

Wednesday, August 9, 2023  
SHAKEN:  
PART 13: WORLD MISSIONS BEGIN

Tonight, we will continue our study of Acts by looking at the beginning of world missions.

Acts 13:1-3 (NKJV)

In the church at Antioch, were prophets and teachers:

- **Barnabas: A Jew from Cyprus. Called an apostle in Acts 14:14. According to Colossians 4:10, the cousin of Mark. His proper name was Joseph but was called Barnabas: hyios parakleseos – “son of encouragement” or even “son of prophecy.” According to tradition, martyred at Salamis, Cyprus.**
- **Simeon called Niger: Niger is a Latin word which means “black.” Irenaeus, an early church father wrote that Simeon was the Ethiopian eunuch. Others believe that he was the same Simon of Cyrene mentioned in Mark 15 as the one who carried Jesus’ cross since Simeon is a variant of Simon and Cyrene was in northern Africa.**
- **Lucius of Cyrene: Cyrene was a Greek colony in Africa in what is now Libya. Among its population were many Greeks, Romans (Lucius is a name of Latin origin), and Jews. According to tradition, Lucius was the first bishop of Cyrene.**
- **Manaen: Original name was Manahen. “Brought up” with Herod Antipas is usually translated as Herod’s “foster brother” or “close friend.” Manaen may have become a follower of Jesus at the same time as Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward (Luke 8:3).**

The Holy Spirit – leading the ministry of the church called Barnabas and Saul to a work to which He had called them.

Acts 13:4-12 (NKJV)

The first stop of the mission was Cyprus. Was this because Barnabas was from there? They took Barnabas’ cousin John Mark – writer of the gospel of Mark with them. Upon arriving at Paphos, they find that the proconsul, Sergius Paulus was interested in hearing the gospel.

**Proconsul: An administrator serving to carry out the commands of Rome on behalf of the senate.**

The proconsul was served by a false prophet – a Jew named Bar-Jesus which means “son of Jesus.” A sorcerer, he tried to keep the proconsul from believing in Jesus. Paul takes authority over the demonic power used by Bar-Jesus and his is blinded for a season of time.

[Acts 13:13-15 \(NKJV\)](#)

It is not known why but John Mark left the mission to return to Jerusalem. This upset the apostle Paul because later when they were to embark on their second missionary journey, Paul refused to take John Mark with him. This caused Barnabas and Paul to separate as ministry companions. Good news: Paul and Mark served together later:

[2 Timothy 4:11 \(NKJV\)](#)

In Pisidian Antioch, Paul was asked to speak in the synagogue. He preached a powerful sermon.

[Acts 13:42-52 \(NKJV\)](#)

Many are saved at Paul’s sermon. The Gentiles present begged that Paul preach again the following Sabbath. The unrepentant Jews raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas – getting the assistance of the prominent people in town – kicked Paul and Barnabas out of town. Following the words of Jesus, Paul and Barnabas “shook the dust of the town off their feet” and went to a place called Iconium. Those who heeded the message were filled with the Holy Spirit and joy. Those who did not:

[Matthew 10:11-15 \(NKJV\)](#)

Today’s Scriptures:

- Acts 13:1-15 (NKJV)
- 2 Timothy 4:11 (NKJV)
- Acts 13:42-52 (NKJV)
- Matthew 10:11-15 (NKJV)