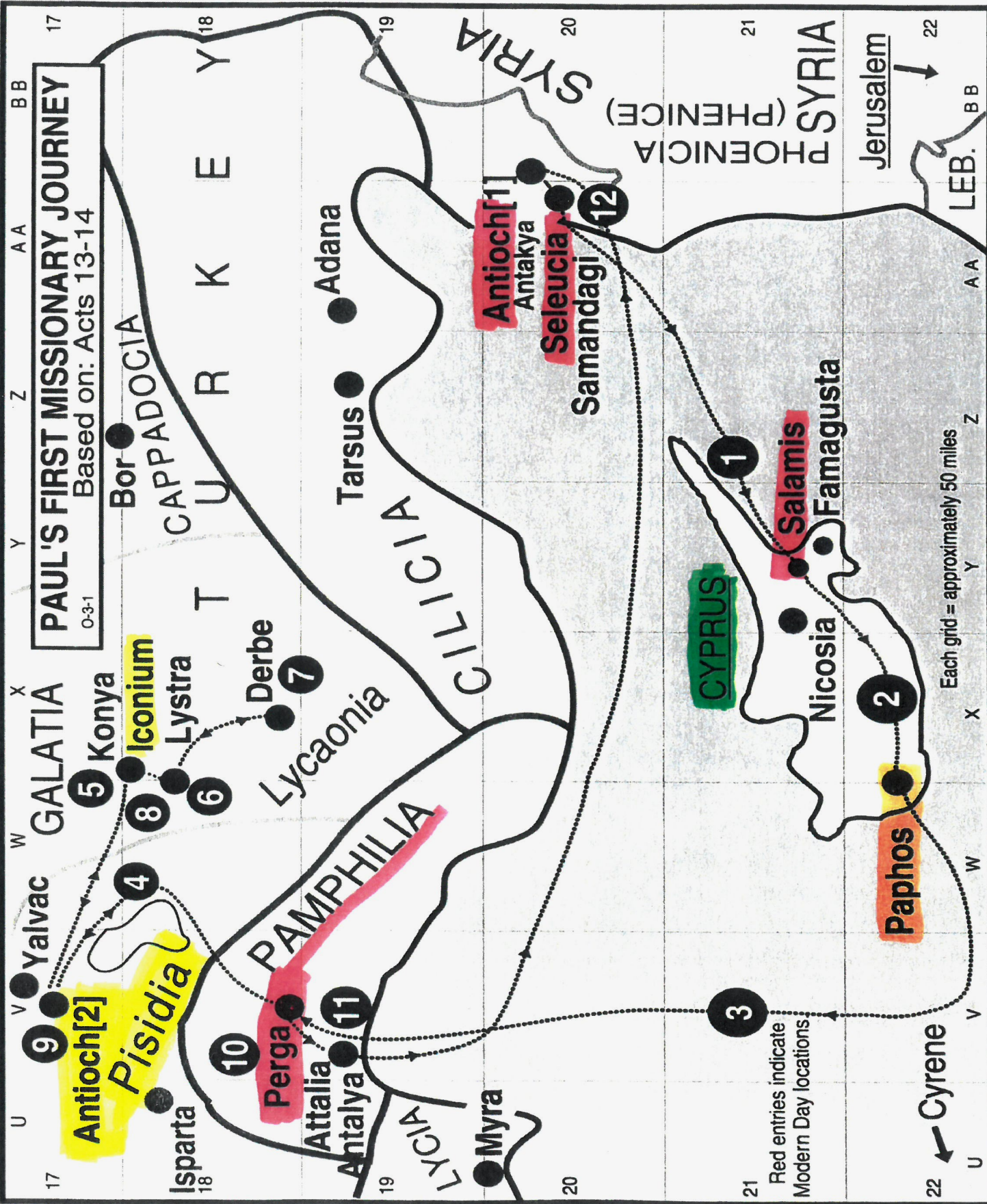


ACTS 13:42-52



A. Acts 13:42-43 - And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Acts 13:43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

1. It seems that Paul's new gospel made a deep impression upon some of the Jews and Gentiles. Both followed Paul out of the synagogue and wanted him to come **back** the following sabbath.
2. Interestingly, some of what Paul spoke about did not apply directly to the Gentiles (Jewish Patriarchs). But Paul's conclusion about salvation to all did speak to their hearts. It was the first time recorded, through Paul, that anyone could be justified by **faith** - without the **Law**!

Romans 4:5, 24-25, 5:1-2 - But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Rom. 4:24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Rom. 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. Rom. 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: Rom. 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3. Paul then focused on the Jews and proselytes by telling [them to continue in the grace of God]. We can continue to see "the dispensation of grace" **gradually** begin to **emerge**. The word grace (charis) appears less than 20 times in the four gospels. In Paul's epistles, which are smaller in quantity than the four gospels, grace appears well over a **100** times. In Acts, grace appears 5 times prior to the raising up of Paul. After Paul is raised, grace appears 15 times in Acts.

Acts 14:3 - Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Acts 20:24 - But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

4. Paul's message was a **departure** from Israel's prophetic program and their Great Commission. It was a step toward the mystery, but God still had to deal with the **diminishing** of Israel and the Little Flock.

****Remember in Acts, it is still transitioning from the Kingdom to the Body Church. Paul, at times, will still do **some** Jewish things that seem contradictory, but he is still coming out of Judaism into the grace period.**

I Corinthians 9:19-22 - For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. 1Cor. 9:20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; 1Cor. 9:21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. 1Cor. 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save

some.

B.

Acts 13:44-45 - And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

1. The word of Paul's grace salvation spreads. The next sabbath, there is a tremendous crowd. If one is excited about the Word's message, they will invite others so they can experience what they have!
2. When God blesses/moves, that causes Satan to attack by using others to try and prevent God's truth from spreading.
 - a. *As many of the city turned out to hear Paul and Barnabas speak, the Jewish leaders were filled with jealousy. They began to stand against Paul's message and tried to abuse and belittle him.
 - b. They not only did not believe Paul's grace words (they were under Law), but also did not/could not endure anyone who drew greater crowds than they did.
3. Later Paul says in Romans 10:19-21 & 11:11 - [But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by *them that are* no people, *and* by a foolish nation I will anger you. Rom. 10:20 But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. Rom. 10:21 But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people. Rom. 11:11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.]

* Salvation was beginning to be accepted by the Gentiles which, in turn, made the Jews jealous. This, * in turn, was working to fulfill God's purpose!

C.

Acts 13:46 - Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

1. Paul and Barnabas did not roll over when pressured, for they were fighting for the truth. They boldly spoke up and put these Jewish-under-Law attackers in their place.
2. *Paul explains that the Jews' refusal of the offer of salvation judged them unworthy of eternal life by their own unbelief. Because of this, Paul says "we turn to the Gentiles". Paul's presenting the gospel more and more to the Gentiles was exactly in line with God's long-hidden purpose of why He had raised up Paul. All this was because of Israel's rejection of Christ and her refusal to even want the Gentiles to believe in Him.
3. Here, we also come to another departure from Israel's prophetic program. Why was it necessary that the Word of God should first be preached to the Jews?

Answer:

- a. It is because, according to the Abrahamic covenant and prophecy, they were to be the channel of blessings to the Gentiles. Remember, Peter had said in Acts 3:25-26 - [Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.]
- b. Then Paul uses the word [but], indicating a change in the program - a departure from Israel's prophetic program.

*This did not make God change His plans, or this was not a plan **B**. This departure by the Jews had been planned, but kept secret, since "**be**fore the world began".

Ephesians 1:4 - According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Ephesians 3:3-5 - How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Eph. 3:4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Eph. 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Romans 16:25-26 - Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, Rom. 16:26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

- c. Even though Israel is partially blinded today, it is only a temporary departure. God will keep His Word to them.

Romans 11:25-29 - For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. Rom. 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: Rom. 11:27 For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. Rom. 11:28 As concerning the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes. Rom. 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

This generation of Jewish people failed to become a channel of blessings to the Gentiles, not because of God's unfaithfulness to them, but because they refused to accept God's blessing **themselves!

4. The Jews [put it from] them has the idea to thrust it away and get it out of here. Though the Gentiles eagerly desired the truth of God, the Jews had **vio**lently rejected it.
- a. [judge yourselves unworthy] is saying that in their blasphemous opposition to the Word, they passed sentence upon themselves. The word [unworthy] has the meaning of having a **dis**honoring, base**less** argument about the truth.
- b. [lo,] has the idea that something **sen**sational was taking place as Paul announced he was turning from the Jews to the Gentiles.

- D. 1. Israel was to be the bearer of light (**Christ**) of salvation to the nations. This was one of the reasons the message was to go to the Jews **first** (Acts 3:25-26; Gen. 12:3). Israel was to be the channel of

<u>Acts 13:47</u> - For so hath the Lord commanded us, <i>saying</i> , I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.
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blessings to the Gentiles (repeating this again!), but they could not unless they believed. When they did not believe, they forfeited their purpose.

2. So the Gentiles are blessed through Israel's **re**jection-unbelief of Christ. The fact that Gentile salvation and blessings were happening shows the mystery ministry of Paul. God is saving Gentiles **in** spite of Israel's failure to believe in Christ.

****Israel's fulfillment of verse 47 [blessings to the Gentiles through Israel] will have to wait until a future day.**

Isaiah 60:1-3 - Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. Isa. 60:2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. Isa. 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

E.

Acts 13:48 - And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

*The Gentiles were **thrilled** that God's Word was being presented to them through Paul and Barnabas. Many of them believed the gospel and were saved. We also see in their salvation **God's** sovereignty and **man's** responsibility.

II Thessalonians 2:13 - But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

F.

Acts 13:49 - And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

*The joy of their salvation, by grace through faith in the gospel, spread like **wildfire**. They could not keep quiet, nor contain it to just themselves. They were letting the gospel loose to whoever they came in contact with!

G.

Acts 13:50-51 - But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. Acts 13:51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

1. The religious Jews and Satan did not just idly stand by. They stirred up **opposition** and **persecution** against Paul and Barnabas and they were forced out of the region. They shook the dust **off** their feet and went to Iconium.
 - a. ****Remember what Christ said in Matthew 10:14-15 - [And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.]**
 - b. Paul later wrote about this persecution in II Timothy 3:11 - [Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.]
2. It is interesting how Satan knows how to **expel** Paul and Barnabas from the city. Satan used the city's leaders' **women** to move the men to use persecution against these gospel preachers.

****This has been going on since Eve! (A little fun)**

I Timothy 2:13-14 - For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 1Tim. 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

3. Just understand, religious zeal **can** do the most horrible things in the name of its god.
(Saul - R.C.C. - Islam - Reformers - Fundamentalists)

H. Acts 13:52 - And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

1. Paul and Barnabas leave these unbelievers to **God** and move to another location, where perhaps the people there will hear the gospel and **be**lieve.
 - a. Upon having to leave, Paul and Barnabas were **far** from being depressed or dejected. They were filled with joy because they were filled with the Holy Ghost (Gal. 5:22).
 - b. Even though they could not remain to help the **new** Gentile converts in the Word of their newfound faith, they were in good hands - **God's**!

*Thus, they could rejoice. Affliction and rejoicing can both be at the same time.

I Thessalonians 1:6 - And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

2. When it says [disciples] in vs. 52, this also could mean the **new** believers. Sometimes we forget what salvation **does** for a person. They are **never** alone!

****Just remember this principle:**

I Peter 4:14 - If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

Philippians 1:29 - For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

