

What Did Paul Preach?

In Acts 13:13-43, Luke records a sermon preached by the apostle Paul during the first missionary journey. Today our job is to understand it.

What kind of message was this? What kind of sermon did Paul preach?

v. 23 - **It's about a Savior.** *God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus*

v. 26 - **It's about salvation.** *the message of this salvation*

v. 32 - **It's a gospel sermon.** *we bring you the good news*

v. 38 - **It's about forgiveness.** *forgiveness of sins is proclaimed*

v. 43 - **It's about grace.** *continue in the grace of God*

But what did Paul say? How did Paul present the gospel?

Luke sets the stage in 13:13-15, and the sermon begins in 13:16-17.

During the sermon, 3 times Paul grabs the attention of his audience (*Men of Israel/Brothers*). I believe that becomes the easiest way to outline Paul's sermon. His message breaks down into 3 sections. I'd summarize each section with a statement.

Statement #1 - God has kept His promises. **13:16-25**

*17 The God of this people Israel chose our fathers - **The God who chooses.***

*and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, - **The God who gives growth.***

*and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. - **The God who delivers.***

*18 And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. - **The God who is patient.***

*19 And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, - **The God of power.***

*he gave them their land as an inheritance. - **The God of promise.***

*20 All this took about 450 years. - **The God of history.***
*And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. - **The God of His program.***

*21 Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul... - **The God who listens.***

*22 And when he had removed him, he raised up David... - **The God who intervenes.***

In 7 verses (vv.16-22) Paul covered Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 Chronicles. - Abraham to David, but from David, Paul makes a beeline to Christ.

23 Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.

Paul says, "God has brought the Savior, just as God promised. God is the God who keeps His promises. He did it in the past for our nation. He has done it in the present. We know the Savior and I'll tell you His name. It's Jesus."

Statement #2 - God has accomplished His plans.
13:26-37

The Jewish nation at large read about Jesus in Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, Isaiah 6, Daniel 9, Micah 5, Exodus 12, but they did not know it. When he came they did not recognize Him. They didn't even understand what they had been reading for generations.

They did not know Psalm 69 referred to Jesus and that they were fulfilling it. *They hated me without a cause.* They did not know sentencing Him to death by Roman crucifixion would be an exact description of Psalm 22. *they have pierced my hands and my feet.*

By rejecting Jesus, having Him crucified, and buried in a tomb, they fulfilled the exact Scriptures that they had grown up hearing every week. They did not know this was God's plan all along. Isaiah 53:10 - *Yet it was the will*

of the LORD to crush him. God has kept his promises, and God has accomplished His plans.

Paul defended His claims with eyewitness testimony and with Scripture - mainly with Scripture.

Psalm 2:7 - Jesus is the Only Begotten Son.

Isaiah 55:3 - God will do what he said to David. What did He say? Psalm 16:10

Psalm 16:10 - God did not let Jesus see corruption in the tomb.

Statement #3 - God has issued His proclamation.

13:38-43

³⁸ Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,³⁹ and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

God has issued His proclamation. What is God's Proclamation?

GOD FORGIVES AND JUSTIFIES SINNERS WHO TRUST IN JESUS.

Fact #1 - You may have the forgiveness of your sins through faith in Jesus. **13:38**

Fact #2 - Every person who believes in Jesus is justified from all things. **13:39a**

Fact #3 - You cannot be freed or forgiven through religious law. **13:39b**

Do you believe this? If not, the warning is serious.

⁴⁰ Beware, therefore... be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you. ' ''