

the remotest part of the earth

#15, the regions of Syria and Cilicia, part 1 – Acts 13: 1-52

Our account moves North, from Jerusalem to Antioch.

1 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

prophets, NT:4396 (*prof-ay'-tace*); from a compound of NT:4253 and NT:5346; a foreteller ("prophet"); by analogy, an inspired speaker; by extension, a poet: KJV - prophet.

teachers, NT:1320 (*did-as'-kal-os*); from NT:1321; an instructor (genitive case or specially): KJV - doctor, master, teacher.

New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance

2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

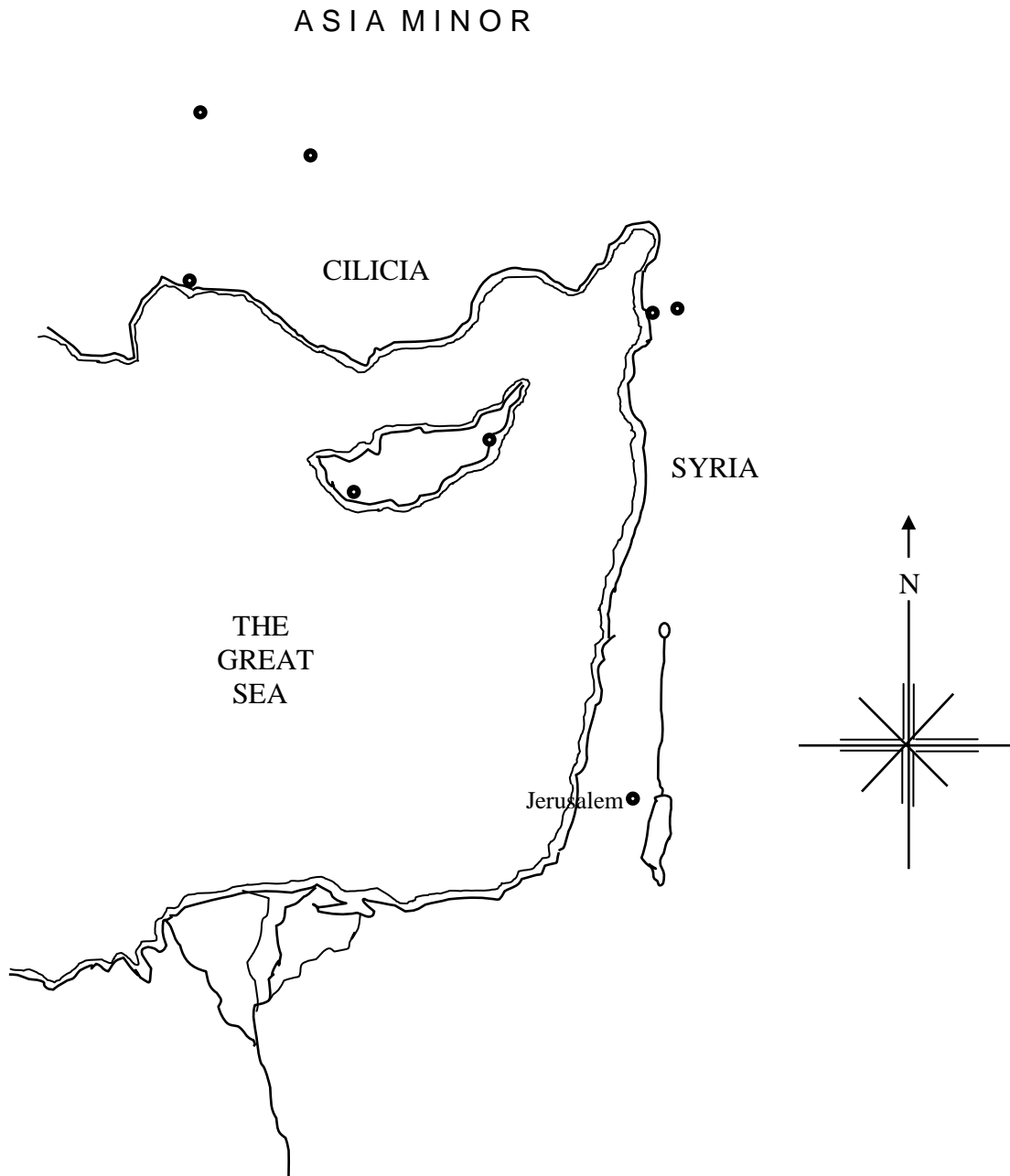
[1.] v:1-3, prophets and teachers, **How had Saul and Barnabas proved their faithfulness, even prior to their calling as missionaries?**

[2.] v:1-3 again, the work to which I have called them. **If any person comes and says they have been called to a special work, how do you decide whether to support them or not?**

At the end of lesson 14 we read; Acts 12:25, And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their mission, taking along with them John, who was also called Mark.

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4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.

[3.] v:4-5, they went down to, On your map (pg2), find Antioch, Seleucia and Salamis. Identify by it's corresponding "dot" and draw a line connecting the dots.

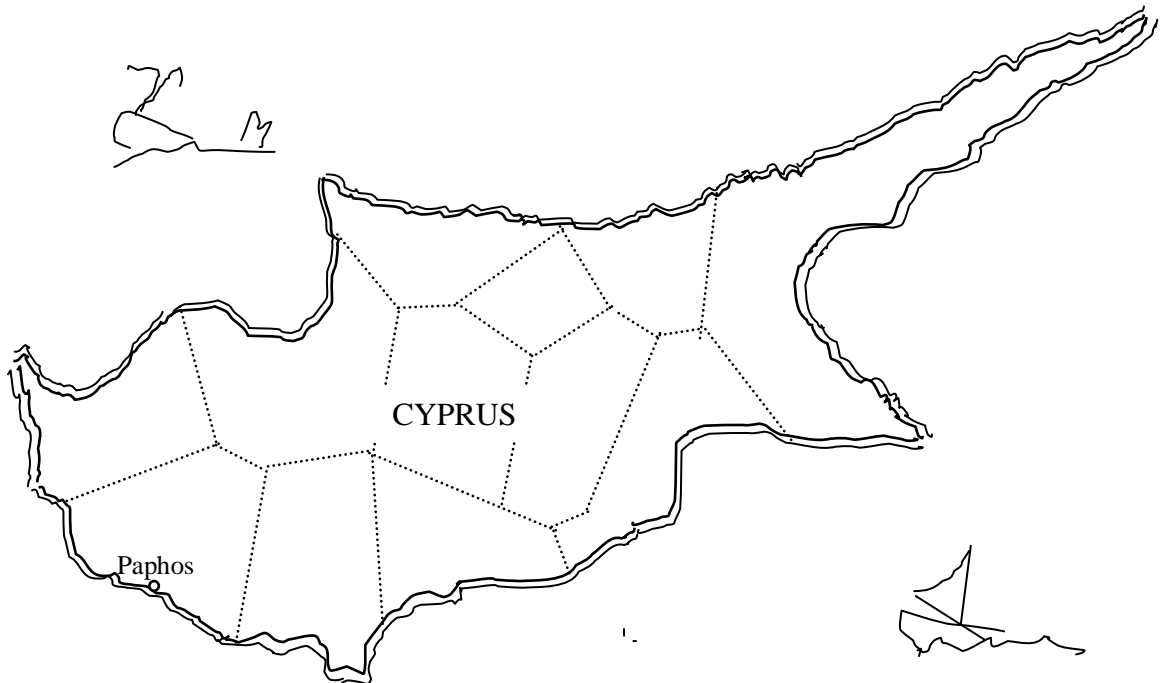
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6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus, 7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

[4.] v4-5 again, to proclaim the word of God, While there, these verses tell to whom they ministered. Who was it?

[5.] v:6-8, had gone through the whole island, Write down what these verses tell you about Bar-Jesus.



The Island of Cyprus was part of Cilicia and controlled by Rome. The island was split into areas (please see map). Each area was under a governor, which was the proconsul, who received his commission from Rome.

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9 But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, 10 and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? 11 "Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.

13 Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; but John left them and returned to Jerusalem. 14 But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian (Pisidia (*pis-id-ee'-ah*)) Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

[6.] v:9-12, the hand of the Lord is upon you, After his little encounter with Saul, Bar-jesus stumbled away inflicted with two forms of blindness. What were they? (II Corinthians 4:3-4)

[7.] Prior to the coming of the salvation in Christ Jesus, what religion do we know was practiced on Cyprus?

[8.] v:13-14, On your map, find Paphos, Perga and Pisidian. Identify them on your map and draw a line connecting these locations.

v:13, but John left them and returned to Jerusalem.

John Mark, up close and personal

Acts 12:12, Prayer meeting where Peter went after his escape from Herod.

Acts 12:25, Left Jerusalem with Saul and Barnabas.

Acts 13:5, Accompanied Saul and Barnabas on first mission.

Acts 13:13, Went back to Jerusalem after Cyprus.

Acts 15:37-40, Paul and Barnabas part over disagreement. Paul & Silas and Barnabas & Mark.

Col 4:10, Mentioned in greetings by Paul. Rift apparently healed.

II Tim 4:11, Mentioned as useful to Paul in prison.

[9.] Acts 13:13, Why or why isn't it possible that the mission was "too much" for Mark at that time?

[10.] If you as a Christian find yourself in a ministry that is "too much" for you, what should you do?

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15 After the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it."

[11.] v:15, the reading of the Law, **The entire portion of II Corinthians 3:4-18 was written to born again Christians. The following is from:** II Cor 3:14, But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. **What would Paul and Barnabas be preaching to remove "that veil"?**

16 Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said,

"Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: 17 "The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it. 18 "For a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness. 19 " When He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance – all of which took about four hundred and fifty years. 20 "After these things He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. 21 "Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. 22 "After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, ' I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.' 23 " From the descendants of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, 24 after John had proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25 "And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not He. But behold, one is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

26 "Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

[12.] v:26, Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, **To whom is Paul specifically speaking?**

Something to think about!

Galatians 3:6-9, Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

[13.] **Are these son's of Abraham of a perishable seed or and imperishable seed?**

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Something else to think about!

Heb 12:25-29, See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. 26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." 27 This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

[15.] Are these "created things" (people and such) of a perishable seed or and imperishable seed?

27 "For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him. 28 "And though they found no ground for putting Him to death, they asked Pilate that He be executed. 29 "When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. 30 "But God raised Him from the dead; 31 and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. 32 "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, 33 that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.' 34 "As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: ' I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY and SURE blessings OF DAVID.' 35 "Therefore He also says in another Psalm, 'YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.' 36 "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay; 37 but He whom God raised did not undergo decay. 38 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

[16.] v:38-39, that through Him, Write down some facts that were accomplished "in Christ"?

40 "Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon you:
41' BEHOLD, YOU SCOFFERS, AND MARVEL, AND PERISH;
FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS,
A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU.' "

[17.] v:40, A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU. **How difficult are these facts to teach and be understood?**

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42 As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath. 43 Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.

44 The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming. 46 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; (Matt 10:5-6, 15:24, Luke 24:47 and Romans 1:16) since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 "For so the Lord has commanded us, '

I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.' "

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.

50 But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

51 But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

[18.] v:42-45, The next Sabbath, Yes, the old nemesis! Who was it that tried to keep others from being born again?

[19.] v:46-47, the word of God be spoken to you first; It was God's plan that the Jews were given the gospel first. Since the gospel has now gone to the nations, if a Jew wants to be saved, what must they do?

[20.] v:48-49, as many as had been appointed to eternal life, What does this phrase mean to you?

[21.] v:50, instigated a persecution, Just from what you have studied so far in Acts, who do you predict will be the greatest hindrance to the gospel for the remainder of Paul's life?

[22.] v:51-52, On your map, find Iconium. Identify it and draw a line that shows the journey.

[23.] Look up II Timothy 3:12-15. In your life, how can you stay ready to face what can come your way?

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NOTES