

God Sends Paul

Grace Bible Chapel

Outline: The Acts of the Apostles – Acts 12:25-13:12
September 30th, 2018

Context: Christ continues to build His church (Mat. 16:18). Peter has been spared of God from Herod's murder plans, and God in His wrath has removed Herod in righteous judgment. Our time today starts a new section that will stretch to the end of the writing of Acts. The principle attention for the development of the church now moves from Peter to Paul, and the hub of activity from Jerusalem to Antioch.

Our narrative changes with Acts 12:25 with the return of Barnabas and Saul from Jerusalem back to Antioch. The first three verses of chapter 13 describe God's preparation of the church in Antioch to be the sending missionary church. Much could be stated of God's work among the men listed. Most importantly these men are devoted to the worship of God, and thereby prepared to receive direction from the Holy Spirit. God through these prophets directed them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for special work. We will see that work is taking the Gospel as Christ commanded (Acts 1:8) into all the then known Roman or gentile world.

In verses 4 through 12 they have their first recorded encounters on the Island of Cyprus. Here they encounter a Jewish false prophet given over to magic who brings strong opposition. Such opposition would become characteristic of all missionary journey's. However, they also encounter the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, who is hungry for the truth. He becomes the first recorded convert of the first missionary journey. Along the way, Saul is now called Paul.

Broad outline of Acts (underlined is the immediate context).

- VII. Sobering opposition (Acts 6:8-8:3)
- VIII. Sovereign formulation (8:4-28:31)
 - F. Saul's new life (9:19b-31)
 - G. Service of Peter (9:32-12:24)
 - H. Service of Paul (12:25-28:31)

Introduction:

1. Saul's commission (12:25-13:3)
 - a. Situation (12:25-13:1)

- b. Setting apart (13:2-3)

- c. Systematic proclamation (13:4-5)

- d. Sovereign appointments (13:6-12)
 - Spurious opposition (13:6, 8-11)

- Salvation arises (13:7, 12)

Closing:

Key Words

- Saul (5)
- Barnabas (4)
- Paul
- Holy Spirit (3)
- hand (2)
- Proconsul (3)
- Magician (2)
- Bar-Jesus

