

ACTS 13: Onward to the Nations

Three points regarding Acts:

First, Acts is intended to be a paradigm/model of how the kingdom of God would be spread worldwide through the centuries until Jesus returns.

Second, Acts is designed to be God's training manual for modern Christians.

Third, Acts shows a transition from the ministry of Jesus to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We need to know the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:1-4: The Holy Spirit leads the first mission

Prophets and teachers are mentioned in Ephesians 4:11-13 as gifts Jesus Christ gives to his church. Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit. The prophetic word was spoken while the 'Antioch five' were "worshiping the Lord and fasting."

Acts 13:4-12: Power encounter with a false prophet

The Roman proconsul, Sergius Paulus, wanted to hear the Gospel. The opposition of Bar-Jesus led to a power encounter. The proconsul believed after he saw the power encounter "for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord." This is *didache* (GR teaching) with *dunamis* (GR power)! We need *dunamis* to back up our *didache*.

Acts 13:13-43: Paul's first recorded sermon

Paul's first recorded sermon was to "men of Israel and you who fear God" (i.e. God-fearing Gentiles). The first theme in Paul's sermon is the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel in the death and resurrection of Christ.

The second theme is the inability of the Law of Moses to free anyone from sin's power and its failure to justify anyone before God. 13:39: "*And by Christ, everyone who believes is justified from all things which the Law of Moses could not justify.*"

Paul and Barnabas urged them to continue in the GRACE of God (13:43).

Acts 13:44-52: Jews reject, Gentiles rejoice!

Chapter 13 begins with a power encounter and ends with another power encounter of a different kind which is systematic opposition from influential government and business leaders (13:50).

Key verses:

13:48-49: *And 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. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.*

Application Lessons:

- If we want the “word of the Lord” to spread throughout our whole region then we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and prepared for opposition.
- Continue in the grace of God! We can deny grace or abuse grace.