The Message of Salvation—Acts 13:26-32—11/1/26
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Open your copy of God's Word with me to Acts 13 & let's read Paul's first recorded sermon from his first missionary journey with Barnabas.

We covered the first section last week, but let's read the whole sermon as context for today's section—Acts 13:14-43. [READ]

Last week we considered Paul's model of how to preach from the OT with **authority, grace, promise, & continuity**.

God worked **by grace** to carry His promise of a Savior through OT history from the beginning through Abraham & David.

So Jesus' arrival **uniquely accomplished** God's plans in many details.

Nothing Jesus **experienced** was a **mistake**.

It was all **purposeful**, even if it did not make sense in the moment.

And as we remember the Lord Jesus in communion today & proclaim that He is coming again, it's helpful to recall that.

Jesus was **not** a religious leader with **inconsistencies** in His life or character that undermined His role as the one true Savior.

He was **not** a temporary hero who failed to finish what He said.

Jesus was **not** like false portrayals of Him by politicians or pundits who pick & choose parts to support their schemes.

So we need to be sure to renew our minds in what was **recorded** about Jesus to be trusted & passed on.

We must beware how the biblical record of Jesus is twisted or totally missed in false versions of Christianity & cults & other religions.

So we need reminders of **historic facts** that we may take for granted or assume are **obvious** to anyone who's heard of Jesus.

We must be sure to **clarify who Jesus is** & what He did & **why that matters** so that people do not mix what we say into their errors.

People need to know **established facts about Jesus** to understand the message of salvation that we proclaim.

So in the flow of Paul's sermon today, we will cover specific **historical details** about Jesus that must be known **rightly**.

As we do, we will **answer objections** & misunderstandings about Him often found in false religions.

We will see Paul **answer 3 questions** that the Jews & God-fearers in Pisidian Antioch would have had about how Jesus' earthly life ended.

In Peter's preaching, he answered similar confusion of how the Promised Messiah could be rejected & mistreated & crucified.

How could Jesus be the Savior if His **own people did not honor** Him?

How was Jesus the Savior if **justice seemed to escape** Him?

How could Jesus be the Savior if **death seemed to defeat** Him?

We'll find **answers to such concerns with 3 explanations** of what Jesus endured that prove He is the trustworthy Savior.

I'll outline 3 ways Jesus secured salvation **despite** apparent **problems**.

The 1st of those to note is that **Jesus endured rejection as part of His Scriptural fulfillment**—to be the Scriptural Savior.

#1, Jesus endured **rejection** as part of His **Scriptural fulfillment**.

Paul began with OT & linked it with Jesus' real experiences.

Then after the general explanations we'll see today, Paul quoted specific OT texts to add further support & clarification.

But today we will simply think on a bit of what Jesus endured.

And we know this begins a new section in Paul's sermon because he repeated some of his introductory personal address.

Read verse 26 as we get back into this. [READ]

He had called for the men of Israel & God-fearers to listen in verse 16, yet he pressed toward them further before he got specific about Jesus.

He drew near to them as **men & brethren** & referred to the **qualitatively family** of Abraham in the shared heritage of grace & promise in OT history.

And others were among them as **fearers of the One God**.

As Paul spoke in that synagogue in Pisidian Antioch, he pointed to **the message of salvation** that had been sent to them.

That Word of Jesus the Savior that he had spoken of in verse 23 was dispatched to Paul & then out to them in that distant land.

But how was Jesus that Savior when He was largely rejected?

Read Paul's answer as he explained in verse 27. [READ]

As strange as it may have seemed, those living as inhabitants of Jerusalem & their rulers **did not know this Jesus**.

Even though John the Baptist & the **voices of the prophets** pointed to Jesus, the people at the center of Israelite worship **chose ignorance**.

They did not connect Jesus with what was read every Sabbath.

Of course, their choices were **culpable**—they were **responsible** for loving their own power & money more than the truth in front of them.

Their rejection of the promised & proven Christ was so evil that they were **judging Him** as **condemned** in their system.

Yet that tragedy was not entirely unexpected.

It was **predicted** & Paul marked it as **fulfillment of Scripture**.

Isaiah 53:3 said the Servant of the Lord would be *despised & forsaken of men, A man of sorrows & acquainted with grief; & like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, & we did not esteem Him*.

Of course, no one wants those they love & respect to suffer.

No one wants their heroes or team to be hated & rejected & judged.

But that was part of God's predestined plan for His promised Savior as Peter had said in **Acts 2:23 & 4:27-28**.

As Peter had told Jews in **Acts 3:17-18**, *you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus **fulfilled***.

As Jesus even prayed in Luke 24:34, "*Father, forgive them; for they **do not know** what they are doing*."

If it seemed crazy that those in charge at the headquarters of Judaism would reject their King, **Psalm 118:22** predicted that "***the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone***."

Matthew 27:39 quotes Psalm 109:25 of the Messiah being "*a reproach to them; when they see me, they wag their head*."

So for Jesus to endure **rejection** by leaders & others **confirmed** what they **should have known** from **repeated weekly Scripture readings**.

They did not know it—they refused to connect the truth they **heard** from the prophets with the truth they **saw** in Jesus.

It was **not** ignorance of Jesus' wisdom or power or goodness.

It was **refusal to repent of sin** & surrender to Him in faith.

So don't make the same mistake today—don't choose the same proud path to eternal wrath by knowing stuff but not knowing the Savior.

Do not assume that being in church or agreeing to the truth will give you salvation.

Be warned by the message of salvation that involved those who were **close to the Christ but did not know Him**.

Do not repeat such refusal to trust repeatedly heard truth.

Heed this warning today & come to true faith in Jesus your Savior.

Do not reject Jesus who endured rejection in His time on earth as part of His fulfillment of Scriptural prophecy.

That's **explanation #1** about what Jesus endured that may **raise objections** over why OT experts did not receive Him.

Jesus endured rejection as part of His Scriptural fulfillment.

Next Paul explained the **unjust treatment & execution** Jesus endured.

Read verses 28-29 to see that. [READ]

Point #2—Jesus endured injustice as part of His sinless sacrifice.

In answer to a 2nd objection to Jesus being a **sacrificial** Savior, **Jesus endured injustice as part of His sinless sacrifice**.

To be the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world, as John the Baptist said of Jesus, He had to be a lamb, unblemished & spotless.

He had to be **perfectly sinless** as Jesus was proven to be at His trial when Jewish leaders **tried to invent** charges against Him.

They were **finding no charges**, no ground for legal complaint, **no single cause to warrant death** as a punishment.

Since Jesus was **innocent**—as **Luke 23:4, 14, 22 note 3 times** Pilate found **no guilt in Him**—His execution was wrong.

It was the **deceitful injustice** for the Jews to ask Pilate to put Jesus to death & it was **spineless injustice** for Pilate to follow through with it.

But it was by **crucifixion on a cross** that Jesus took the curse of hanging on a tree as **Deuteronomy 21:23** described.

Yet His body was **not thrown into a mass grave** like others, because **Isaiah 53:9** had predicted that *His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet **He was with a rich man in His death**, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth*.

Paul explained that they only took Jesus down from the cross **after** they had completed all that was written concerning Him.

He was put in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea as told in Luke 23:53 & John 19:38-42, but only after everything written was accomplished.

That included **many prophecies**, like His innocence meaning they had **hated Him without a cause** as **Psalm 35:7 & 69:4 predicted & John 15:25** mentioned.

Not only was Jesus rejected by Jewish authorities, He was also falsely accused & mistreated in numerous ways & then **unjustly crucified**.

For example, **Psalm 27** told of being accused by false witnesses & **Psalm 55** being betrayed by a close friend.

Psalm 22 foretold His cry of being forsaken by God in Matthew 27:46 & being stared at by crowds in Luke 23:35 & soldiers casting lots for His clothing in John 19:23-24 & His hands & feet being pierced.

> **Psalm 69:21** also mentioned being given gall & vinegar to drink as was recorded in **Matthew 27:34**.

Psalms 69 & 118 & others had such predictions & **Isaiah 50** spoke of being **humiliated and spat on**.

> **Isaiah 53:12** notes He was numbered with the transgressors as in **Luke 22:37**.

John 19:33 says not one of His bones was broken as expected from **Exodus 12 & Psalm 34:20**.

> Zechariah 12:10 says His side will be pierced as in John 19:34.

Then He **committed His Spirit into God's hands** in Luke 23:46 as mentioned in Psalm 31:5.

> Through **all such injustice** against Him, He **satisfied justice** for the sins of others as the sinless substitute sacrificial Lamb.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 is the passage on the Suffering Servant of the Lord depicting the sinless sacrifice of the Savior for sinners who trust Him.

> You know that, but let's read the language of Jesus' sinless sacrifice completed in the injustice of His crucifixion.

Turn there & follow along as I read Isaiah 52:13-53:12. [READ]

> That **section of Scripture alone** should answer the question of how Jesus could be the Savior when He endured such injustice.

And that passage along with all the pictures of sacrifice for sins throughout the OT should overwhelmingly answer that objection.

> **Because all of us like sheep had gone astray**—we all have sinned—we surely **could not save ourselves** or anyone else.

So **it was necessary** for a sinless sacrifice satisfy sin's penalty & that's why Jesus said that His suffering was **predicted as necessary**.

> So we **don't question** the power or wisdom of that sinless Savior who suffered for us—**we praise Him**!

We praise Him for His **grace** to endure injustice to accomplish justice.

> We **marvel** at this message of salvation & trust this one Savior.

No one else is like Him & no one could do what He did for His people.

> Although Islam claims no prophet faces such shame, the Bible says **shame by the sinless One provided salvation for others**.

The Bible promised & provided salvation by a Savior who **did not have to die for His own sins**, but did so as a **gift of His grace**.

> He was the **Lamb** who atoned for the sins of His people by **enduring the injustice required** to be our **substitute**.

So injustice against the innocent Savior was **God's gracious plan** to satisfy wrath on sin & reconcile sinners to Himself.

> We answer the confused objections of false religions by saying, **2nd** that Jesus endured injustice as part of His sinless sacrifice.

And by the way, that's what sets biblical Christianity apart as willing to **suffer and sacrifice** as part of leading others to our Savior.

> **This message of salvation is distinct** because **#1, Jesus endured rejection as part of His Scriptural fulfillment & #2, Jesus endured injustice as part of His sinless sacrifice**.

And then **explanation #3** to note today is this—**Jesus endured death as part of His secure victory**—to be the **Successful Savior** who won.

Point #3—Jesus endured **death** as part of **His secure victory.**

Jesus died for all the reasons we already noted & more.

But **He also died** so that He could **rise again in victory**.

That victory was proven through His post-resurrection appearances & **proclaimed through His post-ascension witnesses**.

And it is **still preached** as the Good News that **fulfilled the promise of a Savior** that was made throughout the OT.

Look back at Acts 13 & read **verses 30-32** to see all that. [READ]

God raised Jesus from the dead—you know that historical fact.

Acts 1:3 says that was proven for **a period of 40 days** as He **became visible** to those who **best knew exactly what He looked like**.

Those who **traveled with Him** from Galilee to Jerusalem had become precisely the ones **qualified as His witnesses**.

1st Corinthians 15:5-8 lists Jesus' post-resurrection appearances & includes His appearance to more than 500 witnesses at one time.

Their witness was first **to the people**, meaning the people of Jerusalem & Judea & then Samaria.

Then that witness had spread to nations beyond as Paul added that he & Barnabas were preaching the Good News there.

It was **preaching rooted in the promise made to the fathers**, as we studied last week & note repeatedly in Acts.

It was Good News with personal impact & **called for a response**.

It was **not merely** something to move us **emotionally** or to advance us **intellectually** or to improve us **morally**.

This Good News is **not merely** something to celebrate for **others**.

It is news that **transforms our lives now & forever** because it is **the message of salvation from sin to enjoy eternal life**.

It is **anchored in & exultant over** the **one Savior, Jesus Christ**.

So we trust & worship this Risen Savior with joyful assurance.

And we **proclaim His secure victory** with glad boldness.

I mean—**why would we ever** keep this a secret from others?

Why would we minimize such Good News or keep it quiet?

This **message of salvation**—rooted in historic promises & proven in fulfilled prophecies—**must be told**.

It is Good News that must be reported & announced & declared that **Jesus is the one true Scriptural, Sacrificial, & Successful Savior**.

If you **don't know** this Jesus who sacrificed Himself to pay sin's penalty & rose to prove it, we'd love to pray for you & share more with you.

We urge you to **watch** this ceremony now when we remember the life & work of Jesus Christ until He comes again.

And if you **do know** Jesus as Lord & Savior, we welcome you to **join us** in affirming together **all He accomplished for us**.

So let's pray together now with thankfulness for our Lord Jesus Christ.