

Abounding Grace Christian Church

The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Church – Part 42

I. Exposition of Chapter Thirteen (Continued).

A. Verses 16-41 - Paul's Sermon at Antioch Pisidia.

1. Verse 16 – “Then Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand said, ‘Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:...”

- a. As Paul opens up his message, he appeals to the “Men of Israel” but also to all others who were one’s who feared God. This tells us that there were Gentiles present as well. Regarding the Gentiles, Dr. Stanley Horton states:

“As mentioned previously, many Gentiles were tired of the immorality and idolatry of heathen religion. They were hungry for something better and were attracted to the synagogues and to the worship of the one true God, who—unlike their pagan gods—identified himself as holy.”¹

2. Verses 17-22 – Paul begins by reviewing some important History of Israel.

- a. This is similar to both Peter (2:14-40) and Steven’s message (7:2-53.) When speaking to Jewish audiences the Holy Spirit directs the preachers to use the Old Testament in order to make a convincing argument for Jesus being the Messiah.

“Highlighted in this resume is a four-point confessional summary that for Jews epitomized the essence of their faith: (1) God is the God of the people of Israel; (2) he chose the patriarchs for himself; (3) he redeemed his people from Egypt, leading them through the wilderness; and (4) he gave them the land of Palestine as an inheritance...To such a confessional recital, Jews often added God's choice of David to be king and the promises made to him and his descendants (cf. Pss 78:67-72; 89:3-4, 19-37). Paul proclaims these great confessional truths of Israel's faith, which speak of God's redemptive concern for his people and undergird the Christian message.”²

- b. Verse 17 – “The God of this people Israel chose our fathers...” – Speaks of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – Exodus 3:15.
- c. Verse 17 – “...when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it.” – The words “uplifted arm” refers to God’s Almighty power.
- d. Verse 18 – After they were delivered from Egypt they wandered for 40 years in the wilderness due to unbelief. (cf. Numbers 14:26-34)
- e. Verse 19 – “...He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan...” - These seven nations are “...the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you.” – Deuteronomy 7:1.
- f. Verse 20 – “...He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.” – “This 450 years would represent four hundred years in Egypt (Gen. 15:13), forty years in the desert (Num. 14:33-34) and ten years conquering the land (Josh. 14:1-5).”³
- g. Verse 21 – “And afterward they asked for a king, so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin for forty years.” – Cf. I Samuel 8:5-22; 10:20-24.
- h. Verse 22 – God removed Saul and raised up David as king. Two quotations included here. Psalm 89:20; I Samuel 13:14.

¹Stanley M. Horton, *Acts: A Logion Press Commentary* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2001), 239-240.

3. Verses 23-41 – Paul preaches David’s “Seed” is Jesus the Savior.

a. **Verse 23 – “From this man's seed, according to *the* promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus—“- Dr. Stanley Horton writes:**

“Now the people in Paul’s audience knew God’s promise to David (2 Sam. 7:12; Ps. 89:29–34). They also knew the prophecies that God would raise up a greater seed to David (Isa. 9:6–7; 11:1–5), as well as the prophecy that He would give David’s throne to the One it rightfully belonged to (Ezek. 21:27). In this way Paul declares that God had fulfilled His promise and ‘from this man’s descendants’ raised up to Israel a Savior, Jesus (Matt. 1:21; Luke 1:32; 2:11; Acts 5:31).”

1) **“Savior” – “deliverer, preserver, one who saves from danger or destruction and brings into a state of prosperity and happiness.”⁴**

b. **Verses 24-25 -The Ministry of John the Baptist (Two quotes from Mark 1:7 and John 1:20,27).** It must be people were familiar with the ministry of John for Paul speaks as though they knew who he was. This is indicative of the impact John must have had and how he did indeed **“prepare the way of the Lord.”** (cf. Malachi 3:1 and Luke 26-27).

“Paul further identified Jesus as having been recognized by John the Baptist as the One to come. John the Baptist’s ministry was well known to Jews everywhere, as well as his denial of being the one to come, the promised Messiah and Savior (Luke 3:15–16). John’s testimony to Jesus was therefore important. For John to say that he was not worthy to take off the sandals of the one to come, a most menial service, indicates how far above him John considered Jesus (John 1:27).”

c. **Verses 26-41 – The “Word of this Salvation” is preached.**

1) **Verse 26 -** Again Paul addresses Jews (**“sons of the family of Abraham”**) and those who **“...fear God”** (Gentiles) cf. verse 16.

2) **Verse 27 –** Unlike John the Baptist, the people, in general, who dwelled in Jerusalem and their rulers didn’t recognize who Jesus was. Because of this, they actually fulfilled the Messianic prophecies without even knowing.

“For those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not know *or* recognize Him or understand the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, have actually fulfilled these very predictions by condemning *and* sentencing [*Him*].” – Acts 13:27 – Amplified Bible

a) I. Howard Marshall states concerning this:

“Paul regards his hearers as in a separate category from those who had already heard of Jesus and rejected him, and the rest of the speech is in effect an appeal to them not to throw away their opportunity of *salvation* by following the example of the people *in Jerusalem and their rulers* who had rejected Jesus and condemned him to death.”⁵

b) Richard Longenecker writes:

“He says, ‘it is to us [*hemin*] that this message of salvation has been sent.’ Then he presents a four-point Christian confession like that in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5: (1) Jesus was crucified; (2) they ‘laid him in a tomb’; (3) ‘God raised him from the dead’; and (4) ‘for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem,’ who are ‘now his witnesses to our people.’ Also significant is the clear note of fulfillment explicitly sounded in v.27 (“in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath”) and implied throughout the whole presentation.”

2) **Verse 28 – “...they found no cause for death in Him...” – In Matthew 27:22-24, it’s recorded that Pilate said; “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person”. In John 19:4, Pilate states, “I find no fault in Him.” In**

order to be the “sacrificial lamb”, He had to be “without blemish”.

⁴Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary*; (AMG Publishers; Revised edition, 1993)

⁵I. Howard Marshall, *The Acts of the Apostles: An Introduction and Commentary*; (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980), 225.