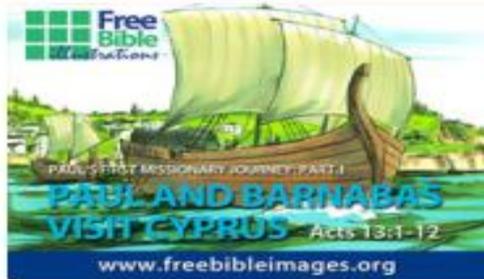


## Acts 13: 1-52



- 1 Acts 11:19-26 After Stephen's death many Christians were persecuted and fled from Jerusalem. Wherever they went they told other Jews about Jesus. Some who went to Antioch also told people who were not Jews (Gentiles) about Jesus and many believed in Him.



- 2 Antioch was north of Jerusalem in Syria. When news of Gentiles becoming Christians reached Jerusalem they sent Barnabas to find out what was going on.



- 3 Barnabas was thrilled to meet the new Christians and encouraged them to obey God. He was a man full of the Holy Spirit and faith and many more people became Christians.



- 4 These new Christians needed teaching so Barnabas set off to find someone who could join the leaders to help.



- 5 He travelled to Tarsus where Saul, called Paul in Greek, was now living. Paul had once persecuted Christians but was now a Christian himself.



- 6 Barnabas encouraged Paul to come to Antioch to help the new converts.



7 Paul accepted the invitation, joining Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius and Manaen teaching the new Christians how to live for God. This team of five prophets and teachers led the church in Antioch. Paul was with them for over a year.



8 One day, as these men were worshiping and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Dedicate Barnabas and Saul (Paul) for the special work I want them to do.'



9 So after more fasting and prayer, they laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas and sent them on their way. A cousin of Barnabas called John Mark joined them on their travels.



10 The men travelled east to the port of Seleucia.



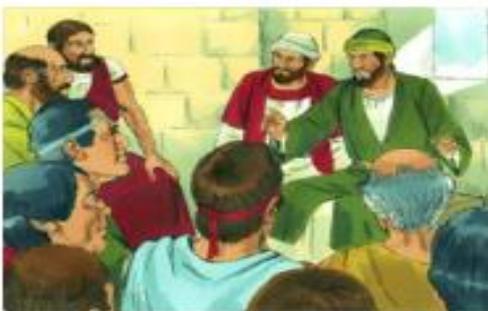
11 They boarded a ship sailing for Cyprus. It was the island on which Barnabas had owned land and some of the persecuted Christians had fled.



12 The missionaries landed at the port of Salamis on the west coast.



13 They began teaching in the synagogues, telling people about Jesus and encouraging the new Christians.



- 14 Paul and Barnabas travelled from place to place throughout the island teaching in the synagogues and encouraging Christians.



- 15 Eventually they arrived at Paphos where the Roman Proconsul, Sergius Paulus, lived and ruled. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the Word of God.



- 16 A Jewish sorcerer and false prophet, Bar-Jesus (also called Elymas), opposed what Paul and Barnabas were telling the Proconsul. Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas.



- 17 'You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right!' Paul declared. 'You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. The Lord is going to make you blind for a time, unable to see the light of the sun.'



- 18 Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the Proconsul saw what had happened, he believed in the Lord.



- 19 At Paphos, Paul, Barnabas and Mark boarded a ship to Perga to continue their travels.





Paul, Barnabas and Mark set sail from Paphos in Cyprus heading towards the port of Perga.



Perga was a Greek city and capital of a region known as Pamphylia. (The region is now part of modern day Turkey).



When they landed in Perga, John Mark decided to leave Paul and Barnabas and return to Jerusalem.



Paul and Barnabas headed inland to a region known as Pisidia to the capital city of Antioch. Pisidian Antioch was an important city where several trade routes met.



When Paul and Barnabas went to the synagogue those in charge of the service sent them this message: 'Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement come and give it.'



Paul spoke to them explaining how God had delivered the Jews from Egypt and promised a Messiah who would be a descendant of King David.



Paul then went on to explain that Jesus, who had been crucified and raised from the dead, was God's chosen Saviour, the Messiah (Acts 13: 16-41).



When Paul and Barnabas left the synagogue, the people begged them to return the following week to speak further about these matters.



The following week huge crowds gathered to hear Paul speak. Some of the Jews, jealous of the attention Paul was commanding, started slandering Paul and argued against whatever he said. Paul declared that as the Jews had rejected the message about Jesus, they would tell it to the Gentiles. Many Gentiles became Christians and were full of joy and the Holy Spirit.



The Jews stirred up the influential religious women and the leaders of the city, and they incited a mob against Paul and Barnabas and ran them out of town.



Paul and Barnabas shook the dust from their feet as a sign of rejection and went to the town of Iconium. But the followers were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

