

# ***Bible Study***

## ***Gods Word in Focus***



**Week Forty Five**

**Acts of the Apostles**

**Acts 13:1-52**

# DEPARTURE FROM ANTIOCH OF SYRIA

With his attention now on the ministry of Paul, Luke narrates the beginning of Paul's first missionary journey.

It started with the call of the Holy Spirit, who instructed the prophets and teachers at the church in Antioch of Syria to separate Barnabas and Saul for the work He has called them.

With fasting, prayer, and the laying on of hands, the two men were sent out on their journey

# MINISTRY ON THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS

Sailing from Selucia, they arrived at the island of Cyprus, the home country of Barnabas (cf. **4:36**). Assisting them was John Mark (Barnabas' cousin who had joined them earlier, and was later the companion of Peter and author of the gospel of Mark; cf. **12:25**; [Col 4:10](#); [1Pe 5:13](#)).

Here they began what Luke later describes as Paul's custom: preaching in the synagogues of the Jews (cf. **17:1-3**). Starting in Salamis, they made their way to Paphos, where they met the sorcerer Elymas Bar-Jesus along with the proconsul Sergius Paulus. When Sergius wanted to hear the Word of God, Elymas tried to prevent Barnabas and Saul from speaking. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul rebuked the sorcerer and rendered him sightless.

Astonished at the power behind the teaching of the Lord, Sergius believes. From this point forward, Saul is now called Paul and also became the more prominent member of the missionary team

# PREACHING IN ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA

From Cyprus they sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John Mark left them to return to Jerusalem (later causing contention between Paul and Barnabas; cf. 15:36-40).

Arriving in Antioch of Pisidia, they attended the synagogue of the Jews on the Sabbath. Invited to speak, Paul preached Jesus by first reviewing the history of Israel from the Exodus to the time of David. Noting God's promise concerning the seed of David, Paul summarized the ministry of John the Baptist and then introduced Jesus as the Savior who was crucified, buried and raised from the dead, and seen by eyewitnesses.

Offering further evidence of the resurrection from Old Testament prophecy, Paul proclaimed forgiveness of sins through Jesus with a warning against unbelief

# THE SECOND SABBATH IN ANTIOCH

The response was positive, especially among the Gentiles, and Paul and Barnabas were invited to speak the following Sabbath.

When unbelieving Jews saw that the whole city came out to hear, they were filled with envy and opposed the things spoken by Paul.

Declared themselves unworthy of eternal life, Paul turned his efforts toward the Gentiles who were much more receptive.

The word of the Lord spread through the region, but eventually Paul and Barnabas were forced to leave and thus went to Iconium.

Their work in Antioch was not in vain, for left behind were disciples filled with joy and the Holy Spirit