

## Acts 13:13-43

### Pisidian Antioch: Paul's first recorded sermon

#### 1. Geography

- a. Perga's harbor was Attalia (modern Antalya) on the sea. Perga was 7 miles inland lying next to the Cestrus River. It was the chief city of Pamphylia. Travel by sea from Paphos to Attalis/Perga is about 200 miles. Center for worship of Leto (Diane or Artemis). Very hot and uncomfortable in the summer.
- b. Pamphylia: coastal region between Lycia and Galatia. Octavian made it part of Galatia in 25 BC. In 43 AD Claudius formed the province of Lycia-Pamphylia. This region is in an area controlled by modern Turkey.
- c. Paul & Barnabas spent very little time here, moving overland to Pisidian Antioch in Galatia, about 100 miles away at an elevation of 3600 feet. *See Galatians 4:13-15.* An inscription has been found with the words Paulli Sergii. It is thought that this could be the same Sergius Paulus of Cyprus - perhaps he had relatives in Pisidian Antioch? Rainfall = 39.3 inches/year, no trees, snow usually on the passes until May. Route from Perga to Pisidian Antioch was very dangerous and was inhabited by bandits. Paul may be referring to this peril in 2 Cor. 11:26.

#### 2. John Mark Departs.

- a. At which city did John Mark depart from Paul & Barnabas?
- b. To where did he go? Why not return to Antioch, Syria and the congregation that sent them?
- c. Is there any reason given as to why he left?
- d. Had John Mark been called by the Holy Spirit to accompany Barnabas & Saul?
- e. See Acts 15:35-39.
  - i. Where was John Mark at the time given in this passage?
  - ii. What did Barnabas want to do with John Mark?
  - iii. What did Paul want to do with John Mark?
  - iv. What happens to John Mark at this time?
- f. What affect do you think John Mark's departure had on the ministry at this time?

#### 3. Paul's sermon at Antioch. (Outline based on JM Boice, Acts, p 236-241.)

- a. **Introduction**, verses 14-16
  - i. In the beginning of the synagogue service, what had been read?
  - ii. What request was sent by the rulers of the synagogue to Paul & Barnabas?
    - (1) paraklēsis: comfort, consolation, exhortation.
  - iii. What two categories of people did Paul address?
  - iv. Were the later group Gentiles or proselytes?
- b. **The Sermon Proper: Four Points.**
  - i. **Old Testament kerygma**, 17-22
    - (1) verse 17: The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. What did God do?
    - (2) verse 17: Israel in Egypt, growth of the nation, Exodus. What did God do?
    - (3) verse 18: Wilderness wandering with Moses before entering promised land. What did God do during this wandering? See Deut. 1:31.
    - (4) verse 19: Seven nations of Canaan overthrown. What did God do? There are two actions. See Deut. 7:1 and Joshua chapters 12-14.

- (5) verse 20: Judges & Samuel. What did God do?
- (6) verses 21-22: Era of the Kings.
  - (a) What did God do?
  - (b) What did God say about David? See 1 Sam. 13:14, Psalm 89:19-29, 49, Romans 15:8-12.
- (7) Read Boice p. 238. OT *kerygma* was about what God did.
- ii. **The New Testament *kerygma*, 24-32**
  - (1) God keeps his promise, verse 23. Psalm 132:11, Jeremiah 23:5, Luke 1:69.
  - (2) The ministry of John the Baptist, verses 24-25.
    - (a) What did John preach?
    - (b) What did John say about himself?
    - (c) What did John say about the Messiah?
  - (3) What exciting news did Paul proclaim regarding Jesus? Verses 23 and 26.
  - (4) To whom was this message of salvation sent? There are possibly 4 groups.
  - (5) Trial & crucifixion of Jesus, verses 27-28.
    - (a) What three things did they who lived in Jerusalem and their rulers do? R.U.F.C. (ESV)
      - (i) They did not *agnoeō*...
        - 1) to be ignorant, not know.
        - 2) not to understand, unknown.
        - 3) to err or sin through mistake, to be wrong.
    - (b) What did they know about Jesus? Verse 28.
    - (c) What did they ask Pilate to do?
  - (6) The burial: What facts are strongly implied by Paul's words in verse 29? *Scripture, tree, tomb*.
  - (7) The resurrection: Verse 30.
    - (a) What did God do?
    - (b) What did Jesus do after the resurrection, and where did this take place?
    - (c) What special role did the people have to whom Jesus appeared?
    - (d) What did God do for the *children* and *the fathers*? V. 32-33
    - (e) Because of the resurrection, what should clearly be known to his audience regarding God and us? V. 38.
  - (8) Is Christianity a philosophy, a set of ethics, or a proclamation of facts that concern what God has done?
  - (9) "Rather than trying to change them [the facts], we have to learn first to conform our thinking and conduct to these facts and second to proclaim not our own ideas but these very facts to other people." Boice, Acts, p.239.
- iii. **A Selection of Supportive Biblical Texts, 33-39.**
  - (1) Psalm 2:7
  - (2) Isaiah 55:3
  - (3) Psalm 16:10 (see also Acts 2:25-28)
  - (4) Habakkuk 1:5 used at the final part of Paul's sermon.

- iv. An announcement of the Gospel and a plea for personal response.
  - (1) “Be it known to you therefore, men, brethren, that through this man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins” (Acts 13:38 Webster)
    - (a) *aphesis* - Thayer Definition: 1) release from bondage or imprisonment 2) forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty
  - (2) “And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.” (Acts 13:39 Webster)
    - (a) *dikaioō* - Thayer Definition: 1) to render righteous or such he ought to be 2) to show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered 3) to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be
    - (b) Justification - “just as if I’d never sinned.” Read Boice, p.240.
- v. **A Serious Conclusion**, verses 40-41
  - (1) Paul warns the listeners to accept the Gospel, or else God’s Word of prophecy & judgment would fall upon them as it did to Jerusalem at the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.
  - (2) “Behold, O despisers, and wonder and vanish! For a work I work during your days, which in no way should you believe if one should tell you in detail.” (Acts 13:41 English Sept., from Hab. 1:5)
  - (3) “If such a disaster came upon those of Jerusalem because they refused to listen to the prophets, how much worse judgment will there be for those who refuse to listen to and accept the words of God’s Gospel through Jesus Christ?” (FF Bruce, Acts, p. 279)
  - (4) “If you will not have forgiveness of your sins through Jesus Christ, the wrath of God will come upon you.” (Boice, p. 241)
    - (a) The whole backdrop of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ is the inevitability of God’s wrath and judgment.
    - (b) See Romans 1:18, Colossians 2:13-14 and 2 Cor. 5:21.

#### 4. **Results?**

- a. What three groups of people responded to Paul’s sermon?
- b. Did Luke record any conversions at this Sabbath?
- c. Who was urged to continue in the grace of God?