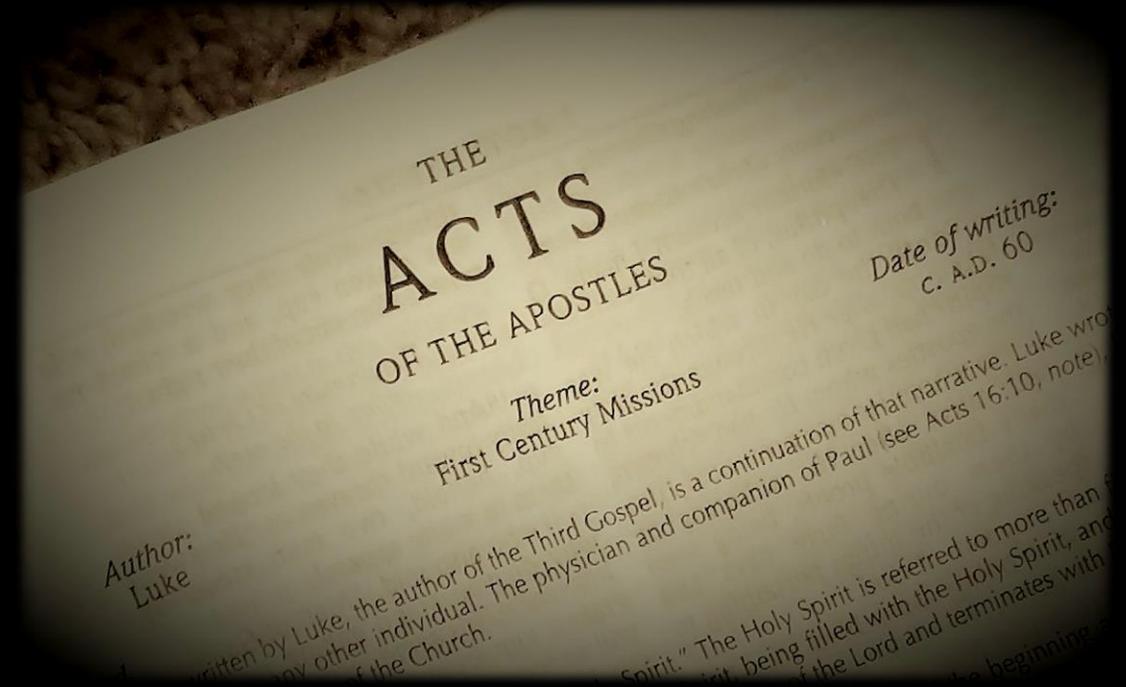


# Verse by Verse

## Acts 13



# Previously in Acts

## Previously in Acts

- Acts 1:8 (ESV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

## Previously in Acts

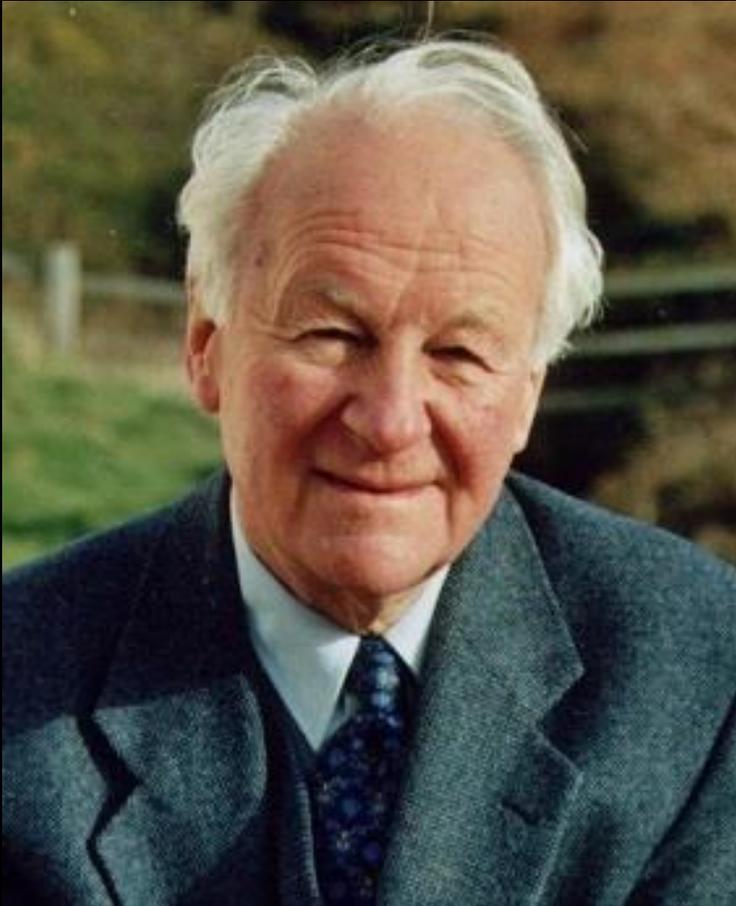
- Beginning in Jerusalem, the church has begun to extend itself just as Jesus said it would.
- We have seen expansion go as far as **Syrian Antioch**.
- In that city, new believers joined the church from among both the Jewish and non-Jewish population.

# Acts 13 Introduction

## Acts 13 Introduction

- In this chapter, attention begins to shift toward **Paul**.
- He will be the leading character through the rest of the book of **Acts**.
- Paul was **extremely adaptable**.
- Like Jesus, he was undaunted by sacred or secular settings, and relates to people of every race and class.

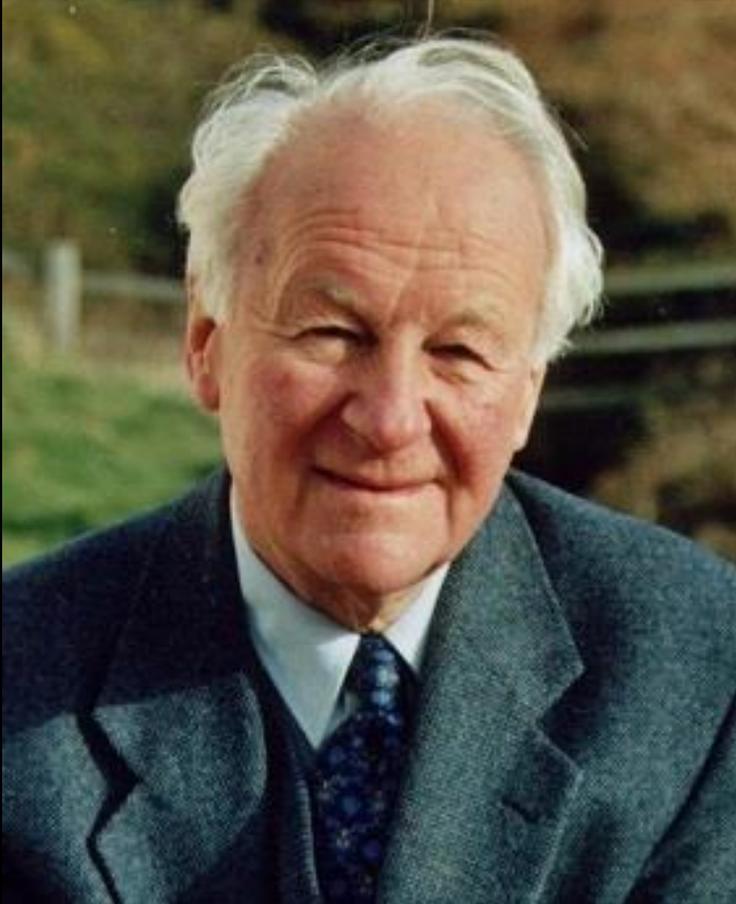
# Acts 13 Introduction



*[They] illustrate the extraordinary versatility of the apostle in adapting himself to different situations; he appeared to be equally at ease with individuals and crowds ...*

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011),  
All Souls Church, London*

# Acts 13 Introduction



*Jews and Gentiles, the religious and the irreligious, the educated and the uneducated, the friendly and the hostile.*

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011),  
All Souls Church, London*

## Acts 13 Introduction

- Regardless of conditions, Paul remained unceasingly committed to the spread of the gospel.
- This was true of all the apostles and of the church as a whole.

# Acts 13    Key Verse

# Acts 13    Key Verse

- Acts 13:49 (ESV)

And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

# Acts 13 Outline

# Acts 13 Outline

1. Church Leaders in Syrian Antioch 13:1-3
2. Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus 13:4-12
3. Paul's Sermon in Pisidian Antioch 13:13-41
4. The Gentiles Respond 13:42-51

# 1. Church Leaders in Syrian Antioch

## Acts 13:1-3

# 1. Church Leaders in Syrian Antioch

## Acts 13:1-3

- **13:1** Church leadership was still Jewish, but this group was well prepared to reach out to others.
- These leaders were definitely not all cut from the same cookie cutter.

# 1. Church Leaders in Syrian Antioch

## Acts 13:1-3

- **13:1** Saul (Paul) was probably the only trained rabbi.
- Barnabas the Levite we know.
- Simeon called Niger was probably dark-skinned.
- There is reason to believe he was the same person as Simon of Cyrene who carried Christ's cross.
- Lucius was also from Cyrene in North Africa.

# 1. Church Leaders in Syrian Antioch

## Acts 13:1-3

- **13:1** Finally, **Manaen** was a genuine aristocrat, being a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch.
- How fascinating that this Herod had John the Baptist beheaded and was present at the trial of Christ.
- At the same time, his lifelong friend became a leader in the early church.

# 1. Church Leaders in Syrian Antioch

## Acts 13:1-3

*It is significant that the church in Antioch had such a culturally diverse leadership in keeping with the diversity of the population of the city ...*

*– Ajith Fernando,  
Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka*



# 1. Church Leaders in Syrian Antioch

## Acts 13:1-3

*... I will go so far as to say that fostering leaders from different cultural backgrounds is a goal to work at in all churches that have a diversity in their membership.*

*– Ajith Fernando,  
Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka*



# 1. Church Leaders in Syrian Antioch

## Acts 13:1-3

- Fernando's point is one I make often, but is worth repeating.
- Any average church in any average American city is surrounded by a diverse population.
- We have the ability to bridge the gaps that divide people just as the early church was able to do.

# 1. Church Leaders in Syrian Antioch

## Acts 13:1-3

- **13:2-3** The **Holy Spirit** and the **church** work together in the church's ministry.
- The Holy Spirit speaks and the church responds.
- **Both have a part in sending.** The church in **v. 3** and the Holy Spirit in **v.4** – to which we now turn.

## 2. Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus

Acts 13:4-12

## 2. Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus Acts 13:4-12



Map from  
JesusWalk.com

## 2. Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus

### Acts 13:4-12

- 3:5 The **synagogues** are a natural place to start.
- **John** is **John Mark**, who we have seen before.
- He is the younger cousin of **Barnabas**, as Paul later tells us in **Colossians 4:10**.

## 2. Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus

### Acts 13:4-12

- 3:6 The name **Bar-Jesus** means **Son of Salvation**.
- It is quite tragic that he is **Jewish**, a **false prophet** and a *magos*, meaning he was involved in the occult.
- 3:10 When Paul calls him “**you son of the devil**” it is a direct reference to his wildly unfitting name.

## 2. Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus

### Acts 13:4-12

- 3:9 Saul “was also called Paul.”
- Roman citizens normally had three names.
- “Paul” would have been the third of these – called the *cognomen*.
- “Saul” was an additional Jewish name.
- Moving and working in the Gentile world, Saul of Tarsus is referred to as Paul from now on.

## 2. Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus

### Acts 13:4-12

- **3:7-12** The proconsul (governor of a non-military province) **Sergius Paulus** was “a man of intelligence.”
- Though a Roman, he was convinced by the word of God as spoken by our missionaries.
- The power of the Holy Spirit and the boldness of Paul in humiliating his court wizard played a major part.

## 2. Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus

### Acts 13:4-12

- Be prepared for divine appointments.
- Our missionaries did not go to Cyprus knowing they had an appointment with the proconsul (governor).
- We do not know what happened in their ministry in the synagogues, and yet –
- Sergius Paulus, the proconsul, “summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God” (v.7).

# 3. Paul's Sermon in Pisidian Antioch

## Acts 13:13-41

### 3. Paul's Sermon in Pisidian Antioch

#### Acts 13:13-41

- One of the wealthiest families in **Antioch in Pisidia** was that of **Sergius Paulus** – our friend the proconsul.
- It is quite likely that he recommended our team go there next after leaving Cyprus.

### 3. Paul's Sermon in Pisidian Antioch

#### Acts 13:13-41

- Wherever he went, Paul typically began his ministry in the synagogues.
- We might say it was **his custom** to attend the weekly service, much like Jesus.
- This is not a bad habit to acquire.

### 3. Paul's Sermon in Pisidian Antioch

#### Acts 13:13-41

- Luke 4:16 (ESV)

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day ...

### 3. Paul's Sermon in Pisidian Antioch

#### Acts 13:13-41

- Paul's evangelistic message divides into three parts:
  1. (13:16-25) Highlights in the history of Israel – from the time in Egypt (**Genesis**), through David to John the Baptist (the **Gospels**).
  2. (13:26-37) The story of Jesus and how he fits in with the story of Israel as a whole.
  3. (13:38-41) A challenge to believe.

### 3. Paul's Sermon in Pisidian Antioch

#### Acts 13:13-41

- Knowing the **whole Bible story** – the *metanarrative* – helps us make sense of the gospel.
- The whole Bible is the **God-given context** in which we can best understand Jesus, his life and his ministry.
- The Bible also provides us the **God-given story** that helps us make sense of the world.

### 3. Paul's Sermon in Pisidian Antioch Acts 13:13-41



- In his 1984 book, *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*, the French philosopher Jean-François Lyotard (1924 – 1998) said,

*Simplifying to the extreme, I define postmodern as incredulity toward metanarratives*

### 3. Paul's Sermon in Pisidian Antioch

#### Acts 13:13-41

- This is not a bad way to understand our times.
- Everyone has **their story** or **their truth**.
- Nobody has the big story – the *megastory* – that makes sense of all of our personal individual stories.
- **But God has given this to us in his word.**

### 3. Paul's Sermon in Pisidian Antioch

#### Acts 13:13-41

- The Bible's big story goes from **Genesis** to **Revelation**.
- It provides a God-given background of all that there is.
- Allow the Bible to provide the framework for your understanding of the world.

## 4. The Gentiles Respond

Acts 13:42-51

## 4. The Gentiles Respond

### Acts 13:42-51

- As always, some believe, some do not, but the ministry of the gospel continues.
- Acts 13:49 (ESV)

And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

# Acts 13    What We Just Read

# Acts 13    What We Just Read

1. Church Leaders in Syrian Antioch      13:1-3
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# Acts 13    Key Verse

# Acts 13    Key Verse

- Acts 13:49 (ESV)

And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

# Acts 13    Key Points

## Acts 13    Key Points

1. A **biblically diverse church** provides a model for any average church in any average American city.
2. Let's be willing to build bridges toward others.
3. We need to be prepared for **divine appointments**.
4. You never know whose heart God is preparing, making them ready to receive Christ.

## Acts 13    Key Points

5. Allow the Bible to provide the framework for your understanding the gospel, your life and the world.
  - This can be especially important in a time such as this when everyone is focused on their own story.
  - The Bible, from **Genesis** to **Revelation** is the God-given context we need to make sense of all that there is.

# Acts 13    A Prayer

# Acts 13    A Prayer

- Dear heavenly Father,
- Thank you for giving us your word, through which we have a way to understand life, history, the gospel and the world in which we live.
- Help us to learn it, to love it, and help us to use it as we try to make sense of our daily circumstances.

# Acts 13    A Prayer

- Please also give us opportunities to share your word with others, so that they might come to a knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- We ask you to give us divine appointments – little chances to engage with people as part of your eternal and perfectly orchestrated plans.

# Acts 13    A Prayer

- And finally, we thank you that you have made us a church with fair amount of diversity.
- Teach us to appreciate our differences and wherever the world would try to divide us, help us to build bridges that would glorify you.
- In Christ,
- Amen

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