



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Acts 13

Paul's FIRST Missionary Journey (Part I)

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Church @ Antioch, the giving church, continues to give

- **Call of Barnabas & Paul (1-5):** What does it mean to minister to the Lord? How did the Holy Spirit speak? How did the church respond? What does laying on of hands signify? Is there any reason why the church may have hesitated to send Barnabas & Saul? Who accompanied Barnabas & Saul? Was it a good decision? Where was their first stop and first audience?
- **The first Convert (6-13):** Who was Sergus Paulus? What was his position? Who was Elymas? Why did Paul rebuke him? Was Paul justified in his harsh rebuke? What happened to Elymas? What led to the conversion of Sergus? Why did John Mark leave?
- **Paul's Sermon at Antioch (14-52)** Who was it addressed to? What are some critical points in Jewish history leading to Jesus? How did Jews respond to Jesus? What do we mean by Justification? Can law justify? What was the response to Paul's sermon? Why did Paul & Barnabas leave? What can the world never take away from a believer?
- **Conclusion:** Rich Harvest of Souls possible even today but ...

Acts 13
09.02.2020

Paul's Three Missionary Journeys

(where did he go? Who did he minister with? What was the focus of ministry?
How did the Holy Spirit lead? What were the challenges? What was the fruit?)

I, Acts 13-14



II, Acts 15:36-18:22



III, Acts 18:23-21:26

Call of Barnabas & Saul

(verses 1-5)

At which church were Barnabas and Saul? What does it mean to minister to the Lord? How did the Holy Spirit speak? How did the church respond? What does laying on of hands signify? Is there any reason why the church may have hesitated to send Barnabas & Saul? Who accompanied Barnabas & Saul? Where was their first stop? Who did they minister to first?

Call of Barnabas & Saul

- Setting: Church in Antioch (Acts 11:25)
- Five Prophets & Teachers:
 - Barnabas & Paul
 - Simeon (Niger) ... Niger means black so maybe black African (cross bearer, Luke 23:26)
 - Lucius of Cyrene
 - Manaen, who grew up with Herod
 - Herod the Tetrarch (beheaded John, Presided over Jesus trials, Luke 23:7-12)
 - Manaen and Herod grew up together ... but different paths (think of where your close friends that you grew up with are today)
 - Saul mentioned last in this list! But Soon, Saul/Paul will rise to prominence!

Call of Barnabas & Paul



When Church ministers to the Lord, God responds and Holy Spirit moves:

- What does it mean to minister to the Lord? Worship, prayer, God given ministry
- Holy Spirit possibly spoke through one of the prophets or through inner voice
- Barnabas and Saul to be separated for ministry

Church confirms their ministry and sought God's help by fasting & Prayers. Church sends them away by laying on of hands (what does it signify?)

- Loss of two key leaders for the Antioch church ... could have been discouraging to lose two leaders ... but we need to obey the Holy spirit ... God will fill the gap! We should not be discouraged when gifted people have to leave the church for whatever reason.

Call of Barnabas & Paul

- Missionary Journey begins 
 -  Antioch in Syria → Seleucia → Cyprus Island → **Salamis**
 - Barnabas raised in Cyprus (Acts 4:36)
 - Preached the word in Synagogues to the **Jews first**
 - Priority of gospel being first preached to Jews
 - Jews are The chosen generation (Deuteronomy 7:7-8)
 - Gospel for Jews first and then Greek (Romans 1:16)
 - Christ came as a messiah from seed of David (Romans 9:5, John 4:22)
 - Jesus ministry focused on Jews, lost sheep of the house of Israel (Mathew 15:24)
 - Disciples told to go to 'lost sheep of Israel' (Mathew 10:5,6)
 - Great commission ... Jerusalem first than to the ends of the earth (Acts 13:46)

Call of Barnabas & Paul

- Why did they take Mark? What was his role?

Helper

- Did the Holy Spirit tell them?

Does not say so ... maybe it was the decision of local church or Barnabas & Paul

- On hindsight, was it a good decision to take Mark?

He did not complete the journey ... so maybe not a good decision (cannot say for sure)

- What do we learn?

Obey the Lord's plan fully ... do not add or subtract to it (maybe Barnabas was an addition not in God's perfect plan, just like Abraham took along Lot)

The First Convert (verses 6-13)

Who was Sergus Paulus? What was his position? Who was Elymas? Why did Paul rebuke him? Was Paul justified in his harsh rebuke? What happened to Elymas? What lead to the conversion of Sergus? Why did John Mark leave?

The First Convert

👣 Antioch in Syria → Seleucia → Cyprus Island → Salamis → **Paphos**

- **Paphos** – city on the west coast of Cyprus
- **Sergus Paulus** – prudent man, responsible position - responsible for the entire province and reported to the Roman Senate, desired to hear the word of God
- **Elymas** - Sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew (called bar-jesus) with the deputy of the country, opposed the work of God
- **Paul** - rebukes Elymas for hindering God's work
 - Anger is justified as Paul was lead by the Holy spirit (9)
 - Elymas became physically blind (already spiritually blind)... not sure if he was healed later.

First Convert

👣 Antioch in Syria → Seleucia → Cyprus Island → Salamis → **Paphos**

- **Result of Paul's visit and ministry:**

- Deputy believes (conversion follows mighty miraculous acts + teaching of the word) ...
- Sergus Paulus, the first convert in the missionary journey

Luke 15:10 (NIV) There is rejoicing in the in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

- First convert ... God gives us small victories in our journey to keep us encouraged
.... Let us count our blessings, and name them one by one! 🙏

John Mark leaves

- John Mark departs and returns to Jerusalem (13)
 - Reason: not mentioned
 - Maybe not ready for missionary journey or maybe some internal conflict
 - More on this subject in Acts 15

Paul's Sermon at Antioch (verses 14-52)

Who was it addressed to? What are critical points in Jewish history leading to Jesus? How did Jews respond to Jesus? What do we mean by Justification? Can law justify? What was the response to sermon? Why did Paul & Barnabas leave?
What can the world never take away from a believer?

Peter's sermon at Antioch

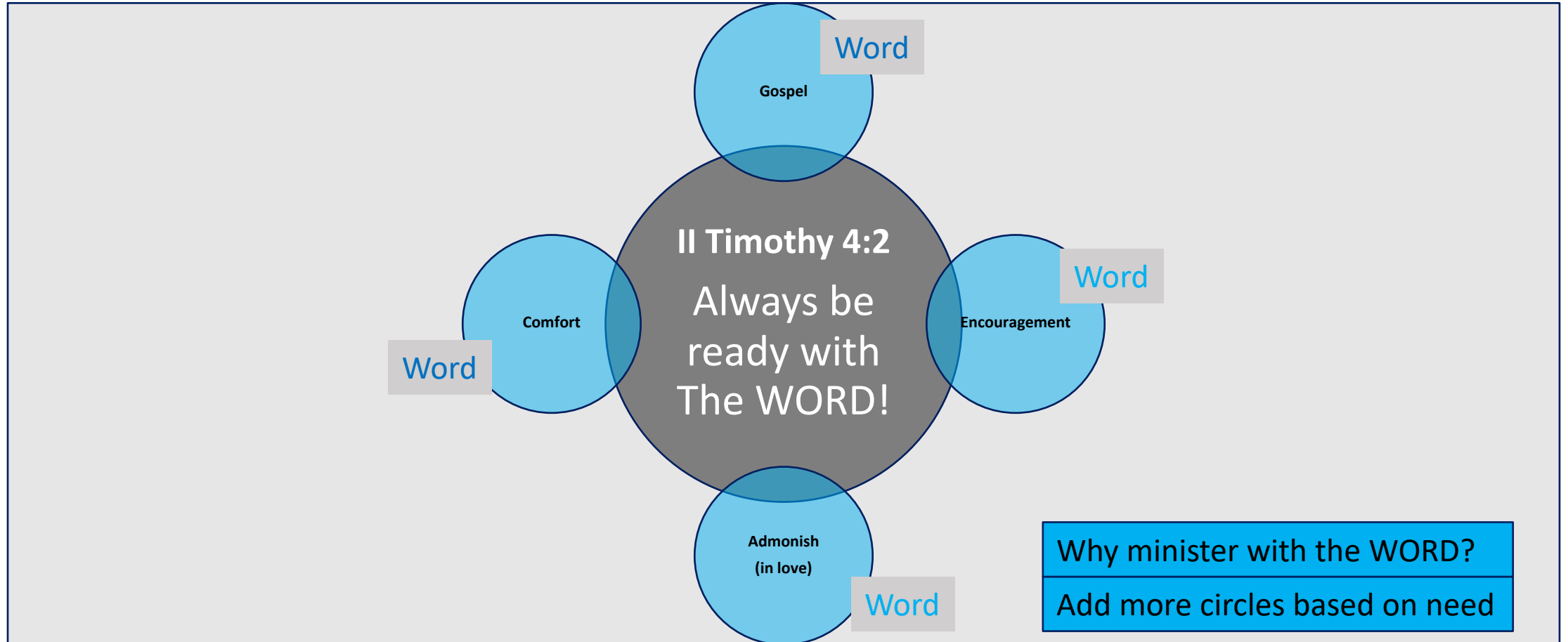
👣 Antioch in Syria → Seleucia → Cyprus Island → Salamis → Paphos → Perga (Turkey) → **Antioch in Pisidia** (fyi: there were 17 cities named Antioch)

- An offer is made to share in Synagogue and Paul steps up

II Timothy 4:2 (NIV) Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

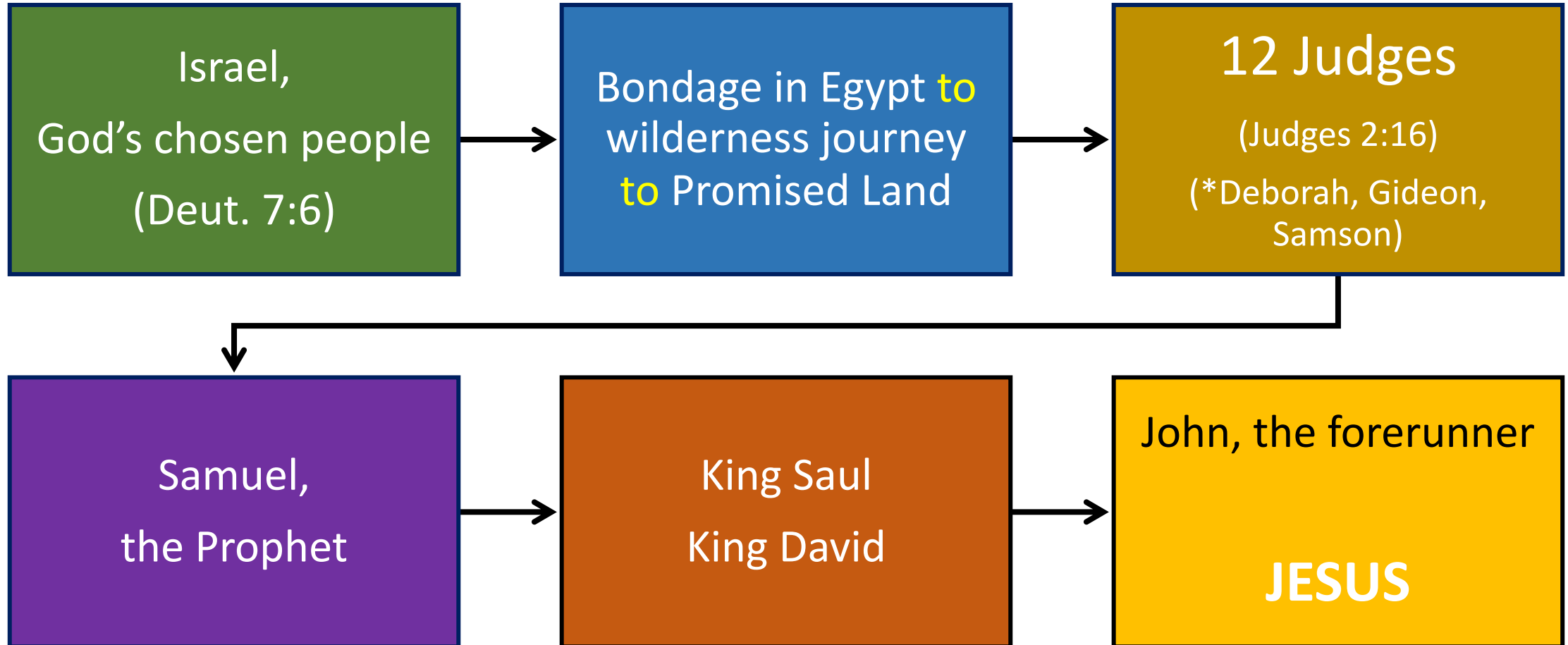
- Audience: Jews + those who fear God (16)
- What was Paul's message? Are there similar messages in Acts?

Do we have The Word for the weary world?



Peter's sermon at Antioch

... Jewish history until Jesus (17-25)



Jews and Jesus . . .

Jews rejected Jesus Christ, the Messiah

- Failed to recognize Jesus as the King and the Messiah
 - Wrongly accused Jesus and crucified him
 - Buried him
 - God raised Jesus from the dead
 - Risen Jesus seen by many
 - Jews and Jesus: Fulfilled prophecies (Psalms 2:7, Psalms 16:8-11)
-
- Sadly, even today, many fail to recognize risen Christ as the Messiah!

Conclusion of Paul's sermon, History leads to Christ (**Gospel message**)

- Forgiveness of sins through Christ
- All who believe are justified from all things (law cannot justify)
- **Justification**
 - Justification makes us right and worthy to stand before a Holy God
 - It is not our self-righteousness, but righteousness that is imputed upon us through Christ (Garments of Salvation + Robes of Righteousness, Isaiah 61:10, bride of Christ, Rev. 19:7-8)

John 1:17 (NIV) For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Justification by grace, and grace alone!

Romans 3:23-28 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;²⁶ To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. ²⁷ Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Romans 5:18,19 ¹⁸Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.¹⁹For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Galatians 3:27-28 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**.

Great Response to Paul's sermon

- Positive response from the Jews and the Gentiles
- Paul persuaded them to “continue” in the grace of God
 - ... implies that they had already begun in Grace (or have received the gift of salvation)
 - ... we need God's sustaining grace throughout our life

Obedience of the Church and Paul/Barnabas yields a rich harvest

- Whole city came to hear God's word (44)
 - Gentiles responded (48)
 - Word spread through the region (49)
-
- ... but, Jews were jealous (45)

Paul & Barnabas' response to Jewish opposition

- ... but, Jews were jealous (45)
- proclamation, despite jealousy, opposition and persecution
- Shifted their focus to gentiles (46)

- As persecution continued, Paul & Barnabas “shook off the dust of their feet against them” and moved on (Luke 9:4-6, Luke 10:11)
 - Rejection does not mean ‘end of ministry’ ... God will open other doors!
 - Growing persecution and rejection maybe God’s way of telling us to move on!
 - Moving to a new location does not mean ‘failure of ministry’ (Matthew 7:6)

God's provision during persecution/trials

Disciples were filled with Joy & Holy Ghost (52)

... persecution (or the world) **CANNOT** steal a believer's
inner Joy, divine Peace, and precious gift of the Holy Spirit 🙏

Matthew 10:28 (NIV) **Do not be afraid** of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

Matthew 5:12 (NIV) **Rejoice** and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

James 1:2 (NIV) Consider it **pure joy**, ... whenever you face trials of many kinds,