



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 19 June 2022 Acts 13

In Acts 9 Saul's zealous persecution of Christians is stopped in its tracks when the Son of God appears to him on the road to Damascus. Jesus not only saves and turns his life around, he gives Saul a new call and new purpose for his life – to be an instrument to proclaim Jesus' name to the Gentiles and their kings, and to the people of Israel. Jesus said it would be a costly call. Saul immediately starts preaching the gospel in Damascus – where he faces opposition. Sometime later, he arrives in Jerusalem and also faces opposition to his preaching. The apostles and disciples in Jerusalem eventually hustle Paul off to the port city of Caesarea, and put him on a ship to Tarsus in Cilicia, Paul's place of birth. Paul remains in Tarsus from about 35 to 46 AD. Then Barnabas comes looking for Paul to ask for his help in the ministry in Antioch (Acts 11:25-26). By the time of Acts 13, Paul has been in Antioch for some time.

Please read Acts 13.1-4 : Antioch in Syria

1. Although Paul was called to minister for Jesus many years previous (in Acts 9), how does this incident speak about the dynamic leading of God in his life and in ours?
2. Following this sudden intervention of the Holy Spirit speaking during their church worship time, it records that, after prayer and fasting, Saul and Barnabas were 'sent' by the church and also 'sent' by the Holy Spirit on their way. Why is this partnership in 'sending' important?, what might their 'sending' involve?

Please read Acts 13.5-12 : Cyprus

3. What do you think of the way in which Paul (as he's now called hereafter) deals with Elymas?
4. Please also read Jesus' words in **Luke 17.1-5**. This is an aspect of our responsibility as Christians which few find easy. How does this story highlight how important it is for us to act with similar protective boldness when necessary?

Please read Acts 13.14-16; 36-41 : Antioch in Pisidia (modern-day Turkey)

5. He starts verse 38 with, *'Therefore, my friends...'*. Having just contrasted King David's death and decay with Jesus' death and resurrection – he sets out the contrasting benefits and blessings that come *'through Jesus'* as compared with what they were *'able to obtain under the law'* – please describe the new blessings on offer through Jesus in your own words.
6. In verses 40-41, Paul quotes from the prophecy of **Habakkuk 1.5**. On the face of it, this seems an odd choice of quotation. However, in Habakkuk God speaks a warning to the people of Israel who assume they are ok with God despite ignoring His ways. He warns they will be unpleasantly surprised if they continue to do so! Why did such a warning form part of Paul's message? Should it be part of our message with those whom we share the gospel of Jesus?
7. How is God speaking to you through Acts 13? What response is required from you?