

Acts 13 Scene 1

Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”) (*lit. “niger”*), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul.

²One day as these men were worshipping the Lord and fasting, **the Holy Spirit said**, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.”

³So after more fasting and prayer, the men **laid their hands on them** and sent them on their way.

invoking God’s presence, blessings, empowerment

⁴So Barnabas and Saul were sent out **by the Holy Spirit**. They went down to the seaport of Seleucia and then sailed for the island of Cyprus (*Barn’s hometown*). ⁵There, in the town of Salamis, they went to the Jewish synagogues and preached the word of God. John Mark went with them as their assistant.

⁶Afterward they traveled from town to town across the entire island until finally they reached Paphos, where they met a Jewish sorcerer (*2x time, Peter in chap 9*), a false prophet named Bar-Jesus. ⁷He had attached himself (*i.e. court astrologer*) to the governor, **Sergius Paulus** (*first polytheist missionaries encounter*), who was an intelligent man. The governor invited Barnabas and Saul to visit him, for he wanted to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas, the sorcerer (magician, as his name means in Greek), interfered and urged the governor to pay no attention to what Barnabas and Saul said. He was trying to keep the governor from believing.

In John 9:6, Jesus heals a blind man by mixing mud with spittle and anointing the man’s eyes. Is this magic, medicine, or healing? Whatever we call it, this was a familiar procedure for first-century Jews and very close to the actions once taken by the likes of the prophets Elijah and Elisha when they performed their miraculous healings (e.g., 2 Kgs 4:34-35, 2 Kgs 13:21). Some Jews were quite proud of Jewish expertise in healings and exorcisms: the apocryphal book of Tobit tells a story about the miraculous healing of a blind man by blowing the gall of a fish into his eyes, as recommended by the angel Raphael (whose name literally means “God has healed”; Tob 6:8, Tob 11:11-15). And the Jewish historian Josephus (37-ca. 100 C.E.) reports that he once saw a Jewish exorcist healing demoniacs in the presence of the Roman emperor himself (Josephus, *Antiquities* 8.45-49).

⁹Saul, **also known as Paul**, (*Heb to Roman*) was **filled with the Holy Spirit**, and he looked the sorcerer in the eye. ¹⁰Then he said, “You son of the devil (*in Gk, slanderer, adversary*), full of every sort of deceit and fraud, and enemy of all that is good! Will you never stop perverting the true ways of the Lord? ¹¹Watch now, for the Lord has laid his hand of punishment upon you, and you will be struck blind. You will not see the sunlight for some time.”

Luke 10:19 “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.” “For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through him and for him.” Col 1:16

Instantly mist and darkness came over the man’s eyes, and he began groping around begging for someone to take his hand and lead him.

¹²When the governor saw what had happened, he became a believer, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord. (*God elects, v8b, first named convert in Luke’s narrative*)

Forgiveness
Justification

³⁶This is not a reference to David, for after David had done the will of God in his own generation, he died and was buried with his ancestors, and his body decayed. ³⁷No, it was a reference to someone else—someone whom God raised and whose body did not decay.

³⁸“Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is **forgiveness** for your sins. ³⁹Everyone who believes in him is **made right** in God’s sight—something the law of Moses could never do. ⁴⁰Be careful! Don’t let the prophets’ words apply to you. For they said,

⁴¹ ‘Look, you mockers,
be amazed and die!
For I am doing something in your own day,
something you wouldn’t believe
even if someone told you about it.’” (Hab 1:5)

*More than punishment through the
Babylonian captivity, God’s wrath
on those who reject the gospel*

Side by Side Comparison of Acts 2 and Acts 13

	Peter’s Pentecost Sermon (Acts 2:14–36)	Paul’s Pisidian Antioch Sermon (Acts 13:16–41)
Hearers of the Word	Fellow Jews...residents of Jerusalem	Brothers...sons of Abraham...and God-fearing Gentiles
Opening	Explains Pentecost events, denies drunkenness	Begins with Israel’s redemption from Egypt
Israel’s History	Minimal historical review, focuses on prophecy	Extensive historical review to show continuity of covenant plan
OT Quotes	Joel 2, Psalm 16, Psalm 110	Psalm 2, Isaiah 55:3, Psalm 16
David’s Role	David was a prophet foreseeing the resurrection, not speaking of himself	David received promises, Jesus is the promised descendant whose body did not decay
Jesus’ Identity	Jesus attested by miracles, made “Lord and Messiah” by God	Jesus is the promised Savior from David’s line, foretold by prophets
Jesus’ Death	Audience and wicked men crucified Him, though it was part of God’s plan	Leaders in Jerusalem condemned Him and fulfilled Scripture unknowingly
Jesus’ Resurrection	God raised Him, apostles are witnesses	God raised Him, many saw Him over many days
Purpose of OT Quotes	Jesus’ resurrection and exaltation were foretold	God fulfilled His promises to Israel through the resurrection
Holy Spirit	Outpouring fulfills Joel, explains signs and wonders	Emphasis on covenant fulfillment

Fulfillment	Of Spirit outpouring AND resurrection	Israel's covenant promises and prophetic writings fulfilled in the person of Christ
Call to Respond	"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"	"Through this man forgiveness...everyone who believes is justified"
Final Warning	Save yourself from this generation	Save yourself from ultimate judgement
Witnesses	We are all witnesses of His resurrection	Many saw Jesus after His resurrection

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas left the synagogue that day, the people begged them to speak about these things (*forgiveness and justification*) again the next week. ⁴³ Many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, and the two men urged them to continue to **rely on the grace of God.** (*prosmeno, lit "to hold fast to the grace of God rec'd in the Gospel," cleave, persevere, steadfastly devoted, remain, abide still, in the grace of God rec'd in the Gospel*)

⁴⁴ The following week almost the entire city (*i.e. Gentiles*) turned out to hear them preach the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when some of the Jews saw the crowds, they were jealous (*men*); so they slandered Paul and argued against whatever he said.

⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and declared, "It was necessary that we first preach the word of God to you Jews (*in accordance with Israel's world mission in v47*). But since you have rejected it and judged yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we will offer it to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For the Lord gave us this command when he said, 'I have made you a light to the Gentiles,

to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.'" (*Isa 49:6*)

⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and all who were chosen for eternal life became believers. ⁴⁹ So the Lord's message spread throughout that region. (*God-fearing Gentiles nucleus of many churches in region*)

⁵⁰ Then the Jews stirred up the influential religious women (*wives*) and the leaders of the city, and they incited a mob against Paul and Barnabas and ran them out of town. ⁵¹ So they shook the dust from their feet (*Luke 9:5, 10:11, symbolic, fellowship ended, no responsibility*) as a sign of rejection and went to the town of Iconium. (*90 miles southeast*) ⁵² And the believers (*lit. the disciples*) were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. (*passive voice, "to make full," receives the action rather than performing it*)

God sovereignly advances His covenant purposes (*Connect*)

Christ is the fulfillment of all covenant promises (*Abide*)

God extends covenant blessings to the nations by His effectual grace (*Extend*)

Application: Join our ekklesia upstairs to praise God for His power and lovingkindness!