

## **Part 34 – Paul’s Discourse Part 1**

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney Wednesday, May 11, 2016

### † **Acts 13:13-23**

13 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

15 And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

16 Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

17 The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

18 And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

19 And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

20 And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

23 Of this man’s seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

Last Wednesday we covered Chapter 13, verses 1-12 which dealt with Paul and Barnabas being sent out as missionaries by the Church of Antioch and then they had to deal with the Sorcerer of Cyprus and Paul’s first convert is named Paulus.

Tonight, Lord willing, we will look at verses 13-23 of Acts chapter 13 and read Paul’s discourse to the people in the Synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia.

13 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

Our missionaries continue traveling, leaving Paphos and sailing over to Pamphylia. This is located in Galatia.

Now Luke just kind of mentions John Mark leaving the mission field and heading back home to mama in Jerusalem. What Luke doesn’t tell us right here is that this really riled the Apostle Paul up. He is not happy about his departure at all. We read about that in **Acts 15:36-40: And some days after**

Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. 37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. 38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; 40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God. – You have to wonder what kind of tension this caused after he departed.

We are not told why John Mark departed. We could sit here and guess all night long but the truth is it would all just be conjecture because the Bible does not tell us why he left.

14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

Although Paul was chosen by God to preach unto the Gentiles, they used the Jewish synagogues to establish a base in places they traveled. They would start out there preaching to the Jews and then the Gentiles. Anywhere there were Jews living there would be a synagogue built for them to worship in.

15 And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

Most synagogues would be made up with certain families or certain Jews that lived in that region. They would have known everyone that normally attended. So when these visitors come in they take notice. It is just like when we have folks visit us it gets our attention because we are used to seeing the same people all the time.

After the reading of the Scripture, the Synagogue rulers ask Paul and his team if they have anything they would like to say. This was normal behaviour. They of course recognized them as being fellow Jews and wanted to give them the opportunity to speak.

Notice he asks if they have any word of exhortation. To exhort means you are offering words of comfort or words of sound advice. That is one of the things we do as New Testament Church members, we come together as brothers and sisters in Christ to exhort one another. **Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

16 Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

Paul is a natural leader, so he is the one that stands up to speak. Notice that he addresses them as “Men of Israel” and “ye that fear God.” So, the audience is made up with both Jews and most likely some proselytes (people that had converted from paganism to Judaism).

17 The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

Now Paul is going to start building his case. He cannot just start off telling them about Jesus. He first has to make them understand that he knows where they come from. He is one of them. So he begins all the way back to where the Jews were led out of Egypt’s bondage.

He makes mention that they are God’s chosen people. It is not written here but Paul might have shared this passage of Old Testament Scripture with them: **Deuteronomy 7:6-8**

6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

You want to make a Jew happy all you have to do is bring up the fact that they were God’s chosen people. They have a sense of pride in that fact and they love to talk about it. Paul is trying to win them over by identifying with them.

18 And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness. 19 And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

He continues with his narrative of the history of the Jewish people. How they wandered around in the wilderness for 40 years and how God had finally gave them the Land of Canaan and split it up into the 12 Tribes of Israel. The 7 nations that he mentions were: The Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

20 And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

Here Paul talks about when the Judges ruled. There were a total of 15 Judges that ruled over Israel starting with the first Judge, Othniel that was appointed after Joshua died until the last, Samuel the Prophet.

That statement he makes “about the space of 450 years, until Samuel the prophet,” seems to get a lot of people up in arms about what he meant. Some people think he means the 450 years from the time God made the covenant with Abraham until the Judges began ruling was about 450 years, and that would be correct. But still others think he means the judges ruled for 450 years, however, that doesn’t quite add up because the Judges only ruled around 350 years. So, I believe he means from the time of God’s covenant with Abraham until the Judges began ruling.

21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

Then after the Judges, Israel desired to have a King and we know that Saul was the first King that was chosen by to rule over Israel, and just as Paul said, he reigned over them for 40 years. We also find that to line up with Scripture in **1 Samuel 13:1** Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

And of course he could not give the history of the Hebrew people without mentioning their favorite king, King David. He also mentions how that God removed King Saul. We know it was because Saul rebelled against God and did not obey his command concerning Amalek where he was supposed to destroy everyone and everything in it but he didn’t. After that God rejected him as King and began shaping David to be the anointed King of Israel.

23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

Finally Paul gets to where he has been wanting to go all along. I am sure up to this point he has been getting the “Amens,” and the “that’s rights,” but I bet you that stopped when he uttered the name Jesus.

And this is where I want to stop tonight because I want to finish the rest of Paul’s discourse next Wednesday as he drives his point home about Jesus.

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† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version