



## ACTS

### THE GREAT ADVENTURE

### ~SUPERNATURAL~

We remember from 2-weeks ago that Paul and Barnabas left Antioch of Syria since it had become self-sufficient. Paul and Barnabas now continue their mission at Antioch of Pisidia.



#### ***Paul Preaches in Antioch of Pisidia***

*Acts 13: 13-42: <sup>13</sup> Paul and his companions then left Paphos by ship for Pamphylia, landing at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> But Paul and Barnabas traveled inland to Antioch of Pisidia. On the Sabbath they went to the synagogue for the services. <sup>15</sup> After the usual readings from the books of Moses and the prophets, those in charge of the service sent them this message: “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, come and give it.” <sup>16</sup> So Paul stood, lifted his hand to quiet them, and started speaking. “Men of Israel,” he said, “and you God-fearing Gentiles, listen to me. <sup>17</sup> “The God of this nation of Israel chose our ancestors and made them multiply and grow strong during their stay in Egypt. Then **with a powerful arm** he led them out of their slavery.*

The above shows that Paul for the first time is now taking the lead role as opposed to Barnabas. Antioch of Pisidia is only about 200 miles from Paul’s home in Tarsus and that positioned him nicely to address the men of Israel; he could identify with them.

Since Paul was the one that took the lead of speaking words of encouragement to the men, do you think it meant more to his audience that he was pretty much just like them?

It's interesting here in verse 17 we read that God chose the men of Israel's Hebrew ancestors and made them multiply and grow strong while captives in Egypt. Then God supernaturally led them out of Egypt.

*<sup>18</sup> He (God) put up with them through forty years of wandering in the wilderness. <sup>19</sup> Then he destroyed seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to Israel as an inheritance. <sup>20</sup> All this took about 450 years. "After that, God gave them judges to rule until the time of Samuel the prophet. <sup>21</sup> Then the people begged for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. <sup>22</sup> But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.' <sup>23</sup> "And it is one of King David's descendants, Jesus, who is God's promised Savior of Israel! <sup>24</sup> Before he came, John the Baptist preached that all the people of Israel needed to repent of their sins and turn to God and be baptized. <sup>25</sup> As John was finishing his ministry he asked, 'Do you think I am the Messiah? No, I am not! But he is coming soon—and I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the sandals on his feet.'*

Verses 17-23 spans quite a long period of time. As Paul points out some key events between exodus and then present-day, what does that say about God's planning?

*<sup>26</sup> "Brothers—you sons of Abraham, and also you God-fearing Gentiles—this message of salvation has been sent to us! <sup>27</sup> The people in Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize Jesus as the one the prophets had spoken about. Instead, they condemned him, and in doing this they fulfilled the prophets' words that are read every Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> They found no legal reason to execute him, but they asked Pilate to have him killed anyway. <sup>29</sup> "When they had done all that the prophecies said about him, they took him down from the cross and placed him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup> **But God raised him from the dead!** <sup>31</sup> And over a period of many days he appeared to those who had gone with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to the people of Israel.*

Very often, disciple and apostle are used synonymously. In some cases that is true however there were several hundred disciples; this was not so of apostles.

In order to be regarded as an apostle, one had to witness the result of what supernatural act?

*<sup>32</sup> "And now we are here to bring you this Good News. The promise was made to our ancestors, <sup>33</sup> and God has now fulfilled it for us, their descendants, by raising Jesus. This is what the second psalm says about Jesus:*

**'You are my Son.  
Today I have become your Father.'**

*<sup>34</sup> For God had promised to raise him from the dead, not leaving him to rot in the grave. He said, 'I will give you the sacred blessings I promised to David.' <sup>35</sup> Another psalm explains it more fully: 'You will not allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.' <sup>36</sup> This is not a reference to David, for after David had done the will of God in his own generation, he died and was buried with his ancestors, and his body decayed. <sup>37</sup> No, it was a reference to someone else—someone whom God raised and whose body did not decay. <sup>38</sup> "Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. <sup>39</sup> Everyone who believes in him is declared right with God—something the law of Moses could never do. <sup>40</sup> Be careful! Don't let the prophets' words apply to you. For they said, <sup>41</sup> 'Look, you mockers, be amazed and die!*

*For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it.'"*<sup>42</sup> *As Paul and Barnabas left the synagogue that day, the people begged them to speak about these things again the next week.*<sup>43</sup> *Many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, and the two men urged them to continue to rely on the grace of God.*

**Pastor Rob:** "The same God who supernaturally raised Jesus from the dead can likewise raise each and everyone one who submits to His power through a reliance on His grace to bring life where sin has brought death in every area of our lives."

*Romans 7:24-25:*<sup>24</sup> *What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?*<sup>25</sup> *Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*

### Bringing It Home

Acts 13:17-23 clearly articulated that God had a plan for humanity; a plan that would span generations testing the patience of both man AND God. Several hundred years passed between the time Moses led the Hebrew slaves out of bondage to the time of Jesus' resurrection. During that time several leaders came to power. You might wonder what exactly did God have in mind by raising up a leader such as King David? After all, he was guilty of lust, adultery and murder. So what was it then that made David "a man after God's own heart?" This: *2 Samuel 12:13~Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD. " Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die." He did not try to cover up his sins.* And this: David was willing to do whatever God asked him to do. As we have seen David had his faults, but God knew his heart. He knew that David loved Him and would do whatever He asked him to do. *Acts 13:22~ But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.*

We are all sinners and yet we all can be someone after God's own heart-how? By accepting responsibility for our actions, putting our sin at the feet of Jesus and being obedient to God.

