

Acts 13:13-52

The First Mission -at Pisidian Antioch

The message in the synagogue



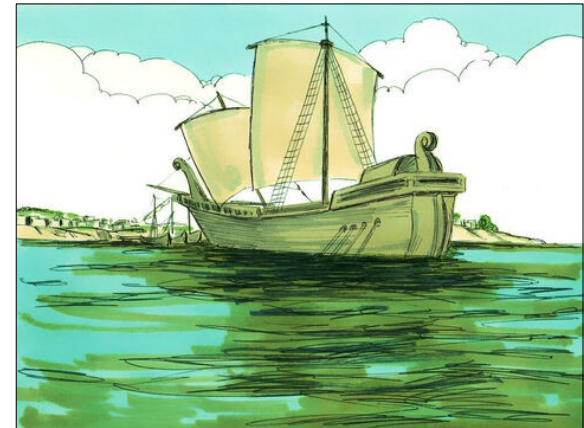
Paul was talking to people
who have some knowledge and respect for the Bible.

From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia,

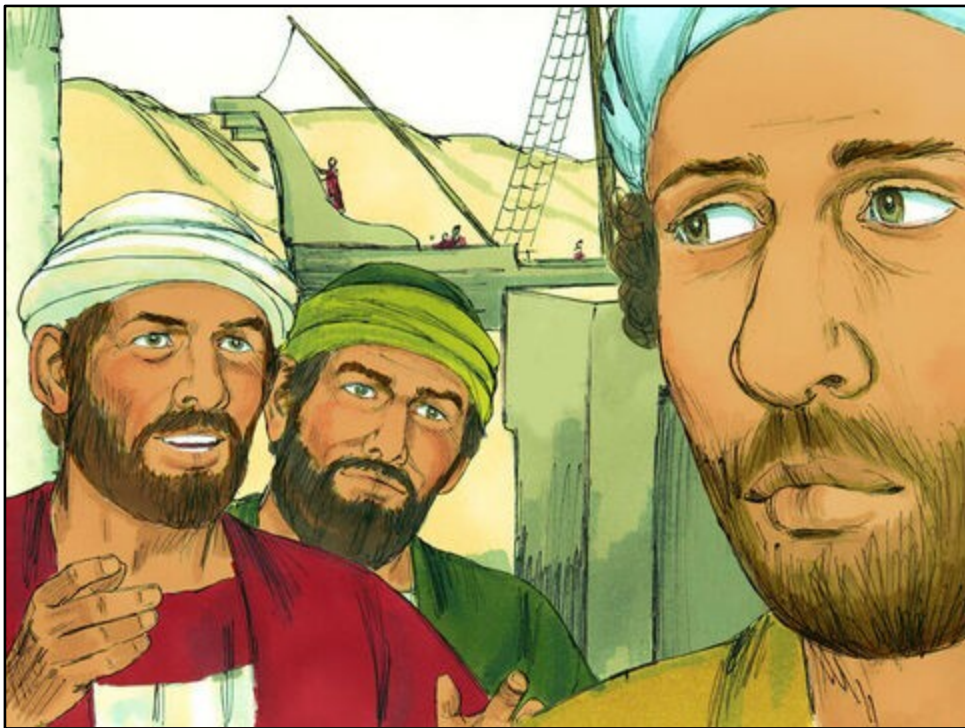
Perga was the capital of Pamphylia



The text says “those around Paul”. He becomes the central player in the rest of the Acts account



From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John(Mark) left them to return to Jerusalem.



We are not told why Mark left but Paul was not happy about it.
cf. Acts 15:38

Failing doesn't make you a failure.
Mark made good in the end.

From Perga they went on to Pisidian

Antioch.

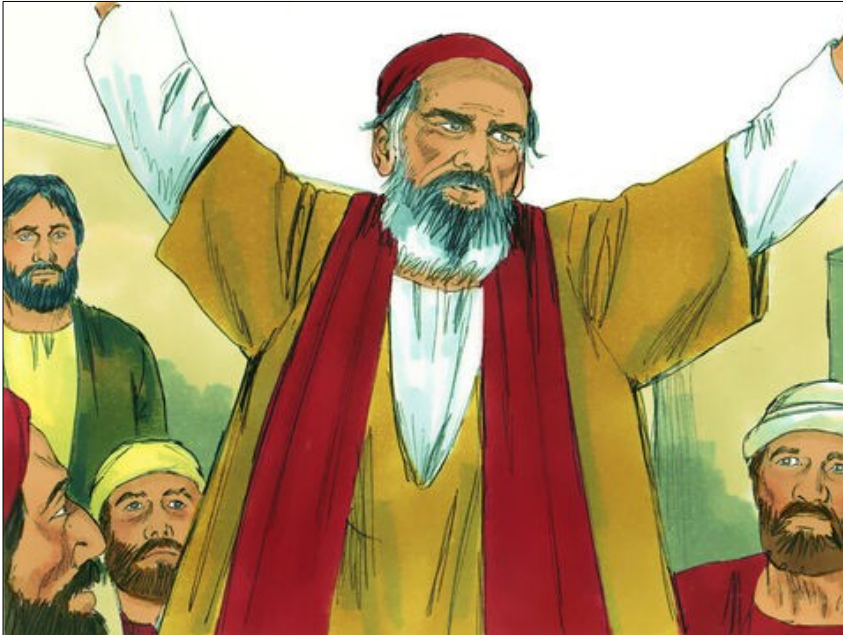
There were 16 cities called Antioch ! – all named by a Syrian king



Pisidia was a mountainous district. Paul and his company would have been in danger from robbers etc. during their 130 mile journey.

God provides a golden opportunity.

On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak."



They joined the congregation for the usual Sabbath service.

*Reading from the Law
Reading from the Prophets
Message.*

Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said..
"Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!"



Paul's message is similar to Peter's (Acts 2) and Stephen's (Acts 7) because each of them was addressing a Jewish audience. These Gentiles were regular attenders to the synagogue.

A brief history of God blessing Israel from the Patriarchs up to the time of the conquest of Canaan.

The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt, with mighty power he led them out of that country, he endured their conduct for about forty years in the desert, he overthrew seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to his people as their inheritance. All this took about 450 years.



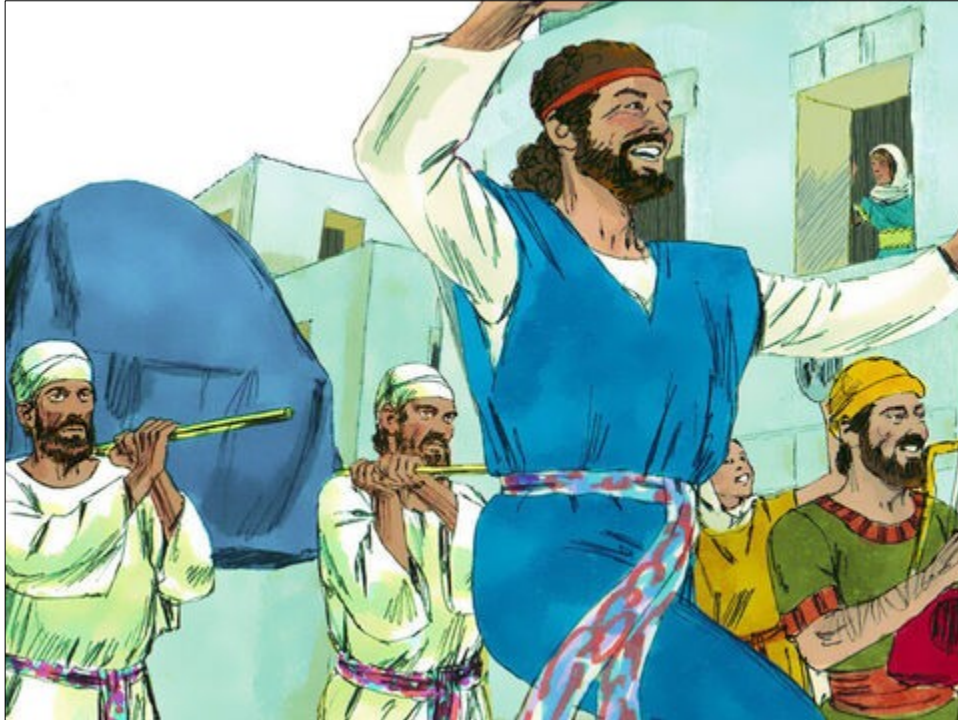
cf. Deuteronomy 1:31



After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years.



After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him.. `I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.`



Paul puts together two quotes out of the Hebrew bible:-
“I have found David my servant,” Psalm 89:20, and “The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and the Lord has commanded him to be captain over his people,” 1Samuel 13:14.

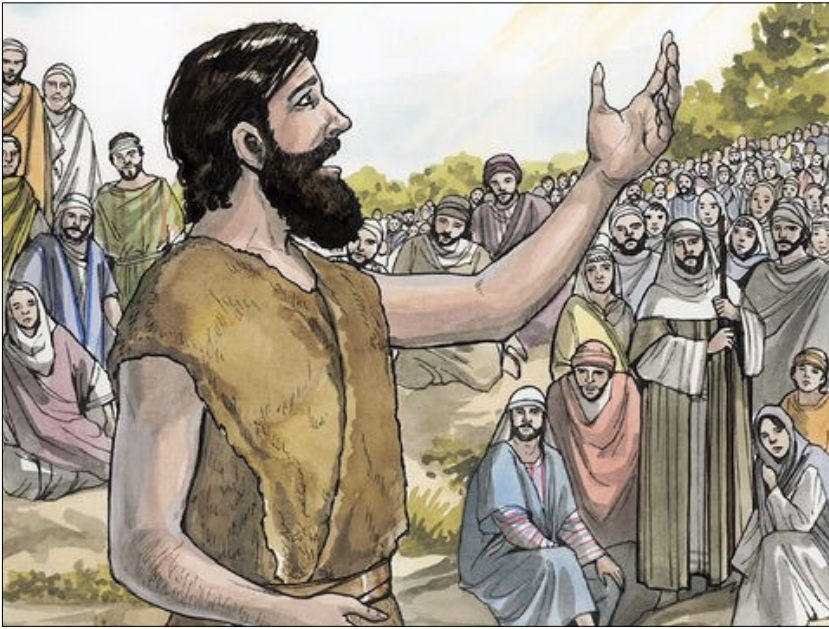
"From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Saviour Jesus, as he promised."

Psalm 132:11 The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.

Paul has shown the link of the promised Messiah to Jesus.



Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said.. `Who do you think I am? I am not that one. No, but he is coming after me, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.`



John recognised Jesus as the Messiah.

He declared how much greater Jesus is than himself.

"Brothers, children of Abraham, and you God-fearing Gentiles,
it is **to us** that this message of salvation has been sent.



We are privileged to have been
sent this message.

It is about SALVATION.

The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath.

Although some did not recognise him ...



Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed.



When they had carried out all that was written about him,
they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.



Paul's reference to the
'tree' points to
Deuteronomy 21:22-23.

He took the curse!

It was all prophesied in
the scriptures.

The final proof that Jesus is the Messiah

But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he was seen by those who had travelled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his **witnesses** to our people.

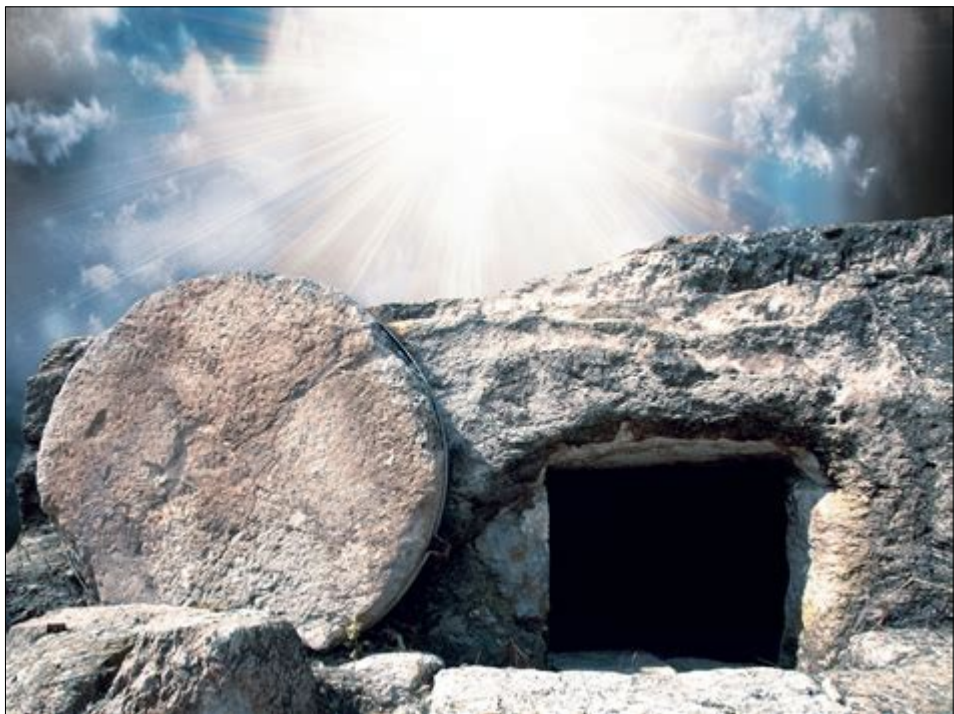


"We tell you the good news.. What God promised our fathers he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus."



The point is this: It is not just an imaginary story or something that has nothing to do with us
– these were real events that impact our lives NOW

As it is written in the second Psalm.. "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. ` The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words.. "I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.`



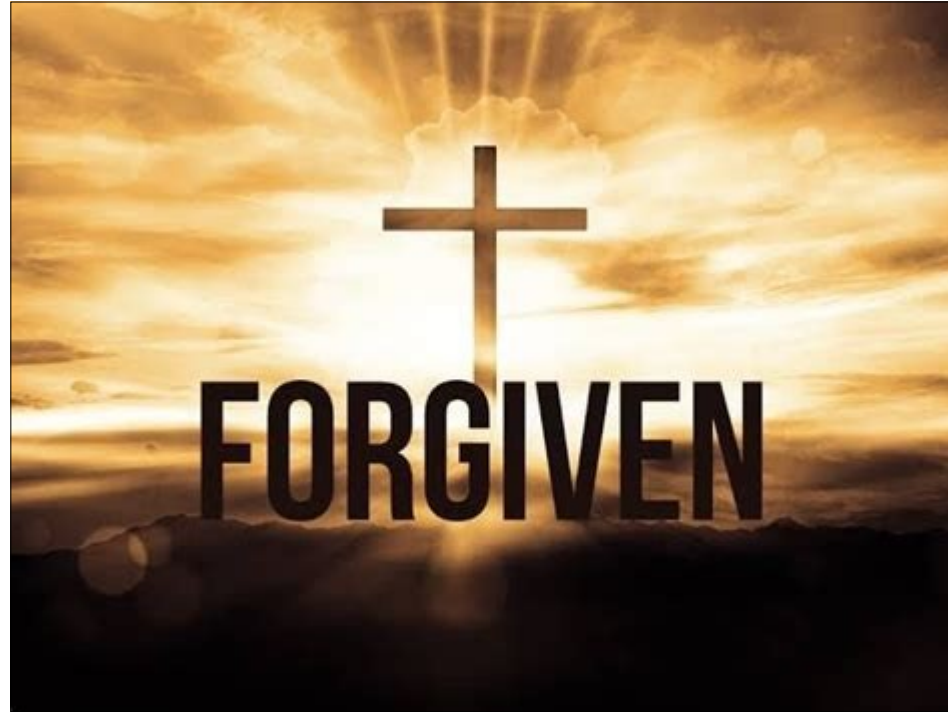
Again, Paul used scripture testimony to support his declaration. He was using the Greek Septuagint translation which uses the word 'holy' for '*hesed*' – to connect with next verse he was going to quote.

So it is stated elsewhere.. "You will not let your Holy One see decay."
"For when David had **served God's purpose** in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

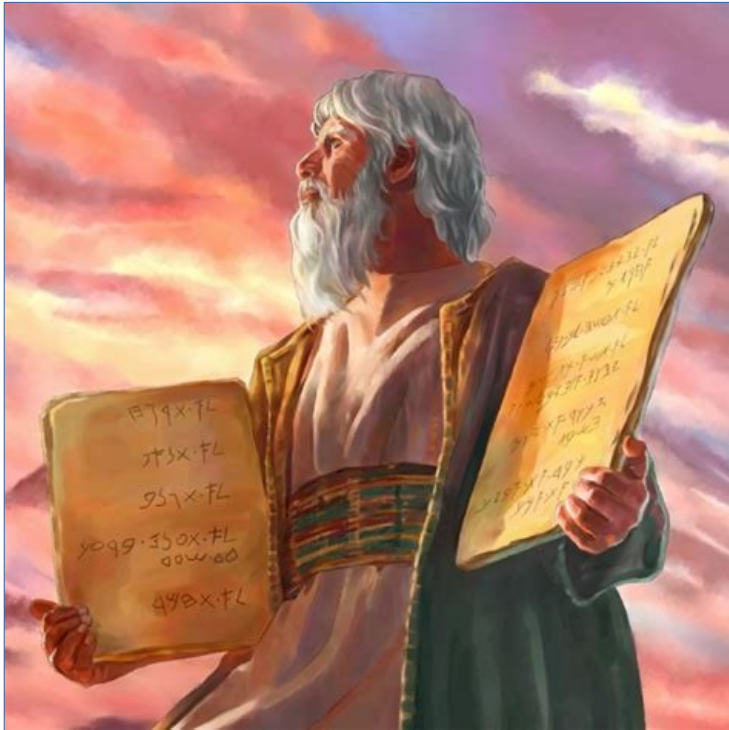


David and his generation died but the resurrected Messiah is for all generations

"Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you."



Through him everyone who believes is **justified**, from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.



This was not a criticism of the Law but of the assumption that the Law was a means of salvation. It was not designed for that purpose.

Being justified means being declared righteous in God's sight – something no sinful human being can achieve by their own efforts.

God has provided the means by faith in the Saviour, Jesus.

A solemn warning from the prophet Habakkuk

Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you.. "Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you."



As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.



**A wonderful response.
A good start – continue!**

The term 'next Sabbath' is an different expression in the Greek. Perhaps it means 'during the week'.

It seems unlikely that Paul and Barnabus would have done nothing for the next 7 days.

On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered
to hear the word of the Lord.



Antioch had a predominantly
Gentile population so that those
who came would include a large
number of Gentiles too.

Word spread... What attracted them? The word of God

The devil wasn't happy! Expect opposition

When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying.



The 'Jews' refers to the synagogue leadership.

Why the resistance?

Jealousy/ pride

A rabble of Gentiles getting the same blessings? .

A threat to their exclusive status?

The term 'abusively' says 'blasphemed' in the Greek text.
- presumably they were saying derogatory things about Jesus.

Then Paul and Barnabas answered them **boldly**.. "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For this is what the Lord has commanded us.. "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."



They weren't intimidated but warned them that their loss was their responsibility. They then turn to those willing to hear, quoting from Isaiah 49:6.

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honoured the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.



God was at work – the people respond

But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.



The influential Gentile women were associated with the synagogue and the leaders incited them against Paul and Barnabas. They also incited the city authorities against them – power politics – again. Just as it was with Jesus.

So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them
and went to Iconium.



Time to move on if you are
not welcome
90 miles S. East

How to cope with rejection!

And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.



Matthew 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Sharing appropriately:-

- * Christianity grew out of God's revelation to the people of Israel.
- * Jesus is the promised Messiah and Saviour.
- * The gospel tells of forgiveness through faith in the death , burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- * The use of scriptures as proof texts is appropriate for those who are familiar with the bible.
- * Some you win and some you don't !

