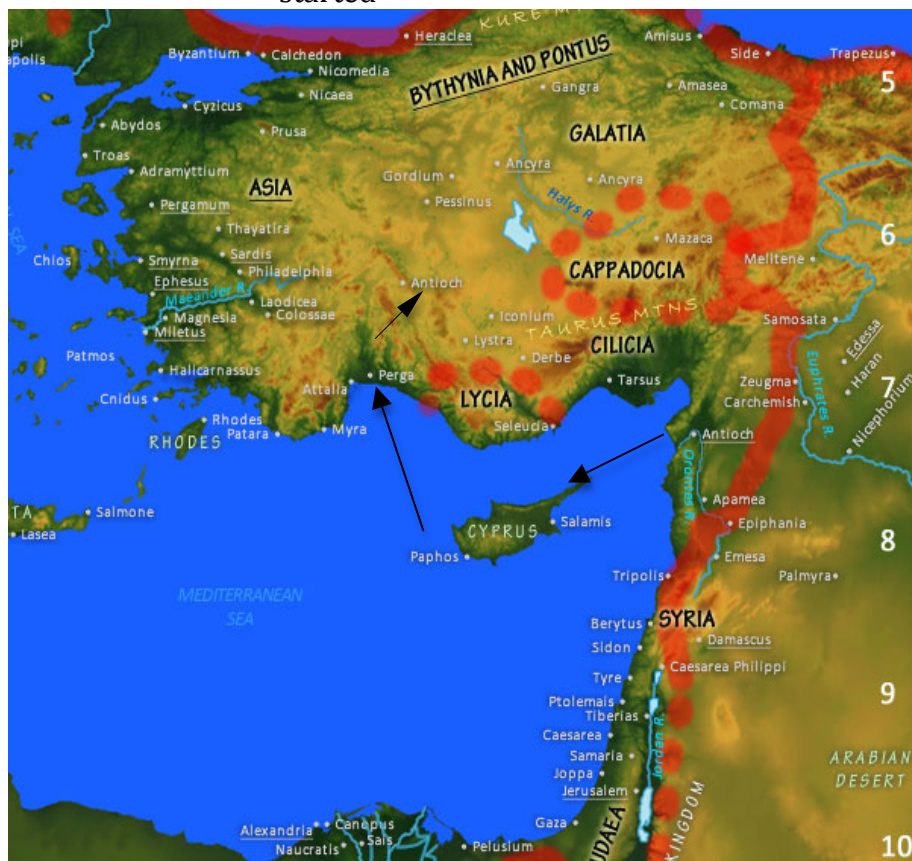


Preaching Christ – The Offended And The Redeemed (Acts 13:13-52)

I. The Gospel Mission Continues (13-15)

A. Paul and Barnabas Come to Asia Minor (13-14a)

1. The Missionaries Come to Perga (13a)
2. John Mark Leaves the Missionaries (13b)
 - a. We aren't told why he leaves to return to Jerusalem
 - b. His departure will be a source of contention between Paul and Barnabas later in the book
3. The Missionaries Come to Psidian Antioch (14a)
 - a. This is a city in central Asia Minor –
 - b. not to be confused with the Antioch where their journey started



C.

B. Paul and Barnabas Enter the Synagogue (14b)

C. Paul and Barnabas Are Invited to Speak to The People (15)

1. Synagogue service consisted of saying the Shema, reading from the Law and the Prophets, and then a Rabbi would give a sermon
2. Customarily, Rabbis traveling through would be invited to speak
 - a. Maybe Paul had come and introduced himself earlier in the week

- b. Maybe Paul donned His Pharisee Robes to indicate that he was a Rabbi
- c. The Synagogue would have been honored to have a student of Gamaliel from Jerusalem in their midst

II. The Gospel Sermon in the Synagogue (16-41)

A. Introduction and Address to the Audience (16)

- 1. Paul addresses both Jews and Gentiles in the synagogue
- 2. Paul says "Brothers and God-fearers"

B. Recounting God's Work in History (17-22)

1. God Has Worked In Israel From Abraham to the Promised Land (17-19)

a. God Chose The Fathers of Israel (17a)

- i. God called Abraham because of grace
- ii. Abraham had done nothing to earn God's favor
- iii. God called him out of idolatry, promising he would be the father of many nations and that all the earth would be blessed through him
- iv. God likewise chose Jacob by grace alone

b. God has Grown and Delivered Israel (17b)

- i. Even in slavery, God grew the people into a mighty nation – fulfilling his promise to make Abraham's children a great nation
- ii. By grace (certainly not because they were good) God delivered the people from the slavery in Egypt
- iii. He delivered them from Egypt by the power of his own might (through miraculous works)

c. God Put Up with Israel's Sinfulness (18)

- i. By grace, God cared for and nurtured the people in the wilderness
- ii. God suffered their rebellion and faithlessness
- iii. God continually blessed them despite their sinfulness – He was gracious and merciful

d. God Gave Victory and Inheritance to Israel (19)

- i. God gave the promised land to His people
- ii. God gave them victory over the Canaanites who lived there
- iii. God allotted them the inheritance of land he promised

2. God Has Worked in Israel From Judges to David (20-22)

a. God Gave Judges to Lead Israel (20)

- i. Israel continually did what was right in their own eyes
- ii. Each time, God allowed foreign nations to oppress them

- iii. When Israel suffered more than they could stand, they cried out to the Lord and God raised up a deliverer to save them
 - iv. This pattern happens over and over in the book of Judges – God is gracious to them over and over again
 - b. God Gave Israel the King They Wanted (21)
 - i. The people's rebellion finally reaches a boiling point
 - ii. They ask for a king so they can be like the other nations
 - God had promised that they would eventually have a king in the land (Deut 17:14-20)
 - The problem was they wanted a king to rule over them because they rejected God's rule
 - God judged them and gave them king Saul
 - Saul just like Israel herself, turned away from the ways of God and was rejected
 - c. God Raise up A King After His Heart (22)
 - i. God did finally raise up a king after His own Heart
 - ii. God used King David to bring glory and grace to Israel
 - iii. At every point through Israel's history, God is the subject of Paul's preaching
 - God has continually given them grace and they have continually sinned and rebelled against Him

NOTE: Up to this point the people in the synagogue would be nodding in agreement with Paul. They have heard all this before. They knew it to be true. What they expect will follow is Paul saying that now they are awaiting the true son of David, the Messiah – but instead Paul tells them that God has already brought the Messiah forth.

- C. Revealing God's Fulfillment in Jesus (23-39)
 - 1. God Has Now Worked To Fulfill The Promises to Israel (23-26)
 - a. God Gave Jesus to Israel in Fulfillment of the Promise (23)
 - i. God has given a Messiah from David's line
 - ii. The Messiah was promised to sit on David's throne forever and rule the people in an age of redemption and glory
 - iii. Jesus is that Messiah who has come
 - b. God Provided the Forerunner of the Messiah (24-25)

- i. The Jews were probably shocked at Paul's announcement of the Messiah's coming
 - ii. According to Malachi 4:5, they believed that Elijah the prophet would return before the Messiah to announce his way and prepare his path
 - iii. Paul anticipates this and tells them that John the Baptist, who came in the spirit of Elijah (Luke 1:17) did just that.
 - c. God has Given the Message of Salvation (26)
 - i. Paul now brings the application
 - ii. God has given the Messiah to "us"
 - Notice that Paul is speaking to Israel and the "God-fearers"
 - Paul also includes himself
 - God has fulfilled the promises to Israel in Jesus
- 2. Jesus is the Fulfillment of God's Salvation (27-39)
 - a. God Has Given His Messiah For Sin (27-31)
 - i. The Jews Fulfilled the Scriptures By Executing Jesus (27-28)
 - The people hearing Paul would have thought, "if this were true, the leaders in Jerusalem would have announced it. They would have celebrated and spread the word.
 - Paul tells them that by their own rebellion and ignorance, they fulfilled the Scriptures which say the Messiah must suffer
 - The scriptures that are read every Sabbath were fulfilled in those who heard them read every Sabbath
 - They broke the law they loved so much by falsely accusing and having Jesus executed
 - ii. Jesus was Buried After He Died (29)
 - His death was foretold and fulfilled by the Jews in Jerusalem who should have known better
 - The Messiah was truly killed
 - Notice that Paul says "they took him down from the tree" – Throughout Luke and Acts, the apostles call the cross "a tree"

- This is because of Deuteronomy 21:23 which says that everyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse
 - This would have been extremely offensive to the Jews – God's Messiah is cursed by God?
 - But that is the point of the cross, he took the curse for us
- iii. God Raised Jesus From the Dead (30)
 - God the Father judged Christ's sacrifice as worthy
 - God the Father vindicated Jesus by raising Him from the dead
 - The Sacrifice was accepted and received by the Father and Jesus was exalted to the throne of Heaven
- iv. Jesus' Resurrection is Verified by Witnesses (31)
 - Paul makes sure they know that this was seen by his people
 - Paul says that over 500 people saw Jesus alive in 1 Corinthians 15
- b. God Has Fulfilled All His Promises to Israel (32-37)
 - i. God Has Fulfilled His Promises to the Fathers Through Jesus (32-33)
 - Paul says that right now in the hearing of those to whom he is speaking – the gospel (glad tidings) of God is being preached
 - The fulfillment of the promises God made to Israel's fathers has come to Israel's children through Jesus
 - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's promises are fulfilled in God's Son
 - The crucifixion and resurrection is Israel's covenant promise fulfilled
 - Paul quotes Psalm 2:7 – Today I have begotten thee –
 - Jesus has always been the Son
 - He was declared publically as the Son at His baptism
 - He was vindicated as the Son of God in Glory at His resurrection
 - ii. God Has Fulfilled His Promises to David Through Jesus (34-37)
 - Jesus is the fulfillment of the blessings of David (34)

- He has been raised to never again see death or corruption
 - Here Paul quotes Isa. 55:3 – this is a prophecy about the Messiah in which God promises to give the blessings and covenant mercies of David to him
 - Paul is saying that Jesus is the Messiah predicted in Isa. 55
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises made to David (35-37)
 - Paul quotes Psalm 16:10 – this is the same Psalm Peter quotes in Acts 2
 - David prophesied that God would not let His Holy one see corruption
 - David spoke of the Messiah not himself because David died and did see corruption. His tomb and his bones remained in Israel
 - Therefore Jesus, the Messiah is the one who did not see corruption
- c. God Has Given Salvation Through Jesus (38-39)
 - i. Forgiveness of Sins is Proclaimed Through Jesus (38)
 - Once again Paul directs his remarks directly at his audience
 - Only through Jesus is the forgiveness of sins accomplished
 - Paul once again states that today, in their hearing, the forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed
 - Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT so there is no point in holding to the Old Covenant, trying to find salvation
 - ii. Freedom From the Law's Penalty is Through Jesus (39)
 - Through Jesus men are now justified (declared righteous)
 - The Law of Moses could justify no one because no one could keep the law
 - This would have sent a shock through the Jewish crowd – Paul has just proclaimed the inferiority of the law and the fulfillment of Jesus.

D. God's Work Now Demands a Response (40-41)

1. The Jews would have had a hard time accepting that their righteous Messiah could be hanged on a tree, bearing the curse of God
 - a. They would have a hard time thinking God would redeem them like this
 - b. They would have a hard time accepting that a “cursed” man could redeem anyone
2. Paul warns them to be careful that they don’t fall into the same trap the prophets warned of
 - a. Paul quotes Habakkuk 1:5 (v.41)
 - b. In Habakkuk, God was bringing the Babylonian (Chaldean) army against Israel in judgment for their sins.
 - c. The people would not believe that God would use a pagan (cursed) nation to chastise His own people – they refused to accept God’s work on their behalf
 - d. Paul uses the verse to say the same thing – don’t think that God wouldn’t use a Messiah crucified on a tree to bring judgment and redemption
 - e. Paul warns that once again, God is doing a work they people don’t expect and won’t believe even if someone tells them

III. The Gospel Brings Both Offense and Redemption (42-51)

A. The Gospel Brings Religious Opposition (42-45)

1. Paul and Barnabas Continue Witnessing to the People (42-43)
 - a. The People desired to hear more about the gospel (42)
 - i. The gospel is going forth in power
 - ii. Some people asked for the missionaries to come back next Sabbath and speak more about Jesus
 - b. The People are Urged to Continue in God’s grace (43)
 - i. Others actually followed Paul and Barnabas back to where they were staying, desiring to hear more
 - ii. Paul and Barnabas urged them to continue in God’s grace
 - They were urged not to go back to law-keeping as a way of pleasing God
 - They were urged not to go back to sacrificial system in order to have sins forgiven
 - They were urged to trust in Jesus and the grace of God fulfilled in Him
2. The Jews Begin Publically Opposing Paul’s Gospel (44-45)
 - a. The Next Sabbath the whole city showed up to hear
 - i. No doubt, this message was the talk of the town
 - ii. People who believed went and told others

- iii. People who rejected it also went and told others
 - iv. Everyone wanted to see for themselves
 - b. The Jews (probably the leaders of the synagogue) Became Jealous when they saw the crowds
 - i. They contradicted the things Paul was saying
 - ii. They spoke against Paul and his doctrine
 - iii. They were blaspheming God
 - Notice that Luke infers that speaking against Jesus is blaspheming
 - By trying to hold to the law of Moses, the Jews are breaking that very law
- B. The Gospel Will Now Go To The Gentiles (46-47)
 - 1. The Gospel Must Come to the Jews First (46)
 - a. Paul and Barnabas do not back down from the opposition
 - i. They spoke with boldness in the face of enemies
 - b. Paul informs them that Scripture must be fulfilled in bringing the gospel to Israel first
 - i. The promises were made to Israel
 - ii. Christ and His message came to Israel first
 - iii. But these Israelites have rejected the fulfillment of God's promises and forfeited eternal life
 - 2. The Gospel Will Now Go to the Gentiles (46b)
 - a. Paul now tells them that they will turn to the nations
 - b. This would have been deeply offensive to Jews hearing this
 - c. The gentiles were seen as unclean pagans and separated from the fellowship of God
 - 3. God has Commanded the Gospel to be Preached to all the Nations (47)
 - a. Paul shows that it had always been God's plan to bring the gospel to the nations
 - b. Paul sites Isa. 49:6 – showing that the nation of Israel was always supposed to be a light to the Gentiles, not a hindrance to them
 - c. God's salvation will be that light to the nations.
 - d. Jesus will fulfill what Israel was always meant to be to the world
- C. The Gospel Brings Both Salvation and Judgment (48-51)
 - 1. Many Gentiles Believe and Glorify God (48-49)
 - a. The Gentiles of the city heard Paul's remarks and rejoiced – salvation has come to them
 - b. The Gentiles of the city glorified God because of his grace and mercy
 - c. Many in the crowd believed in Jesus and were saved
 - 2. The Jews Drive Paul and Barnabas Out of the Region (50)

- a. The Jews stirred up the influential people of the city against Paul
 - b. The Jews incited a persecution against Paul and the gospel He was preaching
 - c. The Jews wanted them gone – notice, they didn’t want to argue the point anymore. They just wanted the nuisance to disappear.
- 3. Paul and Barnabas Leave the City in Protest (51)
 - a. The Missionaries shake their dust from their feet and leave the city for Iconium
 - i. Jesus commanded this in Matt. 10:14; Mark 6:11
 - ii. This was a symbol of disgrace and rejection
 - Jews coming back to Israel from other countries would shake the dust off their feet before entering their home land
 - This was a sign that the dirt from the other lands was not worthy to be tracked into Israel
 - Paul and Jesus use this to show that those rejecting the gospel are rejected by God

IV. The Gospel of Peace Continues Its Work (52)

- A. Even in Hard Circumstances there is Joy
 - 1. Paul and Barnabas have been run out of town
 - 2. There is now a great division among the people
 - a. Some believed the gospel
 - b. Some rejected and persecuted it
 - 3. The disciples in the city were filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit
 - a. Peace with God brings an unconquerable joy
 - b. The people couldn’t help but rejoice, having been made right with God
- B. The Gospel does its work even when we Don’t see The Results We Want