

## Acts 13, 14

## Jesus Christ, the King, Evangelizes Asia Minor

<p><b>God</b></p> <p><b>Jesus Christ</b></p> <p><b>Holy Spirit</b></p> <p><b>Apostles</b></p> <p>Paul</p> <p><b>Believers</b></p> <p>Barnabas,</p> <p>John Mark</p> <p><b>Jews</b></p> <p>Non believers</p> <p>believers</p> <p><b>Gentiles</b></p>	<p><b>Scene One:</b> 13:1-3: During a worship and fasting period of the church at Antioch the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Prophets and teachers were in this church as well as Saul, an apostle.</p> <p><b>Scene Two:</b> 13:4-12: Paul, Barnabas and John Mark preached all over the isle of Cyprus until they came to Paphos. There they converted the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. They blinded a false prophet by the name of Bar-Jesus (Elymas).</p> <p><b>Scene Three:</b> 13:13-52. John Mark returned to Jerusalem when they arrived at Perga in Pamphylia. Paul and Barnabas went to Pisidian Antioch and joined the Jews and “devout converts to Judaism” (religious proselyte) on the Sabbath.</p> <p>Paul addressed the synagogue attendees as “Men of Israel and you Gentiles (proselytes) who worship God.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. He started his speech with the children of Israel in Egypt and brought the story of their history up to David, the king.</li> <li>2. Next point: “From this man’s descendants God brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as He promised.” V.23.</li> <li>3. Then Paul took his story to the end of Jesus’ death in Jerusalem. “But God raised Him up from the dead, and for many days He was seen by those who had traveled with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now His witnesses to our people.” 31.</li> <li>4. “Through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.” 38. “Through Him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.” 39.</li> </ol> <p>The next Sabbath many people gathered to hear the word of God. 44.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When the Jews saw the crowds they were filled with jealousy.</li> <li>2. Paul quoted from Isaiah that Jesus was the light for the Gentiles and “they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.” 48. See Luke 2:32.</li> <li>3. “But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city.” 50. Paul and Barnabas shook the dust from their feet in protest and left the region. 51.</li> </ol> <p>“And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”52</p>	<p><b>Chapter Fourteen:</b> Although it appears the foundation for a great church was laid in Pisidian Antioch, Paul and Barnabas were expelled from the region by the Jews.</p> <p><b>Scene one: 14:1-7.</b> At Iconium the preaching program was, as usual, “first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” Even though the preachers showed miraculous signs and wonders, the Jews, for the most part, did not accept Jesus as the Messiah. The church had started to be built after some time but the preachers left town under the threat of being stoned.</p> <p><b>Scene two:</b> In the Laconian cities of Lystra and Derbe the preachers went straight to the Gentile population with the gospel.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In Lystra they healed a crippled man and were welcomed as gods.</li> <li>2. The preachers shouted, “Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you.” 15.</li> <li>3. “We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth...”</li> <li>4. Their point: Even though God had let the Gentiles go their own way since the time of Abraham He still was the One who provided for their physical needs.</li> <li>5. The foundation for a church was laid but Paul took a terrible beating at the instigation of the Jews. Even then they pushed on to preach in Derbe with great success. 21.</li> </ol> <p>Scene Three: 14:21-28. “Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch.”</p>
<p>We want to watch what each member of the cast is doing.</p>	<p>Jesus’ pattern of evangelism was being carried out by Paul and Barnabas.</p> <p>The Holy Spirit directed the program we are reading about in chapter thirteen.</p> <p>We must always keep in mind how the Holy Spirit does what Jesus desires and Jesus does what His Father desires. See John 5:20; 16:13. Read Romans 1:16.</p> <p>Note the doctrine of justification by faith is first mentioned here in Acts. 13:39.</p>	<p>Paul and Barnabas summed up their view of their first missionary journey with, “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.” Acts 14:22.</p> <p>Elders were appointed with prayer and fasting.14:23.</p> <p><b>Don’t miss this point.</b></p>

### Questions for Discussion

**Acts 13:1-3** Where is this individual narrative happening?

- a. What are they preparing to do?
- b. What is the value of the combination of prayer and fasting in this context?
- c. See a book, entitled, The Sermon on the Mount, by this writer. Part IV, Lesson Three, Fasting, page 153.

**13:4-12** Make a list showing the identity of the complete cast in this scenario.

- a. Separate your list of characters under the headings of protagonist and antagonist.
- b. How did Luke make a point about who became Jesus' leader of this team?
- c. To whom did they first preach the gospel?
- d. Name a Gentile who became a Christian on the Isle of Cyprus.

**13:13-52** Jesus' evangelism team shifted to the main land of Asia.

- a. Name the city in which Luke detailed the narrative.
- b. Where did the first meeting take place in this city?
- c. Who did Luke identify as the preacher?
- d. How had Luke changed the way he identified this man?
- e. In what manner did the speaker start his lesson?
- f. How did he introduce Jesus into his sermon?
- g. How did Paul address the audience at the point where he began to present the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- h. List the significant points he made about Jesus.
- i. How did Paul apply what he had presented to the audience, individually?
- j. What was the response to this lesson?
- k. Why did Paul and Barnabas receive a negative response a week later?

- l. After this how did Paul take up the ministry Jesus had appointed for him?
- m. How successful was this ministry before the opposition expelled them from the region?
- n. Who were the people Luke identified as the ones the Jews used to do their dirty work?
- o. What were the two blessings with which the new recipients of eternal life were filled?

**Acts 14:1-7** Describe how this narrative was a repeat of what had happened in Pisidian Antioch?

**14:8-20** How was the gospel meeting in Lystra completely different from previous meetings?

- a. How did Jesus arrange for an audience for this evangelism meeting?
- b. At first, what caused things to get out of hand?
- c. What was the first point of the "good news" message?
- d. Even though this heathen people had suppressed the truth about God in their past lives, what had God been doing for them?
- e. Based on your answer what needed to be their first "point of faith?"
- f. Even though they had told the people that God had been the source for satisfying their basic needs, what did the people still have a strong tendency to do?
- g. What happened to end the campaign in Lystra and cause Paul to later lament, "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God?"
- h. How did Luke rate the success of this evangelism tour?
- i. What was the leadership they ordained in each church?
- j. Although Paul was an apostle with the same powers as Peter and the others, he worked as a member of the church. To which church did he and Barnabas report the joys of their trip?