

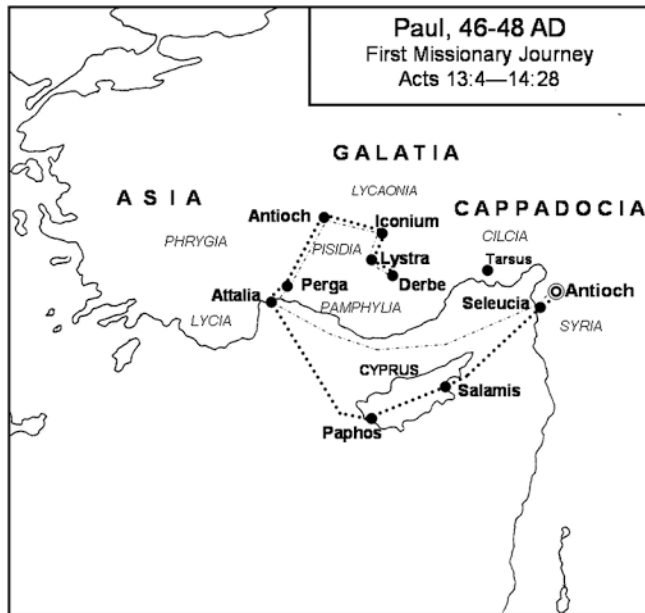
Hey All! Hope everyone is doing well! Please do this bible study as soon as worship is over!  
God bless! - PI

Please pray this prayer before you begin:

*Heavenly Father, thank you for the privilege of getting to know you.  
May you fill me with wisdom and discernment as I study your holy  
word. Help me to know you more through this time and help me to not  
get distracted. In Jesus name, Amen.*

Take this time to carefully read **Acts 13:13-52** once. It is ok to not understand everything that is happening in the passage, we will carefully go through each section.

### I. The setting (vv. 13-15)



As you are rereading the verses 13-15, try to follow along using the map.

Where does Paul and Barnabas go?

Where does John go?

*Fun Fact: The trip to Perga was a 112 mile journey.*

Antioch of Pisidia had a large Jewish population. During the sabbath service, they would read a section from the Laws (Torah) and read a section from the Prophets. Afterwards, someone would come up and

share to those that are attending the service. Here in verse 15, the visitors (Paul and Barnabas) are encouraged to share. Paul takes this opportunity to begin his preaching in this new land.

### II. The survey (vv. 16-25)

Here, Paul reviews Israel's history to the Jews and God-fearers who are present in the synagogue.

Who are the God-fearers? And who are the men of Israel? Well the men of Israel are those that were Jewish. And the God-fearers are referring to those who believed in the God of Israel, but they were Greek. So, there is this distinction between the Greeks and the Jews, although they believed in the same God.

Reread verses 17-22. Who is the subject of all the verbs in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

If you wrote God, then you are correct! God is the main subject for all the verbs. God chose our father, made the people, led them, put up with them, he gave them, and etc.

Now let's take a closer look at verse 18:

*“And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.”*

Paul uses this verb, “to put up.” This verb in Greek is used when you put up with someone’s manners or moods. For example, growing up I had to put up with my sister. Just kidding! ☺ But all jokes aside, God had to put up with Israel’s moods/ manner, but specifically their lack of faith. God had to bear Israel’s inconsistent belief in the wilderness for forty years. In the same way, he had to put up with Saul who was king for forty years.

Paul states a survey of Israel’s history of God choosing and carrying the people from Egypt to the wilderness to finally the promise land (Canaan). Then Paul moves to the period of judges and kings.

Who was the king that everyone wanted? \_\_\_\_\_

And God chose king David’s line of descendants to bring forth the great Savior Jesus Christ. Then Paul skips 1000 years in history and goes to John the Baptist. John was the bridge that connects Israel’s history to the fulfillment of the prophecies.

Now as we read this section, did you notice something? If we look at the first part of our bible study, we saw that in a customary Jewish service, they would read a section from the Torah (Law) as well as the Prophets. It is interesting that Paul takes the listeners, the Jews and the God-fearers, on this survey to show them that Jesus Christ is the center of it all!

Consistently throughout history, there was always something missing. God had to put up with Israel and their lack of faith as he carried them in the wilderness. He had to also put up with the people during the time of judges. King Saul was the one the people wanted, but he is lacking in all ways. And even with king David, he was not the king that the people needed. And even John the Baptist, he was not the person the people needed.

All throughout history, the people needed one person who would actually take up the inconsistent faith of the people and go to the cross to be crowned with thorns. His name was Jesus Christ. He was the great fulfillment of the Torah (Law) and he was great fulfillment of all the Prophets.

What are some ways that you lack faith today? As you are sitting in your homes during this quarantine time, what are some things that you have a hard time believing about God?

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If you think about it today, we all struggle in our faith in some way, shape or form. No human being has perfect faith. But when we look at today's passage, I think we can gain some encouragement from Paul's message here in verses 26-37.

### **III. The declaration (vv. 26-37).**

Paul shifts the focus from the survey to now the message of salvation. Paul starts this message by sharing about the people not understanding what the prophets and prophecies were saying. Although the people heard these things every Sabbath, they did not seem to understand.

*Note: This is like us, we hear the gospel being preached every Sunday, but we often don't understand it. In the same manner everything was given to the people to see that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Bible, but they didn't understand.*

Because of their lack of understanding, they executed the innocent one who ultimately was fulfilling God's plan. As Paul is stating all of the events that took place in Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection. This should be jogging Old Testament verses into the Jewish people's minds. Why? Because they have been listening to these passages over and over again every week. And as Paul is cleverly sharing about the events of Jesus, he is allowing the Jews and the God-fearers to make that connection.

And Paul makes this clearer as he shares two types of witnesses. The first type of witness is the people who saw the risen Christ personally (v 31). The second type of witness is the Scriptures that testify to the resurrection of Christ (vv. 32-33). And with these two types of witnessing of the risen Christ, we begin to see that the gospel of salvation is becoming clearer to them.

How do we apply this in our lives? Well the message that Paul is declaring to the Jews is the same for us today. It is our sins and it is our lack of faith that had crucified Jesus Christ. We were once enemies of God (Rom 5:10; Col 1:21), but God being rich in mercy, he saves us from death (Eph 2:4). And the only way to do that was through the sacrificial lamb who is Jesus Christ, the perfect innocent one (1 Pet 1:19). He is the one who died for our sins and resurrected, and it is through this act that we have now become children of the living God. We are co-heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17).

Let's take this time to pray for our hearts. Let's thank the Lord for his grace and love over us. And let's pray that in our weakness that we would cling on to the Lord who is our strength.

Next week, we will look at the second half of this passage!