

* ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

Theme Statement:

"but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

(Acts 1:8)

* Acts 13:1-12

The Beginning of World Missions

Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ When they reached Salamis, they *began* to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.

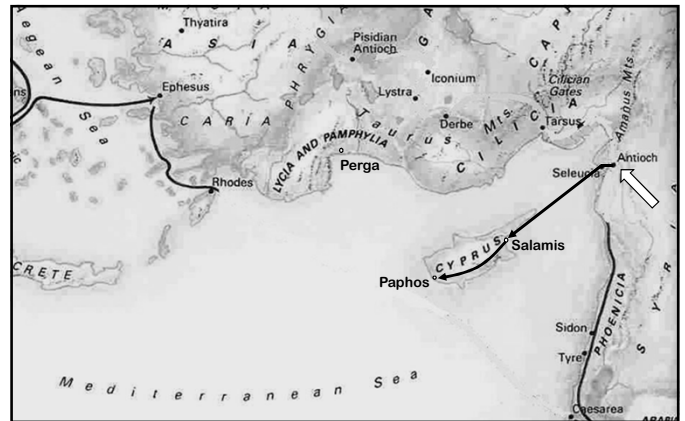
⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

⁹ But Saul, who was also *known as Paul*, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, ¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? ¹¹ Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.

¹² Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.

(Acts 13:1-12)

World Missions



World Missions

➤ Scene One: Cyprus

- God goes before and prepares hearts
- The gospel encounters opposition yet triumphs
- Reception of the gospel by Gentiles

World Missions

1. Initiated by the Holy Spirit

- the Holy Spirit called and sent these men for this unique work
- missions is God's idea and desire not firstly a church strategy

World Missions

2. Endorsed by the Local Church

- the church set apart and supported these men for this specific task
- the church 'released' two of their most gifted leaders for this work

World Missions

➤ Implications

- 1.) The church must prioritize the "going" and "sending" for global missions
- 2.) The church must willingly release resources and people for global missions