

"The First Missionary Journey Continues"

Part 6

Acts 13:13-14:28

Introduction: For the past several weeks we have been looking at Paul's message that he preached at Antioch in Acts 13. To be more specific we have been looking at characters that Paul mentioned in his message. We look at Israel's first king, Saul. Then we looked at their second king, David. Last week we looked at the forerunner to Jesus Christ and his name was John the Baptist.

Notice Acts 13:24-25

John was a man who "fulfilled his course" which means he carried out what God had called him to do. He did not quit. He did have a moment of weakness when he was in prison.

Matthew 11:2-3

² Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

³ And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

Why did John ask this question? He was expecting the Kingdom to be established.

Matthew 3:1-2

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

"Scripture Fulfilled"

Notice Acts 13:26

"Children of the stock of Abraham" - This is referring to the Jews.

"Whosoever among you feareth God" - This is a reference to the Gentiles.

Paul was explaining to these two groups that the "Word of Salvation" was sent to them. This is a very interesting statement. If something is sent then we can know that there was also a "SENDER." That would be God. God had arranged this first missionary trip and He had sent Paul and Barnabas to these people because He longed for them to be saved by hearing the Truth of the Gospel.

Notice Acts 13:2

They had been separated for this journey by the Spirit and we can therefore know that God directed their steps and He brought them to Antioch.

Proverbs 16:1-3, 9

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

² *All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.*

³ *Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.*

⁹ *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.*

Psalm 37:23

²³ *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*

Notice Acts 13:27-29

There is much for us to consider within these verses. First of all, we see here that the 1st century Jews had the Scriptures/Old Testament, and they heard the prophets read every Sabbath, but they did not know Jesus and they did not take time to learn the Words of the prophets. Because of their ignorance they fulfilled the Words of the prophets which foretold the suffering of the Messiah. They had all the prophecies and signs and should have recognized Jesus when He was born.

Matthew 2:1-6

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

² *Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*

³ *When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.*

⁴ *And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.*

⁵ *And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,*

⁶ And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Isaiah 52:14

¹⁴ As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

Isaiah 53:2-7

² For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

This is just some of the Truth which they had but they did not take the time to learn it. For that reason, their actions would be the fulfillment of the prophecies of the suffering of the Messiah.

2 Corinthians 3:14-15

¹⁴ But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

¹⁵ But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

They were blinded because of their unbelief.

Application:

It is quite easy to sit back and criticize the Jews who had all the evidence and yet they still missed Jesus Christ. But what about many people who are believers today and they have multiple Bibles in their homes but they hardly ever take the time to sit down and read the Word of God? How much are they missing? The 1st century Jews missed the entrance of the Messiah into the world. They missed all the evidence that pointed to Him and the fulfillment of the Old Testament. We can know Jesus as Savior but we can still miss many blessings because the Word of God is neglected.

Psalm 119:9-12

⁹ *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

¹⁰ *With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.*

¹¹ *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

¹² *Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.*

Notice Acts 13:28

The enemies of Jesus could find no legitimate reason to put Him to death. Even Pilate could find no fault in Him.

John 15:25

²⁵ *But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.*

Matthew 26:59-66

⁵⁹ *Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;*

⁶⁰ *But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,*

⁶¹ *And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.*

62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

63 But Jesus held his peace, And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

65 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

66 What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

John 19:4-7

4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!

6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.

7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

Notice Acts 13:29

The religious leaders crucified Jesus and in so doing fulfilled the prophecies concerning His death. In this thought we can see the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man. The actions of the wicked men who crucified Jesus were used by God to fulfill His Word and purpose. We saw this earlier in Acts 2.

Acts 2:22-23

22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

²³ Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Conclusion/Application:

What does the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man apply to us today?

There is not one thing that happens in our world that is not used by God to accomplish His purpose and His will. Even the most wicked acts of the most wicked people can be used to bring about the purposes of God. With that thought, however, we must also be reminded that the wicked people will be held accountable for their sins. They will get away with nothing for it will all be manifest one day.

Romans 2:5-11, 16

⁵ But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

⁶ Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

⁷ To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

⁸ But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

⁹ Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

¹⁰ But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

¹¹ For there is no respect of persons with God.

¹⁶ In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.