

PAUL AND BARNABAS AT ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA

BIBLE TEXT : Acts 13:13-52

LESSON 325 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Acts 13:13-52

¹³ Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

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.

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.

²⁰ And after that he gave *unto them* judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

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

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I To the Jew First

1. The disciples came to Perga, where John left them; they then went to Antioch in Pisidia, Acts 13:13, 14.

2. Paul preached to the Jews in the synagogue on the Sabbath Day, Acts 13:15;

Acts 17:2

² And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Luke 4:16

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

3. Paul preached Jesus Christ to the Jews, proving from the Scripture that He was their Messiah, Acts 13:16-41;

Acts 2:22-36

²² Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

²³ Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

²⁴ Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

²⁵ For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

²⁶ Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

²⁷ Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

²⁸ Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

²⁹ Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

³⁰ Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

³¹ He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

³² This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

³⁴ For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

³⁵ Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Acts 3:13-26

¹³ The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when

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.

²³ Of this man's 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.

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.

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.

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

he was determined to let *him* go.

¹⁴ But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

¹⁵ And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

¹⁶ And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

¹⁷ And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did *it*, as *did* also your rulers.

¹⁸ But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

¹⁹ Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

²⁰ And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

²¹ Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

²² For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

²³ And it shall come to pass, *that* every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

²⁴ Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

²⁵ Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

²⁶ Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Acts 4:11-12

¹¹ This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 5:29

²⁹ Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:32

³² And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

4. Many were convinced of the truth of Paul's preaching, believing on the Lord, Acts 13:42-44.

II And to the Greek

1. The Jews, envious of the huge crowds attending Paul's preaching, spoke blasphemous things against the Gospel and Paul, Acts 13:45;

Acts 14:2

² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

Acts 17:5

⁵ But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

Acts 17:13

¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas waxed

Acts 17:17

¹⁷ Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

Acts 17:18

¹⁸ Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

2. Paul, seeing the Jews' refusal of Christ, turned his efforts toward the Gentiles, Acts 13:46-52;

Acts 28:25-28

²⁵ And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

²⁶ Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:

²⁷ For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

²⁸ Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and *that* they will hear it.

Isaiah 42:6-7

⁶ I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

⁷ To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

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.

Luke 2:32

³² A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

3. It was necessary for the Gospel to be preached first to the Jews, Acts 13:46;

Matthew 10:5-6

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

⁶ But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Acts 3:26

²⁶ Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

4. Paul and Barnabas shook off the dust of their feet against the Jews and went to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, Acts 13:51, 52;

Acts 18:6

⁶ And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook *his* raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I *am* clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

Matthew 10:14

¹⁴ And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

Mark 6:11

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.

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.

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.

⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

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 Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

NOTES:

The Gospel to the Gentiles

The nucleus of truth in our lesson can perhaps be summed up in the words of Paul when he stated: "I am ready to preach the gospel . . . for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:15, 16). In God's plan it was ordained that the Jews should first hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for to them was given "the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all" (Romans 9:4, 5). This is not to be misconstrued to mean that the Jews only were originally meant to receive salvation, and the Gentiles were not. The Gentiles were ordained to salvation as much as the Jews; but the Jews were the chosen vessel of God to publish that salvation during the course of time.

From the time of Abraham, when he received of God the covenant promises that in him all the nations should be blessed, God dealt with Israel as individuals and as a nation. (**Galatians 3:8-9** ⁸ *And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.* ⁹ *So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*) God desired to use them for His glory and for the publishing of the Gospel. As a nation they were a stiff-necked and stubborn people, resisting God's Spirit. Finally, during the ministry of Christ when He knew their rejection of Him was complete and final as a nation, Jesus spoke these solemn words "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Luke 13:35). Those words signified that a great era was at an end, and that God would, in the immediate future, turn to the Gentiles with the word of reconciliation, and they would become the wild olive branch grafted into the good olive tree. (**Romans 11:17-24** ¹⁷ *And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;* ¹⁸ *Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.* ¹⁹ *Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.* ²⁰ *Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:* ²¹ *For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.* ²² *Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.* ²³ *And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.* ²⁴ *For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?)*

And old prophecy of many hundreds of years' standing was being fulfilled. As far back as the time of Moses, God had warned Israel of their backslidings and foretold that the Gospel would be preached to, and received by, the Gentiles. It is written: "They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to

anger with a foolish nation" (Deuteronomy 32:21). Paul, quoting Isaiah on this theme, states: "I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me" (Romans 10:20).

The truth of these Scripture passages is that Israel had continually provoked God by their persistent worshiping of idols. God said He would provoke them to jealousy by turning to a people whom the Jews did not consider worthy of being called a people. The Jews stubbornly persisted in the idea that the privileges of the Gospel, which God had given them were an inherent possession of their own, which even God could not take away from them. But God took away those privileges; and He also took away many other blessings, because of their iniquities. Likewise, God will remove the joys of salvation from any Christian who does not retain his salvation. Furthermore, He will remove from the Book of Life the name of the individual who has sinned.

There is no question but that the Jews were greatly exasperated by the preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles, as the text of this lesson and others vividly show. The preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles had begun, and it will continue until the Rapture of the Church; at which time God will again turn to the Jews as a nation to deal with them concerning their Messiah.

Received of the Gentiles

As we study the Book of Acts we see the continued antagonism of the Jews against the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and their envy because of the ready acceptance of it by the Gentiles. It is plain that the day of opportunity had been lost to Israel, and that the day of salvation was arising bright and clear upon the Gentiles.

Paul, as did the other Apostles, always made it his first business to go to the synagogue, or other suitable place, and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Jews. Paul was called of God to be an Apostle to the Gentiles, and said as much of himself: "I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles" (Romans 11:13). Nevertheless, Paul went first to the Jews to tell them about forgiveness of sins, and that there was no other name given under Heaven by which men might be saved except the name of Jesus Christ. It was God's order that the Gospel be preached first to the Jew, and Paul obeyed the order religiously. Often the preaching of the Gospel to the Jews was in vain and provoked much trouble, but it was first preached to them as God commanded.

Despite the fact that God had turned from Israel as a nation, the individual Jew could be saved and received the blessings of God if he would repent of his sins and turn to Christ. Many of them did turn to Christ, but it is a sad truth that many did not. Paul preached to the Jews, as did the other Apostles, from the Old Testament Scriptures, proving to them that Christ was indeed their long-looked-for Messiah.

As the Lord had prophesied, the Jews were stirred to great envy because of Paul's success in preaching to the Gentiles. They began to contradict and blaspheme against the things, which Paul preached. Paul and Barnabas, seeing the unreasoning opposition of the Jews, rebuked them, saying: "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. 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."

Upon hearing that the Word of God would be preached unto them, the Gentiles were glad and glorified the Word of the Lord. Many believed unto eternal life. "And the word of the Lord was

published throughout all the region.”

Our text states that Paul and Barnabas “shook off the dust of their feet against them.” What tragic implication is in these few words! They are a parallel to the words of Jesus: “Into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, or hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city” (Matthew 10:11-15).

Let us take solemn warning from the unbelief of the nation of Israel. Be we ever so familiar with the process of the worship of God, this knowledge will avail us nothing unless we believe in our heart unto righteousness, and believe that God has indeed raised Christ from the dead.

The time of preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles is almost at an end. Even now the Jews have hastening to Palestine, their homeland. The day of opportunity will soon be gone for the Gentile, even as it passed for the Jew. Let us remember the admonition of the Word of God: “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end” (Hebrews 3:12-14).

QUESTIONS

1. What is meant by: “To the Jew first, and also to the Greek”?
2. Why did Paul preach first to the Jews?
3. Why did Paul say he was an Apostle of the Gentiles?
4. Who are the Gentiles?
5. Why did Paul shake the dust off his feet against the Jews?
6. Why did the Jews become envious of Paul?