

ACTS STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 13

Near the end of Acts 12, the encouraging words, “But the word of God continued to increase and spread” (Acts 12:24) are found. Up until this point in time, the spread of the Gospel has been largely confined to Palestine, Syria and nearby. In Acts 13, the first (and momentous) effort to spread the Gospel beyond Palestine and Syria is described (while studying this chapter, it is helpful to refer to a map of the region). It is during this chapter that Saul becomes Paul (Acts 13:9); not only was it common for Jews to take Greek or Roman second names, but this change also reflects Paul’s evangelism among non-Jews.

Read all of Acts 13

Acts 13:1-4

1. The chapter begins in Antioch in Syria. Simeon is also known as Niger (dark-complexioned) may have been from northern Africa. Lucia is from Cyrene, which is also in northern Africa. Manaen was a friend of Herod. Why would Luke include these details?
2. What authority sends Saul and Barnabas on their mission?
3. Before Saul and Barnabas leave, what does the community of believers do on their behalf?
4. What are the implications of these verses for mission workers (and churches that send and support them) today?

Acts 13:5-12

1. How is the proconsul (a Roman official who ruled over a province) Sergius Paulus described?
2. How is the sorcerer Elymas described?
3. How does Paul respond to Elymas? By whose authority?
4. Why do you think Paul was so severe in his reprimand of Elymas? Yet, also notice the reprimand was only “for a time” (Acts 13:11). Why?
5. How does the proconsul respond to these events?

Acts 13:13-52

1. How do you see God's grace in Paul's sermon on the history of Israel?
2. How does Paul describe God's fulfillment of prophecy (Acts 13:17-25)?
3. How does Paul describe the Jews' fulfillment of prophecy (Acts 13:26-29)?
4. How does Paul describe the Jesus' fulfillment of prophecy (Acts 13:29-39)?
5. What truth does Paul proclaim about Jesus?

6. How does missionary work fulfill prophecy (Acts 13:47-48) (compare this passage with Isaiah 42:6 and 49:6)?

7. What are the consequences of Paul's sermon?

8. Why did Paul and Barnabas shake "the dust off their feet" (Acts 13:51)? What did Jesus say about this act (see Matthew 10:14, Mark 6:11, Luke 9:5)?

9. After the events of this chapter, what is the significance of the disciples' "joy" (Acts 13:52)?

LIFE APPLICATION

1. What do the verses in Acts 13:38-39 mean to you?

2. What do Paul and Barnabas teach us about interacting with those who are hostile to the Gospel?