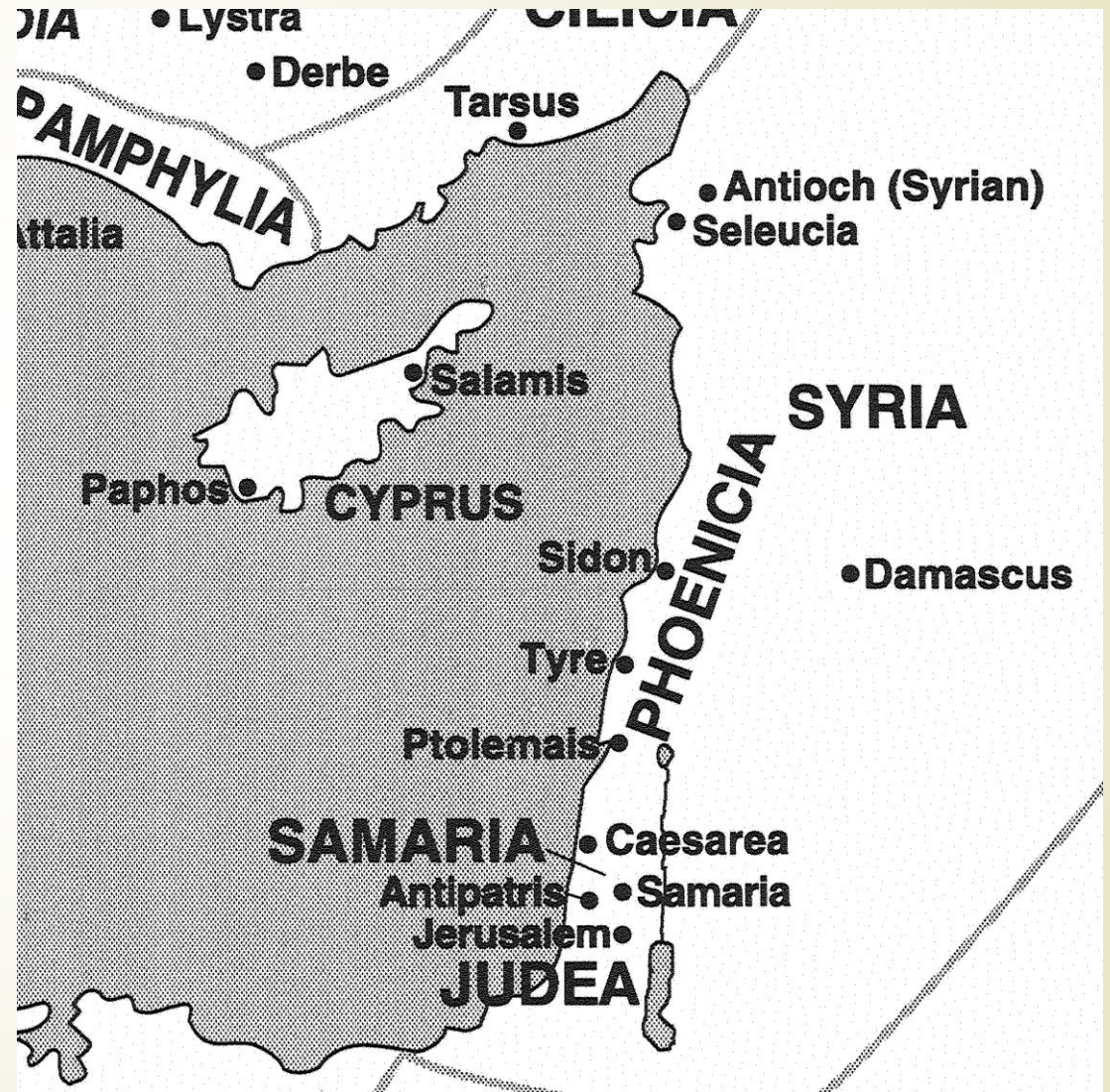


What preceded the departure of the missionaries? Why did they do what they did? (13:3)

- ▶ After fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.
 - ▶ Fasting
 - ▶ Praying
 - ▶ Laying on of Hands

Where did Barnabas and Saul go? (13:4–12)

- From Antioch they went down to Seleucia
- From there they sailed to Cyprus and landed at Salamis and then to Paphos.



What did they do? (13:4–8)

- ▶ They proclaimed God's Word in the synagogues and throughout the whole island as far as Paphos, assisted by John Mark.
- ▶ The Roman proconsul, Sergius Paulus send for Barnabas and Saul because he sought to hear the word of God? (13:7).
- ▶ Paul confronted a magician (Bar-Jesus / Elymas). Because the magician was seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

How does Paul deal with the Magician? (13:9–12)

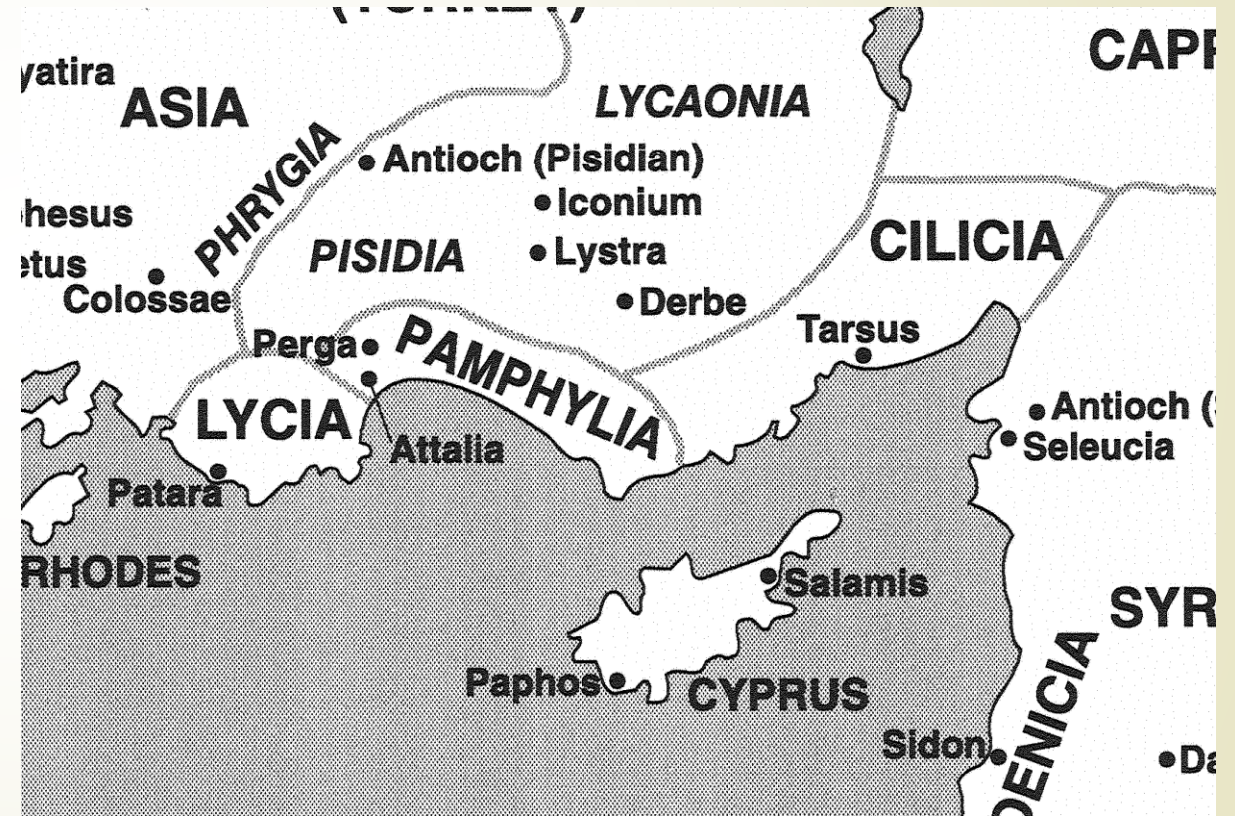
- Saul called Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Paul called him, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?”
- The hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.

What was the result in Paphos (3:12)?

- ▶ The magician was blinded and the proconsul believed. He was amazed / astonished at the teaching.
- ▶ This is Paul's first recorded conversion of someone to Christ.
- ▶ This is not the circumstances of a textbook conversion presentation

Paul and his companions travel to what location? (13:14)

- ▶ They sailed from Paphos and went to Perga in Pamphylia, and then went on to Antioch in Pisidia.



What happens to John Mark along the way? (13:14)

- ▶ The text simply states, “And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,”
 - ▶ No reason was given here.
- ▶ But in Acts 15:37 it says, Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take him because he had deserted them.



What happened during Paul & Barnabas' first synagogue visit in Pisidia? (13:13–17)

- ▶ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers ask them, “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.”
- ▶ Paul says, “Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.”

What happened during Paul & Barnabas' first synagogue visit in Pisidia? (13:17–41)

- ▶ Paul began with a survey of the history of Israel.
- ▶ He then shares the gospel with rational reasoning approach with them to convince them that Jesus was the messiah.



How did people respond to the message Paul preached? (13:42–43)

- ▶ They begged to hear more the next Sabbath.

What happened on the next Sabbath? (13:44–48)

- ▶ The whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. The gentiles and the Jews.



What happened on the next Sabbath? (13:44–48) – how did the Jews respond?

- ▶ When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.





What happened on the next Sabbath? (13:44–47) – how did Paul respond?

- ▶ Paul reminded them that it was necessary that the word of God was spoken to the Jews first.
- ▶ They thrust it aside and judged themselves unworthy of eternal life,
- ▶ So, we are turning to the Gentiles.



Paul says in verse 46

*“And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. **Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves “unworthy” of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.**”*

- Did Paul say the Jews did not earn eternal life?
- He says they are “Unworthy”.

“Unworthy” in Greek is two words

- ▶ A negative prefix **οὔ**
 - ▶ Meaning: No, Not, we would say un.
- ▶ The second word is **Axios**
 - ▶ The meaning depends on context
 - ▶ fitting, in keeping with, deserving, worthy, without.
- ▶ Together it means “Self evident, in not keeping with”. It doesn’t flow in English so Unworthy is often used.

How did the Gentiles respond to the Word of the Lord? (13:48-49)

- ▶ When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.



What's the difference between these two groups? (13:46-48)

- ▶ They both heard this same “Word of the Lord”.
- ▶ The Jews “rejected it” and judged themselves “unworthy for eternal life”.
- ▶ The Gentiles rejoiced and glorified the Word.
- ▶ The Gentiles responded differently because they, “**were appointed to eternal life**”.

Those appointed to eternal life believed (13:48)

- ▶ Note that they “were appointed to eternal life” prior to belief.
- ▶ appointed for or to (**tetagmenoi eis**)
 - ▶ To determine, designate, to assign one to a particular task.
 - ▶ Appointed is past tense; Believed is present tense

Those appointed to eternal life believed

- Who is the one doing the appointing in this verse?
- The thing being appointed is eternal life.
- Who can appoint someone to eternal life except God Himself?
 - So God is appointing certain Gentiles to eternal life
- Because they are appointed to eternal life (past perfect tense), they believe (present tense)



Notice the order here

- ▶ Those who have been appointed are the ones who believed in this moment
- ▶ Their belief didn't create the appointment, as if to suggest that they were the ones creating this outcome by their decision
- ▶ Rather, Luke makes it clear that it was God's divine appointment to eternal life which precipitated their belief in the Gospel



What was the spiritual result in Antioch in Pisidia?

- ▶ And the Word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.



What price did Paul and Barnabas pay for telling people about Christ? (13:50-52)

- ▶ The Jews incited persecution against Paul and Barnabas and drove them out of their district.
- ▶ They shook off the dust from their feet and went to Iconium.
- ▶ And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

What did you learn from verse 52 and the cross-references about the disciples?

- ▶ **Acts 13:52** - Those who followed the Lord, were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ **Luke 14:26-33 and Mark 10:28-30** - His disciples must give up all his possessions / renounce all that he has to follow Him.
- ▶ **John 8:31** - Those who continue / abide in His Word are truly His disciples.



How were these principles lived out by the disciples in Acts? Are Jesus' statements about His disciples still relevant for believers today?



How does Acts 13 illustrate the importance of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of Paul and Barnabas?



What practices or habits can we adopt to discern the Holy Spirit's leading in our decision-making just as Paul and Barnabas did?