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 worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said,

"Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them."

³ So 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.

⁶ Afterward 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. ⁷ He 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. ⁸ But 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).

⁹ Saul, also known as Paul, (Heb to Roman) was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he looked the sorcerer in the eye. ¹⁰ Then 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? ¹¹ Watch 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 throes 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)

1st Speech

Acts 13 Scene 2

¹³ Paul and his companions then left Paphos by ship for Pamphylia, landing at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ But Paul and Barnabas traveled inland to Antioch of Pisidia.

On the Sabbath they went to the synagogue for the services. ¹⁵ After the usual readings from the books of Moses (lit. from the Law) and the prophets, those in charge of the service sent them this message: "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, come and give it."

Speech

¹⁶So Paul stood, lifted his hand to quiet them, and started speaking. "Men of Israel," he said, "and you God-fearing Gentiles, listen to me.

¹⁷ "The God of this nation of Israel chose our ancestors (election of patriarchs) and made them multiply and grow strong during their stay in Egypt. Then with a powerful arm he led them out of their slavery. (deliverance of ekklesia) 18 He put up with them through forty years of wandering in the wilderness. ¹⁹Then he destroyed seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to Israel as an inheritance. ²⁰ All this took about 450 years.

"After that, God gave them judges to rule until the time of Samuel the prophet. 21 Then the people begged for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. ²² But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.' (I Sam 13:14)

David Establishment

of dynasty

Accession of

²³ "And it is one of King David's descendants, Jesus, who is God's promised Savior of Israel! ²⁴ Before he came, John the Baptist preached that all the people of Israel needed to repent of their sins and turn to God and be baptized. ²⁵ As John was finishing his ministry he asked, 'Do you think I am the Messiah? No, I am not! But he is coming soon—and I'm not

To John the baptizer

> even worthy to be his slave and untie the sandals on his feet.' ²⁶ "Brothers—you sons of Abraham, and also you God-fearing Gentiles—this message of salvation has been sent to us! ²⁷ The people in Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize Jesus as the one the prophets had spoken about. Instead, they condemned him,

To Jesus

and in doing this they fulfilled the prophets' words that are read every Sabbath. 28 They

Jesus' death

found no legal reason to execute him, but they asked Pilate to have him killed anyway. ²⁹ "When they had done all that the prophecies said about him, they took him down from the cross (lit. from the tree) and placed him in a tomb. 30 But God raised him from the dead! ³¹ And over a period of many days he appeared to those who had gone with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to the people of Israel.

Resurrection

32 "And now we are here to bring you this Good News. The promise was made to our

Witnesses to the Risen Lord

ancestors, ³³ and God has now fulfilled it for us, their descendants, by raising Jesus. This is what the second psalm says about Jesus:

Scripture Fulfilled 'You are my Son.

Today I reveal you as my Son.' (begotten you) (Psa 2:7)

³⁴ For God had promised to raise him from the dead, not leaving him to rot in the grave. He said, 'I will give you the sacred blessings I promised to David.' (Isa 55:3) 35 Another psalm explains it more fully: 'You will not allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.' (Psa 16:10)

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. ³⁷ No, 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 for your sins. ³⁹ Everyone who believes in him is made right in God's sight—

Forgiveness Justification forgiveness for your sins. ³⁹ Everyone who believes in him is made right in God's sight—something the law of Moses could never do. ⁴⁰ Be 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

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 Jewsresidents of Jerusalem	Brotherssons of Abrahamand God-fearing Gentiles
Opening	Explains Pentecost events, denies drunkenness	Begins with Israel's redemption from Egypt
Isreal'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	"Through this man
	name of the Lord	forgivenesseveryone who
	will be saved"	believes is justified"
Final Warning	Save yourself from	Save yourself from
	this generation	ultimate judgement
Witnesses	We are all witnesses	Many saw Jesus
	of His resurrection	after His resurrection

⁴²As Paul and Barnabas left the synagogue that day, the people begged them to speak about these things *(forgiveness and justification)* again the next week. ⁴³Many 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)*⁴⁴The following week almost the entire city *(i.e. Gentiles)* turned out to hear them preach the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵But when some of the Jews saw the crowds, they were jealous *(men);* so they slandered Paul and argued against whatever he said.

⁴⁶Then 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)

⁴⁸When 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!