

**"The First Mission Journey Continues"**

**Part 2**

**Acts 13:13-14:28**

**Introduction:** When we stopped last week in our study, we considered Paul's words to the Jews and Gentiles at the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia. He and Barnabas had made the dangerous 100-mile journey to get to Antioch because they had a burden for the lost. It was there that God opened a door for Paul to speak in the synagogue and when he did, he started to review the history of the Jews. It was his desire to help them to see that Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah. In doing this Paul showed forth the grace of God to these people.

**Notice Acts 13:17-23**

When we read over these verses last week, we looked only at the fact that God provided a Savior for these sinful rebellious people. This same Savior also died and rose again so that we too can have eternal life and fellowship with our Lord. This evening I want to back up and see some details in Paul's message at Antioch.

**"Paul's Message"**

**Notice Acts 13:17**

Paul starts with Israel in Egypt. Israel went there when Joseph was the Prime Minister under Pharaoh. It was during the famine that Jacob and his sons moved to Egypt to survive. Joseph died and the nation of Israel grew abundantly in Egypt. Then there was a Pharaoh who came into power who knew not Joseph and he feared the growing population of the Israelites could prove to be catastrophic if they decided to rebel. He then made the choice to kill all the baby boys and to put the people of Israel in hard labor and bondage in order to suppress them. This then caused them to cry out to God.

**Exodus 2:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> *And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.*

<sup>24</sup> *And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.*

<sup>25</sup> *And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.*

God had foretold to Abram that his offspring would be in a foreign nation for 400 years and then He would bring them out.

**Genesis 15:13-14**

*<sup>13</sup> And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;*

*<sup>14</sup> And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.*

When the 400 years had expired God brought them out just as He had predicted. It is interesting to note that God permitted the hard labor and the bondage in order to give them the desire to leave. It was not God's will that they remain in Egypt but they were to go to the land which God promised to them.

**Application:**

I want to make an application here but I want to be careful at the same time. Sometimes God will allow the circumstances in our lives to become very difficult so that we will seek His will and He can then lead us to where He wants us to be. Bottomline is God will use difficult circumstances to uproot us. But not every time the circumstances are difficult does it mean we are to pull up stakes and run to another place. Sometimes the difficult times of life are just part of living in a fallen world and so God uses those circumstances to build character in our lives. It is part of our spiritual growth. The question then comes up, "How can I know when the difficulties are to get me to move or they are just part of the shaping hand of God in my life?"

If we look at Israel, we can see that they were in a place that was not their own land and God had foretold they would only be there temporarily. With us, one way we can know it is time to move is when we are in a place where we should not be. Lot would be an example of living in a place where he should have never been. He lived in Sodom and he was vexed because of what he heard and witnessed.

**2 Peter 2:6-8**

*<sup>6</sup> And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrhah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;*

*<sup>7</sup> And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:*

<sup>8</sup> (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds:)

**Notice Acts 13:18-20**

The 450 years spoken of here was 400 years in Egypt, 40 years in the wilderness and 10 years of conquering the land under Joshua. In verse 20 the 450 years all took place before the time of the Judges. According to Whitcomb the verse could read like this:

*"And after these events (Egyptian bondage, wilderness wanderings, conquest under Joshua)—about 450 years of these events—He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet."*

**Notice Acts 13:21**

Here is a sad description of the spiritual condition of Israel. They wanted a king and in their desire for a king they were actually rejecting God as their King.

**1 Samuel 8:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> *And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.*

<sup>6</sup> *But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.*

<sup>8</sup> *According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.*

I want you to also notice the warning that God gave to the people of Israel concerning the king that would rule over them.

**1 Samuel 8:11-20**

<sup>11</sup> *And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.*

*12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.*

*13 And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.*

*14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.*

*15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.*

*16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.*

*17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.*

*18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.*

*19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;*

*20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.*

Regardless of the warnings they were set on having a king like the other nations. Some of these warnings came about under the reign of Saul.

### **1 Samuel 14:52**

*52 And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.*

These warning continued to be fulfilled throughout the monarchy.

### **Application:**

In this we can clearly see a warning for our lives. The lusts of the flesh are very strong and powerful and if the flesh is not kept under control, he will drag us down a path that we would wish we had never stepped foot on. When God gives warnings in His Word they are not to be ignored.

**1 Corinthians 10:6-12**

<sup>6</sup> Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

<sup>7</sup> Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

<sup>8</sup> Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

<sup>9</sup> Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

<sup>10</sup> Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

<sup>11</sup> Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Getting back to Israel, they got what they longed for and they also reaped the consequences of rejecting God and ignoring His Word.

**Conclusion:**

There are just a couple of verses that I want to close with tonight.

**Romans 13:14**

<sup>14</sup> But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

**Philippians 4:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

<sup>12</sup> I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.