

"The First Missionary Journey Continues"

Part 7

Acts 13:13-14:28

Introduction: Last week in our study of Acts we looked at how the religious leader's rejection of Jesus Christ fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament.

Notice Acts 13:27-29

God used their hatred of Jesus to bring the prophecies which spoke of His death, to fulfillment.

Isaiah 53:3-6

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.*

Psalms 22:6-8, 13-16

⁶ *But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.*

⁷ *All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,*

⁸ *He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.*

¹³ *They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.*

¹⁴ *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.*

¹⁵ *My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.*

¹⁶ *For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.*

These are just a few of the prophecies that were fulfilled through the actions of the religious leaders. We also considered the responsibility of man in the midst of all that took place. Now as we move on, I want to take a step back and look at what Paul is preaching in this message.

➤ **"The Presentation of the Gospel"**

Notice Acts 13:27-29 again.

This is the death of Jesus Christ.

Notice Acts 13:29

This is the burial of Jesus Christ.

Notice Acts 13:30

This is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This was the heart of Paul's message. This was the message that would change the lives of those who would accept it. This was the part of the message that contained the power of God.

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

Notice Acts 13:30 again.

The words "BUT GOD" here change everything for every person. The Jews condemned Jesus to death, the Romans nailed Him to the cross, God the Father violently struck Jesus with the sins of the world, but it was every one of us who are guilty of His death because we are all sinners and He died for each of us to pay our sin debt. Therefore, we too are guilty of His death. Then you read the words "BUT GOD". You would expect to read something completely different. You would expect to read that after they condemned Him that God destroyed every one of them. But instead, we read that God raised Him from the dead. This means everything to us. It is because of His resurrection that we are justified.

Romans 4:24-25

²⁴ But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

²⁵ Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

How are we justified by His resurrection? It is the resurrection that shows His sacrifice upon the cross was accepted by God the Father. It is the resurrection that proves He was who He claimed to be, the Son of God. Without the resurrection we have no hope.

1 Corinthians 15:13-19

¹³ But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

¹⁴ And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

¹⁵ Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

¹⁶ For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

¹⁷ And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

¹⁸ Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Getting back to the verse, the words "BUT GOD" introduce a contrast and they introduce the hope that we have because of God's acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

➤ **Evidence of the Resurrection**

Notice Acts 13:31

Jesus was seen many days after His resurrection by the Apostles as well as other believers.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

⁷ After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

⁸ And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

Notice Acts 13:32

The "glad tidings" that Paul speaks of here is found in the promise made to the fathers. That promise was that there would be a Messiah and He would be the Redeemer.

Notice Acts 13:33

Here in this verse Paul speaks of the resurrection and then he quotes from Psalm 2.

Psalm 2:7

⁷ I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, **Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.**

Now the question here is, "What DAY is being spoken of when Jesus Christ was begotten?" Some say it is when Jesus became a man and it is therefore referring to the incarnation. Others teach that it is the day when Jesus was raised from the dead. If we stay with the context, we must conclude that the latter is correct. It is referring to the resurrection of Jesus Christ because that is the context that Paul is speaking of. So how was Jesus begotten when He was resurrected?

Notice Acts 13:33 again.

The phrase "Thou art my Son" is the focus here. It was the resurrection that declared the Sonship of Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:3-4

³ Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

⁴ And **declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:**

His Sonship did not begin at the resurrection but it was DECLARED by the resurrection.

Notice Acts 13:34

Jesus was raised from the grave and He will never see corruption meaning that His body will never go into the grave and decay. This had to be because God had promised the "sure mercies of David." What are the "sure mercies of David?"

Paul is referring to God's promise to David that from him the Messiah would come, a promise which was an "everlasting covenant" that included the promise of a throne to be established forever (2 Sa 7:13, 16). Paul's thought is if Jesus is truly the Messiah, and He died and remained in the grave, then this covenant would never have been fulfilled. Jesus had to be resurrected or the covenant would have proven to be false. But we know from Titus 1:2 that God cannot lie and we know from 2 Corinthians that every promise of God will be fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 1:20

²⁰ *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

Notice Acts 13:35-38

Now because Jesus died for their sins, was buried, and rose from the dead, these people, as well as everyone today, can have the forgiveness of sin. Jesus Christ was the greatest Gift ever given and the forgiveness of sin is the greatest need that mankind has ever had.

Conclusion:

John 3:16

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

In this verse we see several points of greatness:

- a. The greatest love. - For God so loved the world.
- b. The greatest Gift. - That He gave His only begotten Son
- c. The greatest simplicity. - That whosoever believeth in Him.
- d. The greatest security. - Should not perish.
- e. The greatest possession. - But have everlasting life.