



Acts Chapter 13 Part 2

Last week we began our study into Acts chapter 13, and we spoke about the Prophets and teachers at Antioch and we got to know them a little better.

We spoke about how the Ruach Hakodesh (the Holy Spirit) had set Paul and Barnabas apart for a separate work in bringing in the Gentiles.

We spoke about the very elevated role that the Ruach Hakodesh plays in the salvation of Gods people, and how it is written that every blasphemy will be forgiven people but blasphemy against the Ruach Hakodesh will not be forgiven (once again that can be found in Matthew 12 verse 31 for those of you who were not with us last week).

We also spoke about what our own Messiah told us very clearly in John chapter 3 verse 5 where he tells us that we must be born of both the water and the Spirit or we can not enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

We spoke about the importance of fasting and praying, and why a Christian should always be in prayer, and in contact with our Father no matter what we're doing and why that's so important.

We went back over the greatest commandment found in Deuteronomy chapter 6 verses 5 through 9, and how important it is to always put God first in everything that we do just like the Apostles did all throughout the New Testament.

We spoke a little bit about the Essene's and how strong their faith was because they did not mix themselves with the Saducees and the temple Authorities, or the Pharisees and the hybrid religion that they taught in the synagogue's. Once again... they kept themselves away from the man made, man created, man fabricated hybrid religious system of Judaism.

We spoke about the fact that the Apostles did not go from Christian Church to Christian Church on their journey's throughout the land... they went to the Synagogue's, and it was in the Synagogue's that they preached and it was in the Synagogue's that they taught.

We spoke about Galatians chapter 3 verses 27 through 29 where we're told very clearly and distinctly that there is no Jew, there is no Gentile, there is no slave nor free, there's not even a male or a female where God is concerned. We are all one in the Messiah.. and because we are

one in the Messiah we are Abraham's offspring and heirs to the promise of Abraham.

This my friends is the true biblical identity of a Christian according to scripture, and even though this is often not taught in today's modern day Christian churches.. we have a decision to make.. will we bow the knee to our church fathers and what they say... or will we bow the knee to Gods Holy scripture and what he says?

We spoke about the Jewish Sorcerer and how Paul struck him blind just like our Messiah struck Paul blind when he could not spiritually see, and how this helped him reach the Roman Governor that he was speaking to.

So we had a lot to learn from the first half of Acts chapter 13 and once again I invite each and every one of you who did not attend last weeks study to go back and find last weeks study in the archives at our website at HolyImpactMinistries.com and give it a listen because I think it may very well bless you if you were not already well acquainted with these biblical facts.

So as we move forward this evening with part 2 of Acts chapter 13 we'll pick up at verse 13.

Moving Forward:

In verses 13 and 14 we see that Paul and his companions traveled from Paphos to Antioch in Pisidia. This Antioch that Luke is talking about here is not the same Antioch as the one in Syria, so it's important to note that Paul and his companions are not traveling in circles.. this is a very different Antioch than the one we've been reading about so far.

It's important to note that there were at least 15 different places called Antioch back in Paul's time.. and all of these places were named in honor of the great Antiochus Epiphanies, and if you've done your homework on Hanukkah and who Antiochus Epiphanies was, you already know just how evil Antiochus Epiphanies was and just how evil those days were (but we won't get into that part of history here today for times sake).

The distance between Perga and Antioch of Pasidia was roughly 125 miles... so in good weather we're talking about a good weeks travel to get there from where they were in good weather.

And I also want to make note of the fact that they waited for the "Sabbath Day" and then they went in and sat down in the Synagogue. Once again my friends this "Sabbath Day" was the 7th day Sabbath of God, not the first day of the week Pagan Catholic Sabbath.

No where in your Bible or anywhere in the scripture is anyone commanded to keep a fist day of the week Sunday Sabbath. There is no such thing according to your Bible or the written scriptures. It's not in there, and you can't find it, and the reason you can't find it.. is because it's

not in there.

A first day of the week Sunday Sabbath is not commanded by any Prophet, Priest, Apostle, not by the Ruach Hakodesh of God the Father, it's not commanded by the Son and it's certainly not commanded by our Father anywhere in your Bible or the written scriptures anywhere.. period.

And I am compelled to once again re-affirm this fact for anyone who may be listening to this study.

*Exo 31:13 "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you **throughout your generations**, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you.*

*Exo 31:14 **You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you.** Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.*

Exo 31:15 Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death.

*Exo 31:16 Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath **throughout their generations, as a covenant forever.***

*Exo 31:17 **It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel** that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.'"*

And once again if you think for a minute that you as a born again Christian are not part of the people of Israel... I urge you to go back and re-read Romans chapter 11, and Galatians chapter 3 verses 27 through 29 and re-think what you've been wrongly taught.

The 7th day Sabbath of God fell on the 7th day of the week in our Messiah's time just as it falls on the 7th day of the week today in our time, and although the calendars of men have changed how many days are in each month of Gods calendar... the days of the week have never changed my friends. A 7 day week has always been a 7 day week, our Messiah knew it in his time, his apostles knew it in there time, and we know it in our time.

Do not let them lie to you.

After The Reading Of The Law:

In verse 13 we read this:

Act 13:15 After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it."

Notice that it says “After the reading from the law”. Unlike our modern day Christian churches who so liberally speak things not found anywhere in the Law... during the early church we find that the Law and the Prophets are still being read every Sabbath morning in the Synagogue's.

The Torah scroll would be removed from it's ark and then read for the congregation to hear every Sabbath. They would take portions and simply read the portions for everyone to hear. The reason they did this was because people did not have a personal copy of the scriptures back then like we do today.

Torah scrolls were expensive and unless you were fairly well to do, most people did not have there own private copies of the Torah, and even fewer were even able to read or write unless they came from a fairly well to do family.

Another thing that I want us to understand is that the word “Law” is synonymous with the term “Torah”. Law and Torah were often used interchangeably because they essentially meant the same thing.

When the Pharisees would sit in what was known as the “Bema” seat or the “Seat of Moses” they could not expound upon the Law or the scriptures. They could only recite the scriptures. If they wanted to comment or expound upon the scriptures they had to get up and move away from the “Bema Seat” or the “Seat of Moses”.

And with that being said I want us to understand that our Messiah did indeed command us to keep the Law of Moses. Most Christians are completely unaware of this biblical fact but just so you're not ignorant of this... let me take you to Matthew chapter 23 verse 1:

Mat 23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,

Mat 23:2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat,

Mat 23:3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.

Our own Messiah commands us to do and observe whatever they tell us when they are seated in the “Bema Seat” also known as “The Seat of Moses” reading from the Law of Moses (which is the Law he received from God our Father by the way).

It's important that we remember that they were not reading from the New Testament. The New Testament had not been written until about 170 year after the death burial and resurrection of our Messiah, so all they had to read from was the Torah, or the Old Testament as we know it today.

So the next time that a brother or a sister ignorantly proclaims that our Messiah did not

command us to keep the Law... you just point them to Matthew chapter 23 verses 1 through 3, and then you have them go read Matthew chapter 5 verses 17 and 18.

Another thing to realize is that the Torah scroll being read was most likely in Greek and was taken from the Greek Septuagint which was the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible. This is what most Synagogue's had to read from because the language had moved mostly from Hebrew to Greek except for the most devout Jews who kept in touch with their Jewish roots.

Now with that being said... I want us to also understand that after the Torah portion was read the teacher or Pharisees presiding over that particular synagogue would then expound upon the scripture and try to put that scriptural passage into practical ways of living much like today's Pastors, Priest, Bishops, and Popes do.

The problem comes when the Pharisees would then incorporate the "Halakah" or the oral traditions, rituals, and myths of men into the scripture that they just read. So they would in effect inject their man made laws into the laws of God our Father which then created this new hybrid religion that our Messiah hated so much that he called them two fold children of hell.

And so just like today... we have men that will often times read the scripture (usually from the back of the book) and then expound upon it.. with out having any real understanding of the scripture because they've been taught wrongly by some denominational professor that belongs to one denominational charter of men or another.. rather than testing his doctrine through the fire of prayer and supplication, and through Gods Ruach Hakodesh.

So Gods Word then becomes mixed with mans word and a new hybrid religion is born, and we see this time and time again with over 5000 different Christian denominational charters of men all claiming to be preaching the truth of Gods Word... when all they're really doing is teaching and preaching what ever their denominational charter tells them to teach and preach.

And this is what angered our Messiah to the point of literally banishing the Pharisees from the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mat 23:27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.

Mat 23:28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Mat 23:29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous,

Mat 23:30 saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.'

Mat 23:31 Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the

prophets.

Mat 23:32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers.

Mat 23:33 You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?

Our own Messiah warns us against calling any man our spiritual “Father” or our spiritual “Instructor” with out testing the fruits of that man.

Mat 23:8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.

Mat 23:9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.

Mat 23:10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.

Mat 23:11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.

Our Father gives us Pastors and Teachers to bring us all up for the work of ministry, and to help us stay away from these kinds of human cunning, and craftiness and deceitful schemes.

Eph 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

Eph 4:12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

So it's not wrong to listen to a man or woman of God.. but it is wrong to listen to a man or women of God who is void of the Ruach Hakodesh of God. And it's wrong to listen to a man or woman of God who is not keeping the commandments of God.

1Jn 2:4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

1Jn 2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

1Jn 2:6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

If that man or woman does not have the Ruach Hakodesh of God... then that man or woman's fruit will be rotten, and this is why we are commanded to test the fruits of any man or woman who comes preaching or teaching the Word of God.

The Pharisees and Saducees of our Messiah's time clearly did not have the Ruach Hakodesh of God our Father and I would submit to you that neither do the majority of today's Pharisees and Saducees that we call Pastors, Priests, Bishops, and Popes today. And this is why it is so profoundly important for every Christian to have a good foundational understanding of the scriptures and to study to show themselves approved as they we are commanded.

Men of Israel And Those Who Fear God:

As we move forward I want us to also notice something very profound in verse 16. Notice what Paul says as he begins to address the people:

Act 13:16 So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.

Paul says “Men of Israel and you who fear God listen”. So clearly this particular synagogue not only had Jews in it's congregation but they also had Gentiles as well.

Now what I want us to understand is that this was not the case with in all synagogue's everywhere. We have to remember that in Jerusalem, and in many of the synagogue's in the Holy Land where the temple authorities and the Pharisees of the synagogue's ruled... it was a sin for a Jew to even enter the house of a Gentile, or to eat with a gentile according to their Halakah (their man made oral laws).

So just as we have different understandings and different traditions in our Christian churches today... the Synagogue's also had several different understandings and traditions with in each of their own sects depending on how far away from... or close to... Jerusalem the synagogue was located.

This particular synagogue obviously had no problem allowing all people to come to hear the Word of God, and this is most likely why the Ruach Hakodesh had sent Paul to this area. Remember the Ruach Hakodesh had set Paul and Barnabas apart for the work of including the Gentiles into the Messiah's Gospel message.

So it should be of no surprise that they were sent to these kinds of synagogue's that were already including the Gentiles into their congregations. This would not have been tolerated in the synagogue's that were located with in Jerusalem at that time.

Paul Begins His Speech:

And so it is that we find Paul beginning his speech to the congregation in the Synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia, and as he begins his speech he begins to proclaim Abraham who was the first Hebrew.

It's important to understand that Abraham was the very first “Hebrew” man, and it was out of the loins of Abraham that the nation of Israel came.

And so we hear Paul proclaiming that God took the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt to give them the land that he had promised Abraham. So he took the Israelite's out into the desert for 40 years and then began to prepare the land that he was going to give them.

In order to give the Israelite's the land that he had promised Abraham, God first had to evict the 7 nations that were currently occupying the land (these 7 nations are listed in Deuteronomy chapter 7).

In verse 20 Paul says it took 450 years to cleanse the land of these 7 nations of wicked people before he was ready to give it to the people of Israel. And I might add that there is a whole teaching on who these wicked people were and why God wanted them to be destroyed from the land.. and that has a lot to do with what we read in Genesis chapter 6 verses 1 through 6 but that again is another teaching for another time.

Once the Israelite's were in the land that God had promised them he gave them judges and the age of the judges lasted up until Samuel who was part judge and part Prophet.

Now at that point in time we know that Israel decided that they wanted a king over them instead of these judges, and rather than having God over them... they had decided that they would rather have a human king over them like the Pagan's had over them.. and so God gives them Saul who was from the tribe of Benjamin.

Now Saul, being the first king over Israel doesn't really do a very good job at being Israel's first king. And it's the tribe of Benjamin who we see almost being erased from the 12 tribes of Israel later on in the scripture.

Remember that when the twelve tribes of Israel were split into two kingdoms it was the tribe of Benjamin that became part of the southern tribe of Judah, and even though Paul himself was a Benjinite... he was thought of as a Jew because for all intensive purposes the Benjamites had been almost wiped out because of their sexual perversions by the other 11 tribes of Israel (and you can read more about what happened to the Benjamites in Judges chapter 20).

And so it was that the tribe of Benjamin became part of the tribe of Judah for all intensive purposes. And so after Saul's 40 year reign as Israel's first king.. God puts David in the place of Saul as the king of Israel and of course we know that David was a man after God's own heart. And this is what sets the stage for David's messianic descendant who would deliver all twelve tribes of Israel back to God the Father.

The Savior Of Israel:

Finally in Acts chapter 13 verse 23 Paul proclaims the name of the Savior, who would not only save Israel... but the whole world from the hand of the evil one.

God promised David that his blood line would never end:

2Sa 7:9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

2Sa 7:10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly,

2Sa 7:11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

2Sa 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2Sa 7:13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2Sa 7:14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

2Sa 7:15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

2Sa 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

2Sa 7:17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

And this my friends was the very message that Paul came to deliver to the People that very day. This prophecy that we see in 2nd Samuel chapter 7 had been fulfilled in their time, and would finally be realized in our time.

The very day that his kingdom shall be made sure forever is at the door even as we speak, and in the very near future we will see the final fulfillment of what is written here in 2nd Samuel.

Freed From Things The Law Could Not Free You From:

Moving forward I want us to see, know, and understand what Paul says in verses 38 and 39:

Act 13:38 Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

Act 13:39 and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Now I want us to understand something here before we move forward. Much of today's denominational Christendom wrongly teaches that through the "Law" man could not be forgiven of his sins.. even though that's not taught in scripture anywhere.

God gave the "Law" so that man could be forgiven of his sins, and it was through his obedience of the "Law" that his sins were indeed forgiven. Take into consideration Leviticus 4: 32 through 35:

Lev 4:32 "If he brings a lamb as his offering for a sin offering, he shall bring a female without blemish

Lev 4:33 and lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and kill it for a sin offering in the place where they kill the burnt offering.

Lev 4:34 Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar.

Lev 4:35 And all its fat he shall remove as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of peace offerings, and the priest shall burn it on the altar; on top of the LORD's food offerings. And the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin which he has committed, and he shall be forgiven.

So according to the scripture (not just here but in many places throughout the scripture).. man is forgiven through his obedience to Gods Law, just as we are clearly told in verse 35... "he shall be forgiven".

So did obedience to the "Law" provide a way for men to be forgiven of their sin? Yes! Even Paul tells us this in Romans chapter 9 verses 30 through 32:

Rom 9:30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith;

*Rom 9:31 but that Israel who pursued a law **that would lead to righteousness** did not succeed in reaching that law.*

Rom 9:32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,

Once again the "Law" would have lead Israel to righteousness if they would have kept it by "faith" rather than by "works".

As we've said before so now I say again... we do not keep the laws of God to be saved... we keep the laws of God because we are saved, or more accurately... because we have the hope of being saved on the day of resurrection.

The Biblical fact of the matter is that none of us truly know if we've been accepted, or “saved” until the resurrection according to scripture. Until then we have the “hope” of salvation.

Mat 24:13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

1Th 5:8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Mat 7:22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

Mat 7:23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Mat 7:24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Mat 7:25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Mat 7:26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Mat 7:27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Rom 8:23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Rom 8:24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

And we have a whole teaching on this at our website if you'd like to go through all of this in more detail but for now I want to stay on track with what Paul is talking in about in Acts chapter 13.

So what Paul is clearly talking about here in Acts chapter 13 verses 38 and 39... is that there are certain sins that even the “Law” could not remove from Gods people. There were certain kinds of sin that even obedience to the “Law” could not save men from.

There were certain sins that the “Law” was not designed to be able to atone for. Sins like

idolatry, adultery, and murder. And this is why Paul proclaims that the forgiveness of the Messiah is greater than the forgiveness that the “Law” covers.. because the forgiveness of the Messiah covers ALL SIN.

The written “Law” only covers certain sin, but through faith in the Messiah... all sins are forgiven.

Now before we go I want to make note of verses 40 and 41 where Paul reminds the people of a warning that was written back in the book of Habakkuk chapter 1.

Act 13:40 Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:

Act 13:41 "Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you."

So Paul is warning those who are scoffers that for those who do not believe in Yahshua as the Messiah.. they have nothing to look forward to but the second death, and again this warning was issued clear back in the Old Testament in the book of Habakkuk chapter 1.

Another thing to note here is that we know that Paul is quoting from the Greek Septuagint because the Hebrew scripture does not say “you scoffers”, Only the Greek Septuagint uses that wording so we know once again that Paul is quoting from the Greek Septuagint and not the Masoretic text, and this is just another example of that clear and evident fact.

And so with that we'll stop right here for this week and we'll finish up Acts chapter 13 next week and we'll then begin to move into Acts chapter 14.