

The Acts of the Apostles

Lesson 13: Paul's First Mission

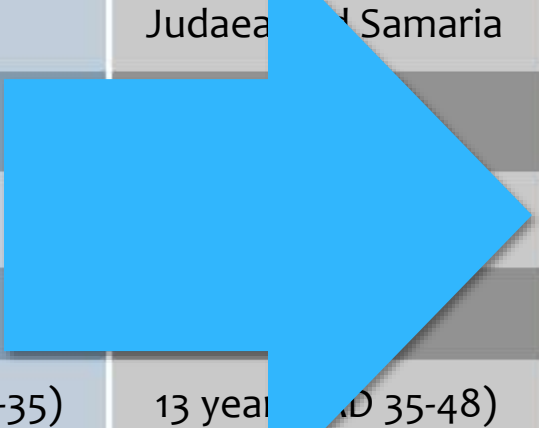
Acts 13:1 to 14:28

This lesson begins the third and final section of the book of Acts:
The Witness unto the Uttermost Part of the Earth.

The Structure of the Book of Acts

Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Region	Jerusalem	Judaea and Samaria	Nations beyond
Chapters	1 to 7		13 to 28
People	The Jews		The Gentiles
Church Leaders	Peter		Paul
Timespan	5 years (AD 30-35)	13 years (AD 35-48)	14 years (AD 48-62)



Acts 13:1

Now there were in the church that was at **Antioch** certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.



Antioch was the capital of the Roman province of Syria and the third biggest city in the Empire.

Only Rome and Alexandria were larger.



Antioch is now in southeast Turkey, west of Syria and north of Lebanon.



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as Barnabas,

and Simeon that was called Niger,

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and Saul.

Barnabas and Saul were now established among the prophets and teachers in Antioch.



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and Saul.



Simeon that was called Niger “was a Jew by birth, perhaps from an African-Jewish community.”
(Believer’s Bible Commentary)

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“Niger” (nye-jer) means black.
Modern Africa is the home of the countries of Niger and Nigeria.

Acts 13:1

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and Simeon that was called Niger,
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and Saul.



Lucius was probably one of the first Christians to preach in Antioch that we read about in Chapter 11.

Acts 11:20

And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

Acts 13:1

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and Saul.



The Greeks founded Cyrene in 630 BC.
It was once called “the Athens of Africa.”
It is now Shahhat, Libya.

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and Simeon that was called Niger,
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and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch,
and Saul.



Manaen was the foster brother of Herod Antipas, the king who beheaded John the Baptist.

(He was raised in the same household as Herod, but he was not a blood-relative.)

Acts 13:1

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers;
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and Simeon that was called Niger,
and Lucius of Cyrene,
and Manaen, which had been brought up with **Herod the tetrarch**,
and Saul.

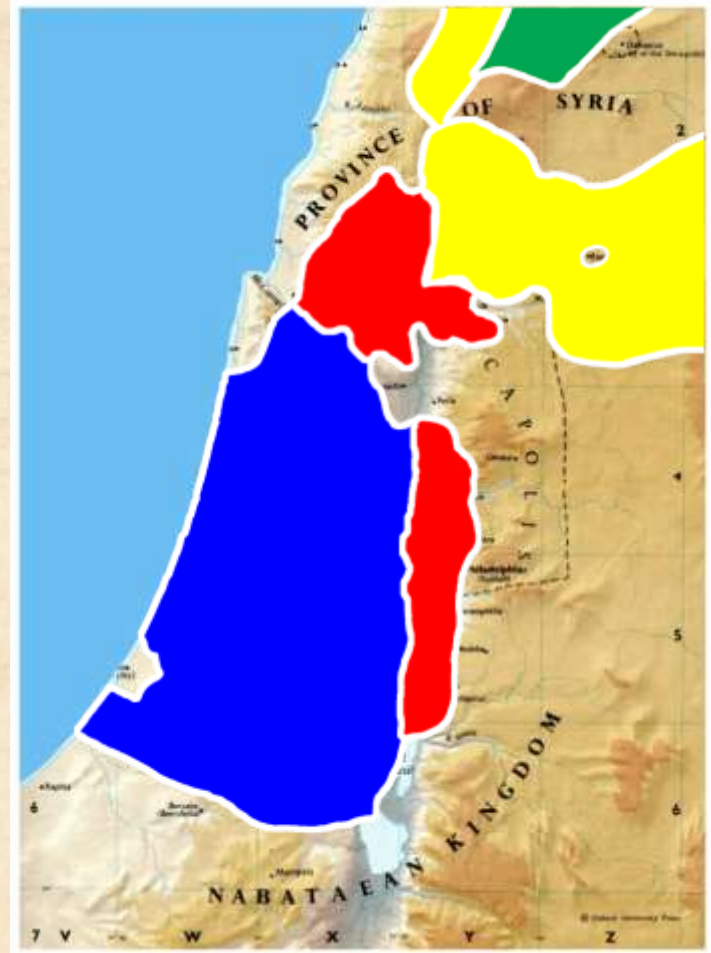
A **tetrarch** rules over one-fourth a kingdom.

The four tetrarchs of Palestine are named in Luke 3:

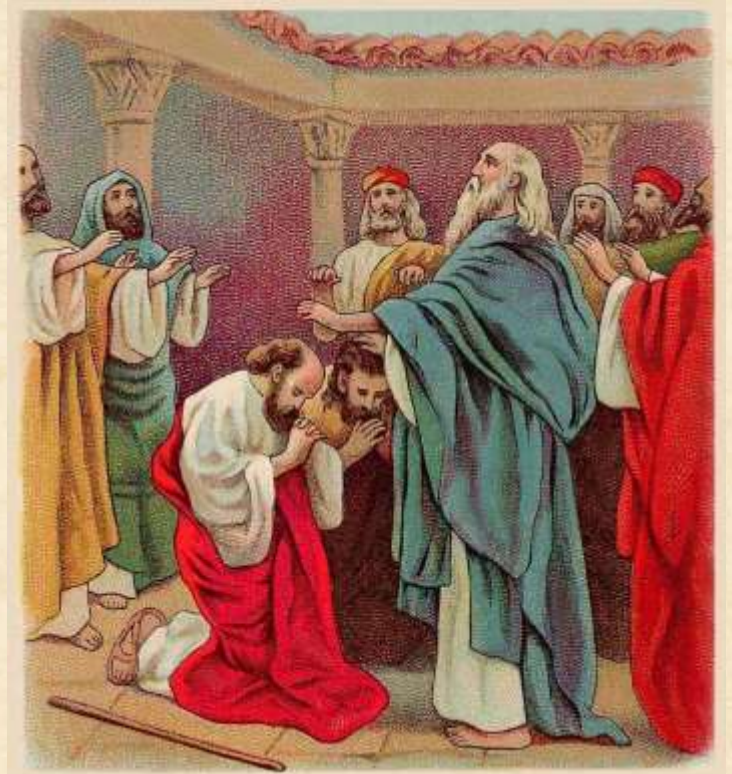


Luke 3:1-2

- 1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, **Pontius Pilate** being governor of Judaea, and **Herod** being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother **Philip** tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and **Lysanias** the tetrarch of Abilene,
- 2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

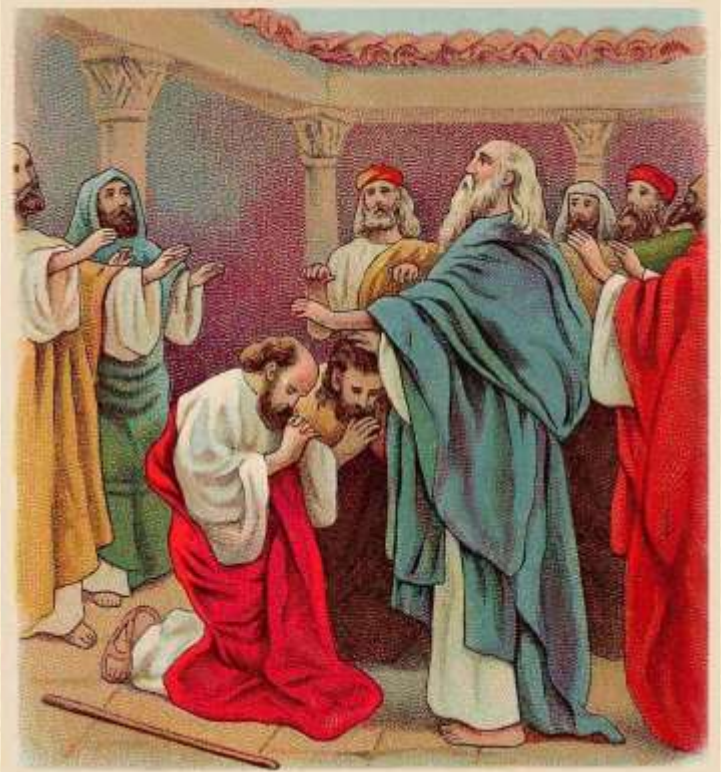


By the command of the Holy Spirit,
Paul and Barnabas were sent on their
first evangelical mission.



Acts 13:2-3

- ² As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.**
- ³ And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.



Acts 13:2-3

- ² As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, **the Holy Ghost said,** Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.
- ³ And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.



In the King James Bible, the HOLY SPIRIT is the third member of the holy Trinity. The HOLY GHOST is the same Spirit at work within Christians to inspire and empower them. Here, the Holy Spirit was speaking through people, so it is called the Holy Ghost.

Acts 13:4-5

- 4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost departed unto **Seleucia**; and from thence they sailed to **Cyprus**.
- 5 And when they were at **Salamis**, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to *their* minister.



Acts 13:6-7

- 6 And when they had gone through the isle unto **Paphos**, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name *was* Barjesus:
- 7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.



Acts 13:6-7

- 6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name *was* Barjesus:
- 7 Which was with the deputy of the country, **Sergius Paulus**, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.



In 1877 an inscription was found a short distance north of Paphos bearing Serguis Paulus' name and title.

Acts 13:8-10

- ⁸ But Elymas the sorcerer
(for so is his name by interpretation)
withstood them, seeking to turn
away the deputy from the faith.
- ⁹ Then Saul, (who also *is called* Paul,)
filled with the Holy Ghost,
set his eyes on him,
- ¹⁰ And said,
O full of all subtilty and all mischief,
thou child of the devil,
thou enemy of all righteousness,
wilt thou not cease to pervert the
right ways of the Lord?



Acts 13:8-10

- ⁸ But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.
- ⁹ Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him.

From this point forward, Luke refers to Saul using the *Greek* version of his name, Paul.

thou child of the devil,
thou enemy of all righteousness,
wilt thou not cease to pervert the
right ways of the Lord?



Acts 13:11-12

- ¹¹ And now, behold,
the hand of the Lord is upon thee,
and thou shalt be blind,
not seeing the sun for a season.
And immediately there fell on him
a mist and a darkness;
and he went about seeking some to
lead him by the hand.
- ¹² Then the deputy,
when he saw what was done,
believed,
being astonished at the doctrine of
the Lord.



Acts 13:13

Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.



Acts 13:14-15

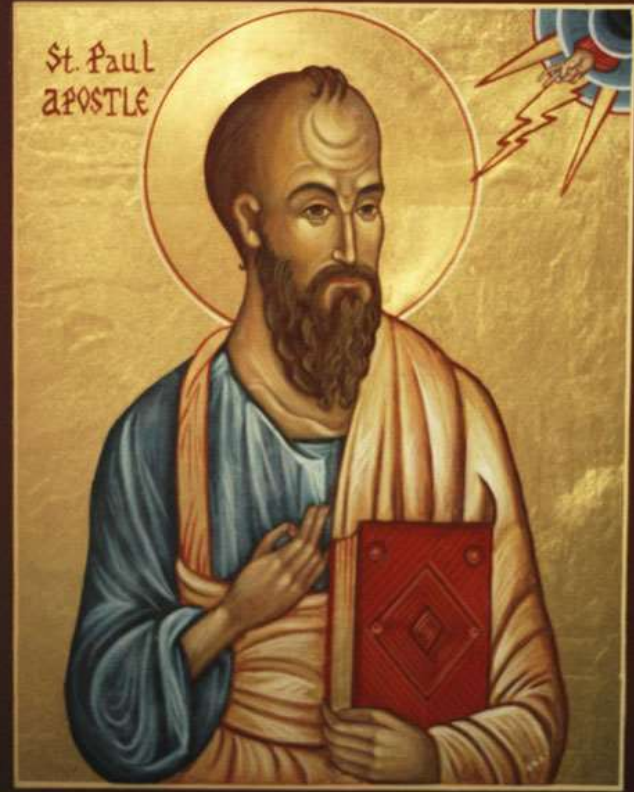
- 14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to **Antioch in Pisidia**, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.
- 15 And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying,
Ye men *and* brethren,
if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.



We now read Paul's first recorded sermon, given in a synagogue in Pisidia.



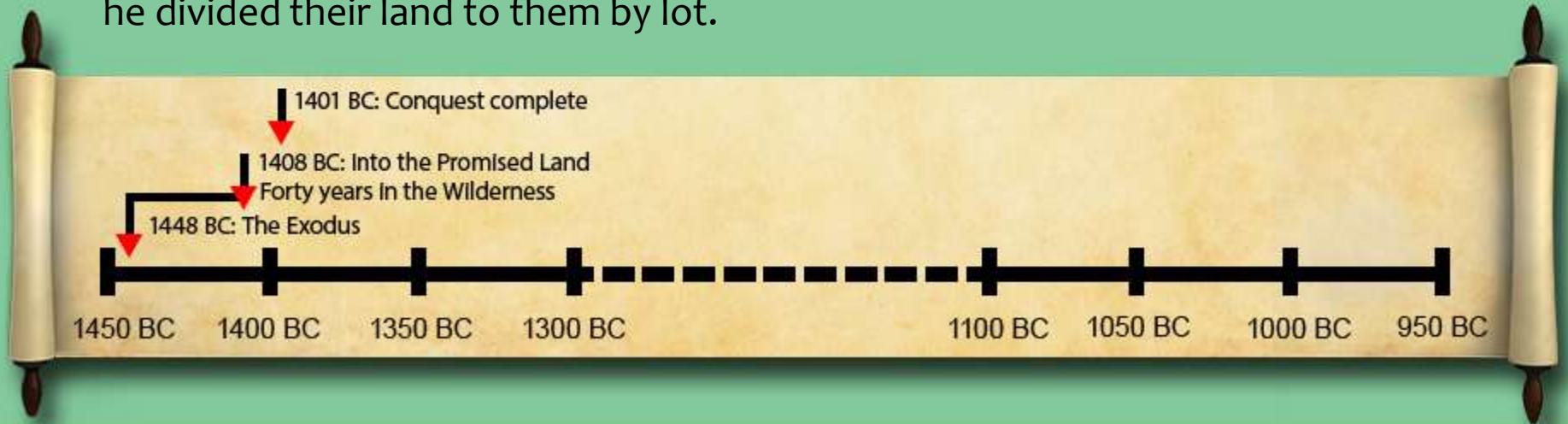
Speaking to a Jewish audience,
Paul presents Jesus as the Messiah
sent by God but rejected by his own
people:



The first part of Paul's message tells the history of the Jews from the Exodus to the reign of King David, a period of about 500 years.

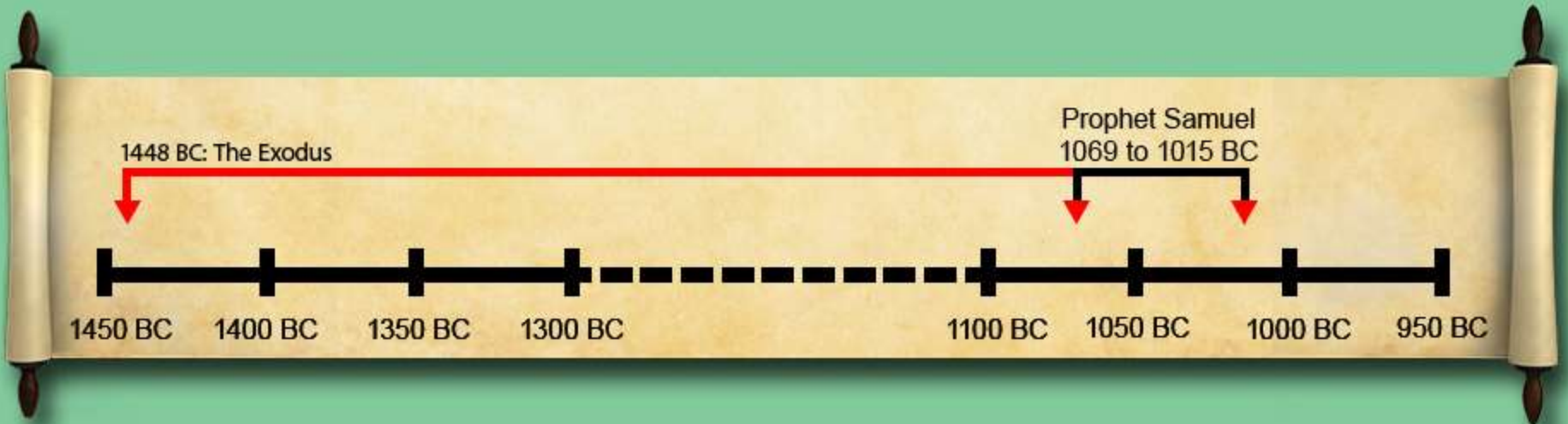
Acts 13:16-19

- ¹⁶ Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with *his* hand said,
Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.
- ¹⁷ The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers,
and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt,
and with an high arm brought he them out of it.
- ¹⁸ And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.
- ¹⁹ And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan,
he divided their land to them by lot.



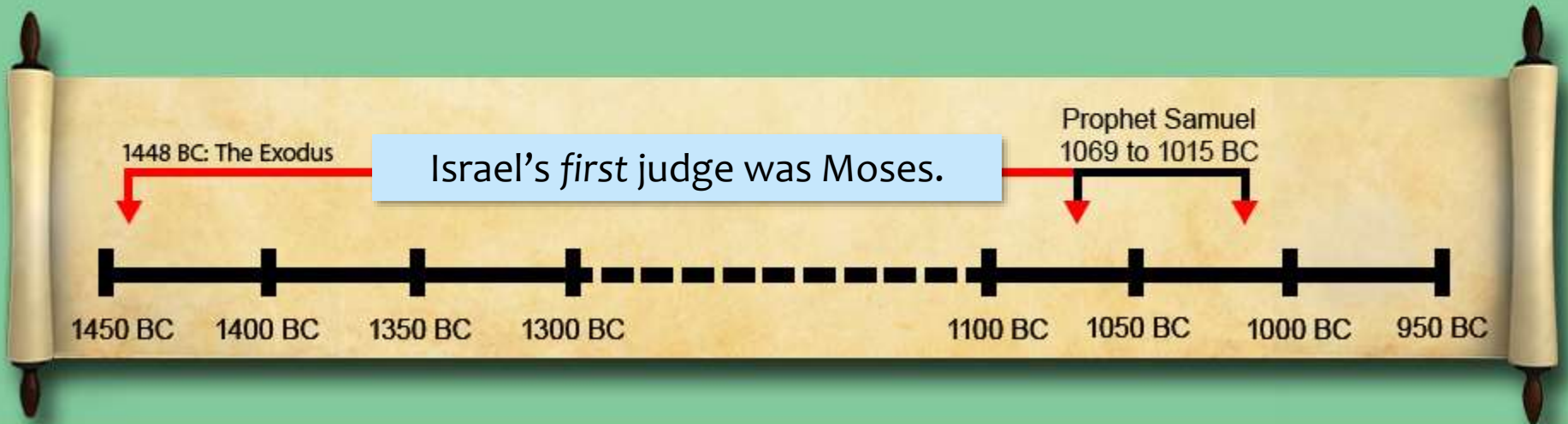
Acts 13:20

And after that he gave *unto them* judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until **Samuel** the prophet.



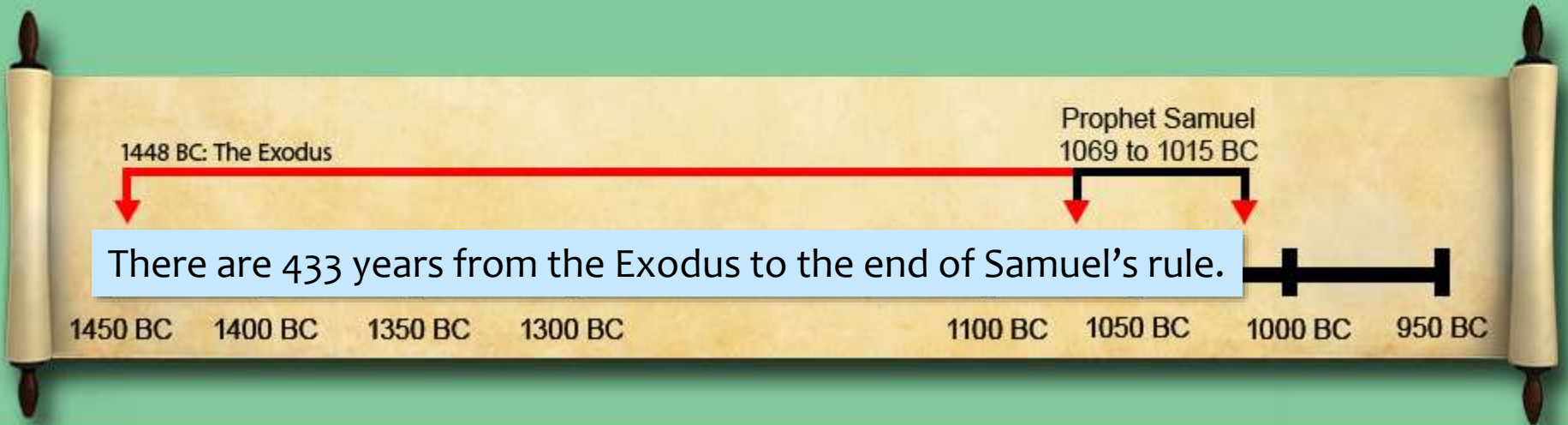
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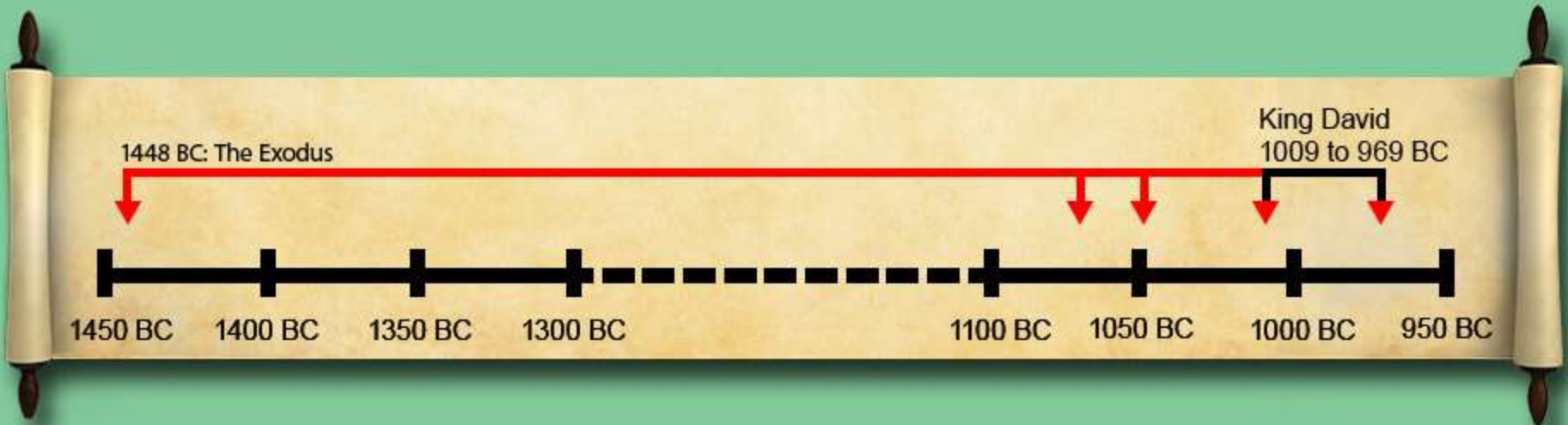
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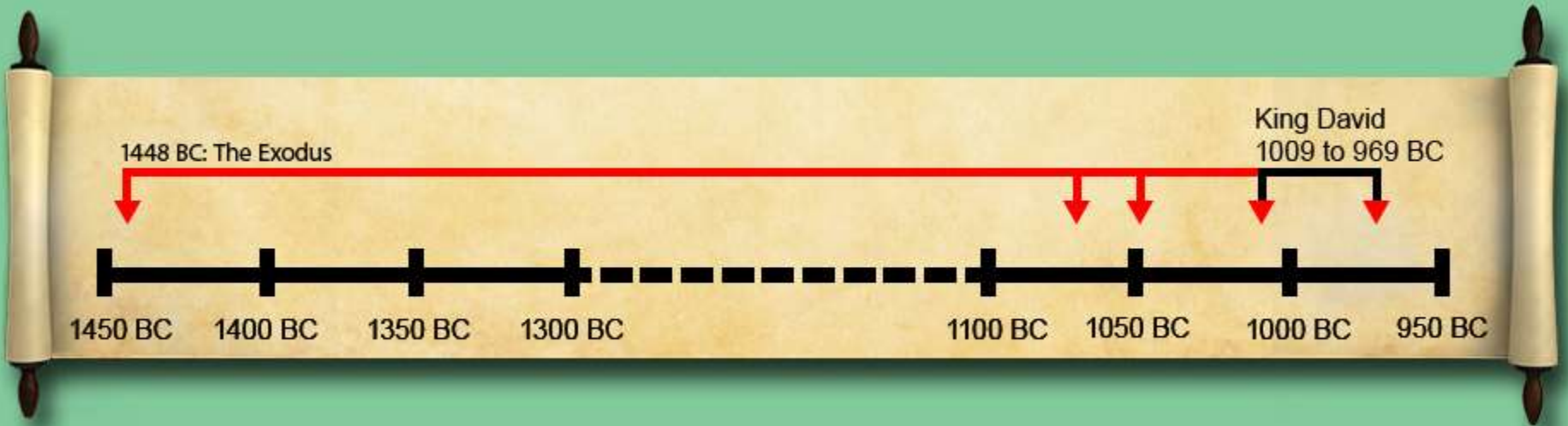


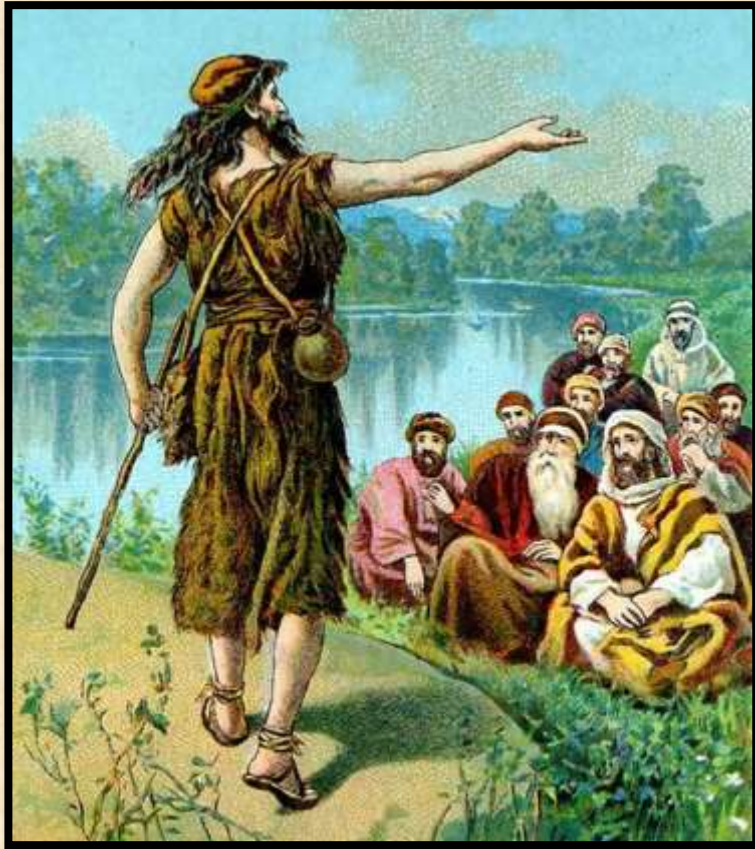
Acts 13:21-22

- ²¹ And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them **Saul** the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.
- ²² And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them **David** to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.



Now Paul declares that Jesus is the seed of David, introduced to the world by John the Baptist, and rejected by the people he came to save.





Acts 13:23-25

- ²³ Of this man's [David] seed hath God according to *his* promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:
- ²⁴ When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.
- ²⁵ And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am?
I am not *he*.
But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of *his* feet I am not worthy to loose.

Acts 13:26-29

- ²⁶ Men *and* brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.
- ²⁷ For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled *them* in condemning *him*.
- ²⁸ And though they found no cause of death *in* him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.
- ²⁹ And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took *him* down from the tree, and laid *him* in a sepulchre.



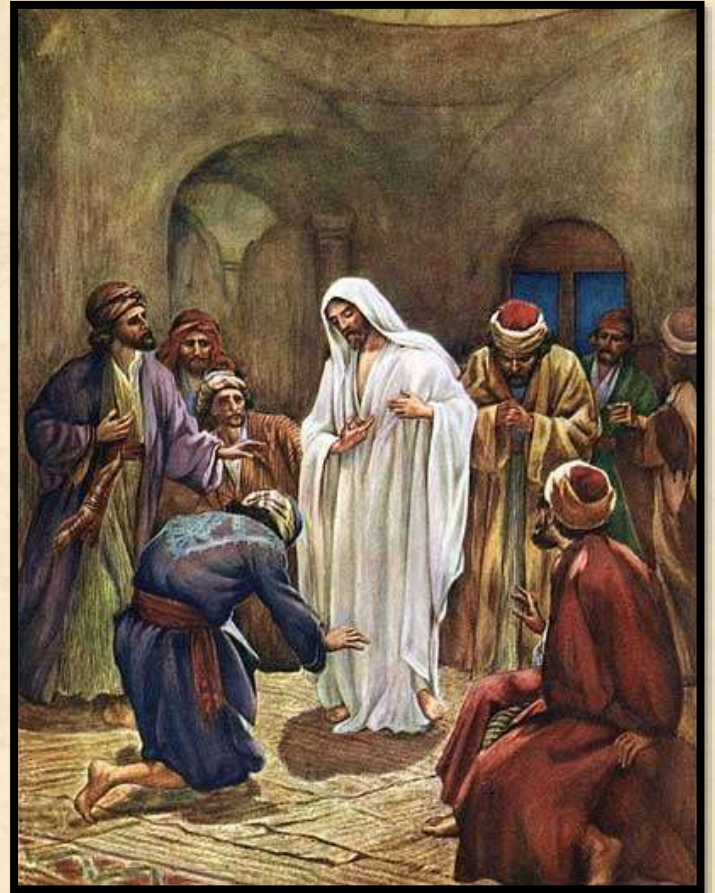
Supported by eyewitnesses and prophecy,
Paul declares **FOUR TIMES** that God raised
Jesus from the dead.



Acts 13:30-31

³⁰ **But God raised him from the dead:**

³¹ And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.



Acts 13:32-35

- ³² And we declare unto you glad tidings,
how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,
³³ God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children,
in that **he hath raised up Jesus again;**
as it is also written in the second psalm,
Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.
- ³⁴ And as concerning that **he raised him up from the dead,**
now no more to return to corruption,
he said on this wise,
I will give you the sure mercies of David.
- ³⁵ Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*,
Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 13:32-35

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- ³⁵ Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*,
Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Psalm 2:7

I will declare the decree:
the LORD hath said unto
me,
Thou *art* my Son;
this day have I begotten
thee.

Acts 13:32-35

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I will give you the sure mercies of David.
- ³⁵ Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*,
Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Isaiah 55:3

Incline your ear, and
come unto me:
hear, and your soul shall
live; and I will make an
everlasting covenant
with you, *even the sure
mercies of David.*

Acts 13:32-35

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Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

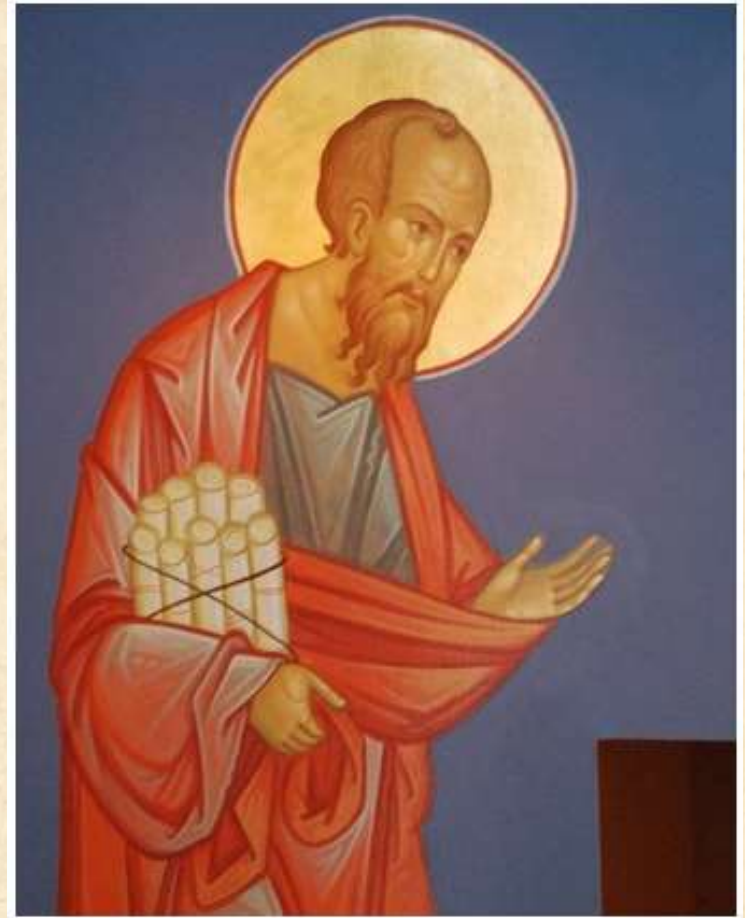
Psalm 16:10

For thou wilt not leave
my soul in hell;
neither wilt thou suffer
thine Holy One to see
corruption.

Acts 13:36-37

³⁶ For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

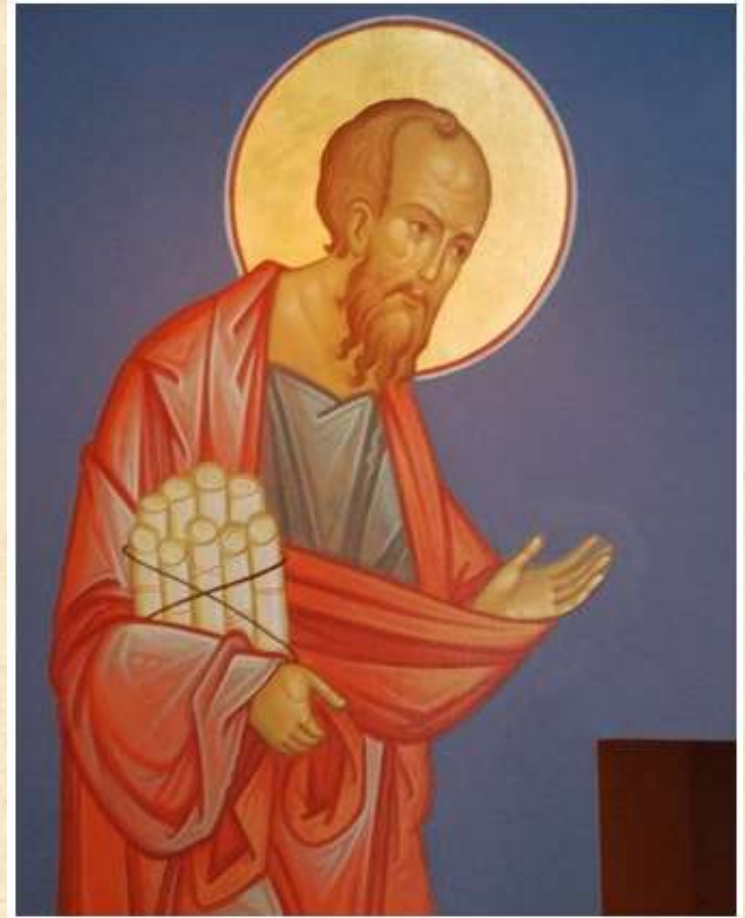
³⁷ But **he, whom God raised again,** saw no corruption.



Acts 13:38-39

³⁸ Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

³⁹ And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.



Acts 13:38-39

³⁸ Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

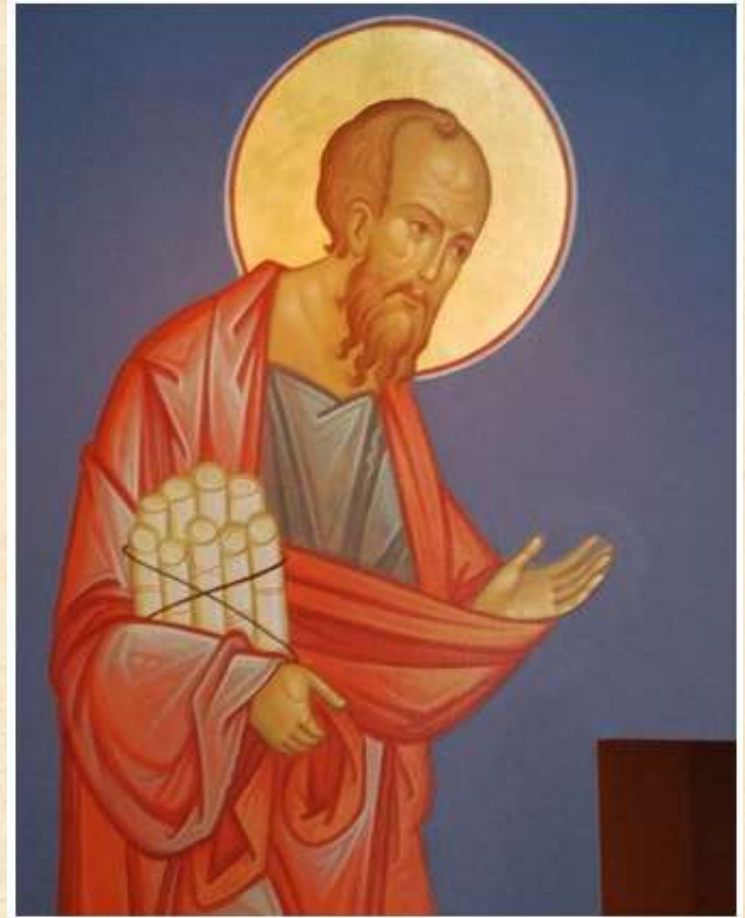
³⁹ And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

But this good news came with a warning:



Acts 13:40-41

⁴⁰ Beware therefore,
lest that come upon you,
which is spoken of in the prophets;
⁴¹ Behold, ye despisers,
and wonder, and perish:
for I work a work in your days,
a work which ye shall in no wise
believe, though a man declare it
unto you.



Acts 13:40-41

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lest that come upon you,
which is spoken of in the prophets;
⁴¹ Behold, ye despisers,
and wonder, and perish:
for I work a work in your days,
a work which ye shall in no wise
believe, though a man declare it
unto you.



Habakkuk 1:5

Behold ye among the heathen,
and regard, and wonder marvellously:
for I will work a work in your days,
which ye will not believe,
though it be told you.

Acts 13:42

⁴² And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, **the Gentiles** besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.

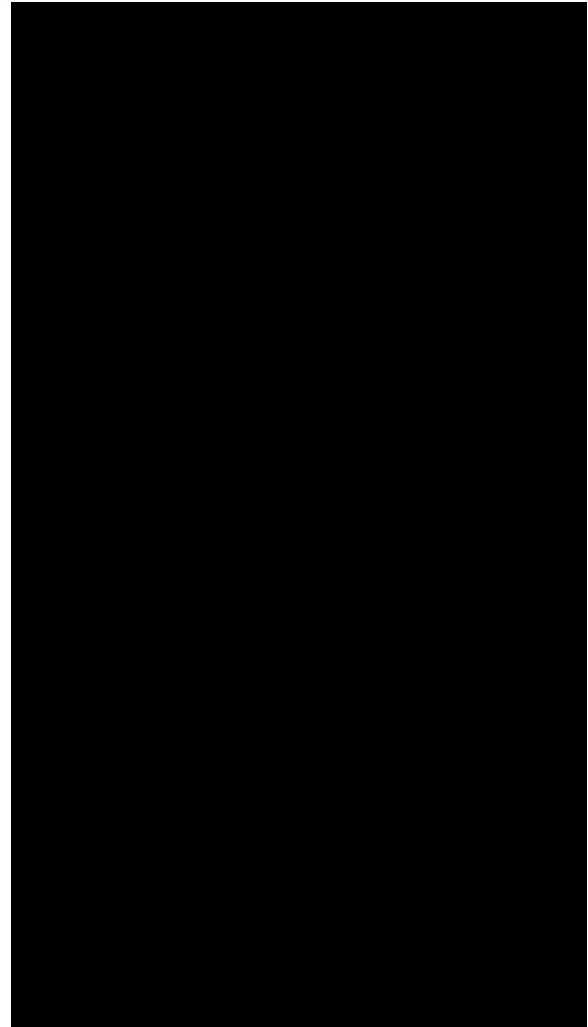


Acts 13:43-45

- 43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.
- 44 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.
- 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

Acts 13:46-47

- ⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said,
It was necessary that the word of God should first
have been spoken to you:
but seeing ye put it from you,
and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life,
lo, we turn to the Gentiles.
- ⁴⁷ For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*,
I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles,
that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of
the earth.



Acts 13:46-47

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I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles,
that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of
the earth.

Paul and Barnabas never stopped preaching in synagogues, but now they realized the Jews were not their only audience. All the world needed to hear about Jesus!

Acts 13:46-47

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It was necessary that the word of God should first
have been spoken to you:
but seeing ye put it from you,
and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life,
lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

⁴⁷ For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*,
**I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles,
that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of
the earth.**

Isaiah 49:6

⁶ And he said,
It is a light thing that
thou shouldest be my
servant to raise up the
tribes of Jacob, and to
restore the preserved
of Israel:
I will also give thee for
a light to the Gentiles,
that thou mayest be
my salvation unto the
end of the earth.

Acts 13:48-49

- 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.
- 49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.



Acts 13:50-51

⁵⁰ But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

⁵¹ But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.



PAUL STIRS UP ANTIOCH

Acts 13:50-51

50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.



Acts 13:50-51

⁵⁰ But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

⁵¹ **But they shook off the dust of their feet against them,**
and came unto Iconium.



Jesus gave this instruction in Mark 6:

- ¹⁰ And he said unto them,
In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.
- ¹¹ And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them.
Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Acts 13:52

And the disciples were filled with joy,
and with the Holy Ghost.



Acts 13:52

And the disciples were filled with joy,
and with the Holy Ghost.

End of Chapter 13



Acts 14:1-3

- 1 And it came to pass in **Iconium**, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.
- 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.
- 3 Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.



Acts 14:4-7

- 4 But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.
- 5 And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use *them* despitefully, and to stone them,
- 6 They were ware of *it*, and fled unto **Lystra** and **Derbe**, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about:
- 7 And there they preached the gospel.



Here, Paul and Barnabas preach Christ to a primarily *Gentile* audience for the first time:

Acts 14:8-10

- 8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:
- 9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,
- 10 Said with a loud voice, **Stand upright on thy feet.**



Acts 14:8-10

- 8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:
- 9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,
- 10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet.
And he leaped and walked.



Acts 14:11-12

- ¹¹ And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.
- ¹² And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.



Acts 14:13-15a

- ¹³ Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.
- ¹⁴ *Which* when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,
- ¹⁵ And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things?



Acts 14:15b-18

- ¹⁵ We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:
- ¹⁶ Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.
- ¹⁷ Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Acts 14:15b-18

- ¹⁵ We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:
- ¹⁶ Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.
- ¹⁷ Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Look at the different way Paul speaks to Gentiles. He says nothing about covenants or prophecies, and says nothing from the Old Testament. He uses the creation to give witness of the Creator.

Acts 14:18

And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.



Acts 14:19-20a

¹⁹ And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

²⁰ Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city:



Acts 14:20b

...and the next day he departed with Barnabas to **Derbe**.



Acts 14:21-22

- ²¹ And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to **Lystra**, and to **Iconium**, and **Antioch**,
- ²² Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.



Acts 14:23

²³ And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.



Acts 14:24-26

- ²⁴ And after they had passed throughout **Pisidia**, they came to **Pamphylia**.
- ²⁵ And when they had preached the word in **Perga**, they went down into **Attalia**:
- ²⁶ And thence sailed to **Antioch**, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.



Acts 14:27-28

- ²⁷ And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.
- ²⁸ And there they abode long time with the disciples.

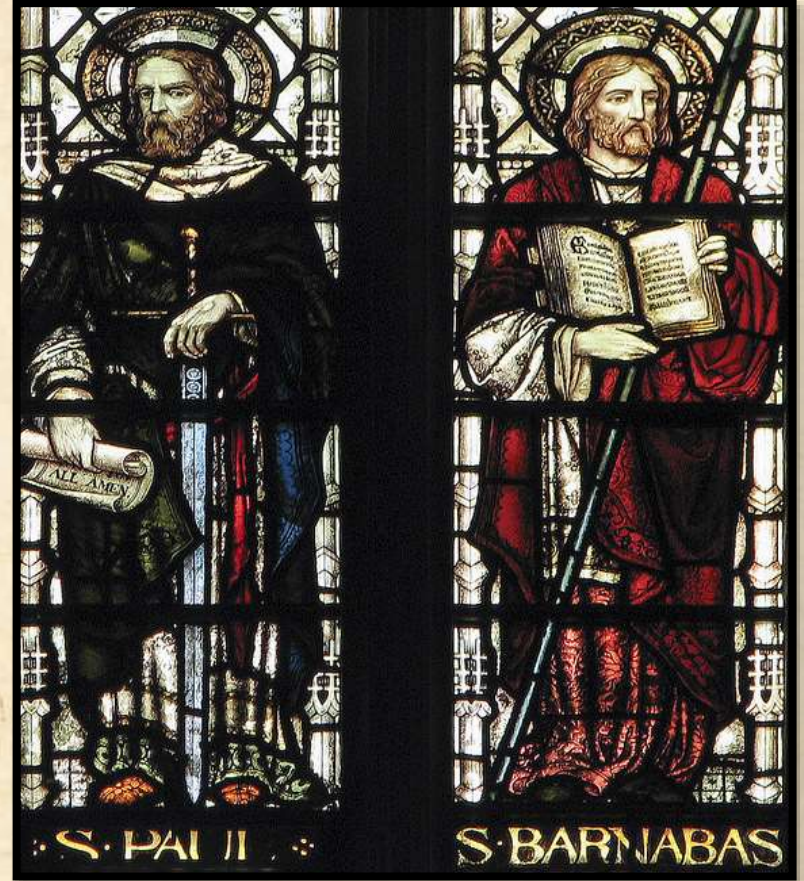


Acts 14:27-28

²⁷ And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

²⁸ And there they abode long time with the disciples.

This ends Paul's first mission and Chapter 14



UP NEXT:

The elders must decide if Gentile Christians are subject to the Law of Moses.

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. Where did Paul's first mission begin and end?
2. According to Acts 13:2, who sent Barnabas and Saul on their first mission?
3. Starting in Acts 13:9, Saul of Tarsus is always called _____.
4. There are two sermons given by Paul in this section, one in Chapter 13 and one in Chapter 14. Why are they so different? (Who was he speaking to?)
5. In Paul's first sermon, how many times does he talk about the Resurrection? Give the scripture reference for each one.
6. According to Acts 13:45, why were the Jews so angry with Paul and Barnabas?
7. Why was Isaiah 49:6 so important to Paul and Barnabas?
8. In Acts 14:11, why did the people of Lycaonia think Paul and Barnabas were gods?
9. What is similar about the man who was healed by Peter in Acts 3 and the man healed by Paul in Acts 14? (Compare Acts 3:2 and 14:8). What was different about them?
10. According to Acts 14:27, what did Paul and Barnabas do when they got back to Antioch?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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