



Acts Chapter 13

And here we are at chapter 13 of the book of Acts... Now that we're into Chapter 13, we're going to be required to shift gears and go into another direction. Chapter 12 had to do with Peter and what was going on in the Holy Land. It had to do with the Gentiles who were just now beginning to be grafted into the House of Israel.. but now here in chapter 13.. Paul through the Ruach Hakodesh begins to put the peddle to the meddle if you will concerning the grafting in of the Gentiles.

The grafting in of the Gentiles has once again begun in the New Testament and it was full steam ahead from this point forward. However there is one thing that I want us to notice.. the grafting in of the Jews in no way was slowed down.

Both Jew and Gentile were being grafted into the House of Israel and both needed the salvation that our Messiah was offering.

The Jew and the lost sheep of Israel needed our Messiah's salvation so that they could be forgiven for their adultery and so that they could once again return to the Father... and the Gentile needed the Messiah's salvation because with out it they could not come to the Father in the first place.

So the Jews were returning and the Gentiles were learning the things that the Jews had already known for generations, and were being adopted into the House of Israel. I want us to know and understand that there were no separate Christian churches during the time of what most call.. "the early church". Up until this point in time in the book of Acts everyone worshiped at the Synagogues together, and I want us to know and understand this very important fact.

The Apostles did not come to build or to create separate Christian churches with steeples and organs, and pictures of a long haired dainty Frenchmen that they call Jesus hanging on their walls. They did not come to paint great fresco's, they did not hire Leonardo Davinchi types to paint the ceilings and the walls, none of this was going on during the early church. The early church was the synagogue my friends and it's important for us to know, see, and understand this extremely important fact.

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So as we read the 13th chapter of Acts I want us to see and make note of these things that so

many other Christian academics seem to ignorantly and willfully miss.

And so as we closed out Acts chapter 12 we left off with Paul and Barnabas back in Jerusalem bringing money to the new believers so that they could get through the famine that broke out throughout the Roman empire. And of course this financial relief came from the believers in Antioch and in Syria.

So lets go ahead and read through the 13th chapter of the book of Acts so that we can get clear picture of what's happening, and the new direction that the Apostles are being lead into:

Acts Chapter 13:

Act 13:1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Act 13:2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Act 13:3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Act 13:4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Act 13:5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.

Act 13:6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus.

Act 13:7 He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

Act 13:8 But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

Act 13:9 But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

Act 13:10 and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?"

Act 13:11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.

Act 13:12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

Act 13:13 Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,

Act 13:14 but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

Act 13:15 After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a

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message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say

it."

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

Act 13:17 The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.

Act 13:18 And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.

Act 13:19 And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance.

Act 13:20 All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.

Act 13:21 Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

Act 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'

Act 13:23 Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.

Act 13:24 Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

Act 13:25 And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

Act 13:26 "Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation.

Act 13:27 For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him.

Act 13:28 And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed.

Act 13:29 And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

Act 13:30 But God raised him from the dead,

Act 13:31 and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.

Act 13:32 And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers,

Act 13:33 this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, "'You are my Son, today I have begotten you.'

Act 13:34 And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, "'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.'

Act 13:35 Therefore he says also in another psalm, "'You will not let your Holy One see corruption.'

Act 13:36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep

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and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption,

Act 13:37 but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.

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.

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."

Act 13:42 As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath.

Act 13:43 And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

Act 13:44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

Act 13:45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

Act 13:46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

Act 13:47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

Act 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Act 13:49 And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

Act 13:50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

Act 13:51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium.

Act 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Prophets and Teachers:

So in verse one we're introduced to the prophets and teachers at Antioch, and of course these were Barnabas, Simon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod Agrippa who had just recently passed, and Saul, who was also known as Paul.

So what we have listed here are Jewish believers. We already know who Paul and Barnabas are, but Simon, Lucius, and Manaen are new to us so here's what we know about these men.

Simon called Niger was most likely a black skinned man since "Neger" is Latin for black.. lets

go check our dictionary to confirm this:

Νιγερ

Niger

neeg'-er

Of Latin origin; black; Niger, a Christian: - Niger.

Total KJV occurrences: 1

Where Simon was from we're not told. As for Lucius he was from Cyrene which is known today as Libya, and we don't know if Manaen is from Antioch or where he comes from but we do know that the name Manaen in Hebrew is Menachem, so these men were the prophets and teachers at Antioch.

In verse two we're told that the Ruach Hakodesh.. (the Holy Spirit) told the men to separate Paul and Barnabas for a separate work. And I want us to realize that in the past it was always an angle or a prophet, or messenger of some kind that would relay these things to Gods people.. but now we see that the Ruach Hakodesh takes the place of all that and now becomes the one that leads and guides the Apostles and Gods people.

The Ruach Hakodesh holds a very high position in the spiritual realm and I want us to notice what is written in Matthew chapter 12 verses 30 through 32:

Mat 12:30 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Mat 12:31 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

Mat 12:32 And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

And again these are red letter words my friends that come straight from our Messiah, so we can see that the Ruach Hakodesh is held in very high esteem by both our Messiah and our Father, and by the way... doesn't it seem strange that the Ruach Hakodesh is seldomly taught in today's modern day version of Christianity?

Think about that for just a moment... how many times do you hear about the Ruach Hakodesh in today's modern day version of Christianity? I tell you the truth my friends... the importance of the Ruach Hakodesh is so important that you can't even get into the gates of Heaven with out him. Listen to what our Messiah says with his own breath, his own words and in his own voice:

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Joh 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

If you are not born again of both the water and the spirit.. you can not enter the kingdom of God. So once again... just how important is the Ruach Hakodesh of God our Father? Pretty important isn't it?

We hear all kinds of things about Jesus from our modern day denominational charters of men but very few words about the importance of the Spirit that he died to bring to us, and even less about our Father himself who both our Messiah and the Ruach Hakdodesh have come to testify about.

I also want to make mention of fasting and praying found in verse 3. In verse 3 and all through out the New Testament writings we'll find the Apostles and the followers of "The Way" fasting and praying and this is an important concept for Christians today to understand.

I want us to understand the power of prayer. We often times think that we are in control and can handle anything, and we often times say that we have faith but the prayer life of most Christians is seriously lacking.

To many professing Christians today pray over their food and maybe when they lay down to go to sleep at night, but short of that.. prayer is seldom thought of unless we find ourselves in some kind of storm in our lives, and even then for most Christians the idea of praying is almost always a last resort.

Even the Apostles thought this way from time to time. Lets take a close look at what our Messiah told the Apostles who were trying to cast a demon out of a young boy and couldn't seem to do it.

Mar 9:14 Then Jesus, Peter, James, and John went to the other followers. They saw many people around them. The teachers of the law were arguing with the followers.

Mar 9:15 When the people saw Jesus, they were very surprised and ran to welcome him.

Mar 9:16 Jesus asked, "What are you arguing about with the teachers of the law?"

Mar 9:17 A man answered, "Teacher, I brought my son to you. He is controlled by an evil spirit that keeps him from talking.

Mar 9:18 The spirit attacks him and throws him on the ground. He foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes very stiff. I asked your followers to force the evil spirit out, but they could not."

Mar 9:19 Jesus answered, "You people today don't believe! How long must I stay with you? How long must I be patient with you? Bring the boy to me!"

Mar 9:20 So the followers brought the boy to Jesus. When the evil spirit saw Jesus, it attacked

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the boy. The boy fell down and rolled on the ground. He was foaming at the mouth.

Mar 9:21 Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has this been happening to him?" The father answered, "Since he was very young.

Mar 9:22 The spirit often throws him into a fire or into water to kill him. If you can do anything, please have pity on us and help us."

Mar 9:23 Jesus said to the father, "Why did you say 'if you can'? All things are possible for the one who believes."

Mar 9:24 Immediately the father shouted, "I do believe. Help me to believe more!"

Mar 9:25 Jesus saw that all the people were running there to see what was happening. So he spoke to the evil spirit. He said, "You evil spirit that makes this boy deaf and stops him from talking--I command you to come out of him and never enter him again!"

Mar 9:26 The evil spirit screamed. It caused the boy to fall on the ground again, and then it came out. The boy looked as if he was dead. Many people said, "He is dead!"

Mar 9:27 But Jesus took hold of his hand and helped him stand up.

Mar 9:28 Then Jesus went into the house. His followers were alone with him there. They said, "Why weren't we able to force that evil spirit out?"

Mar 9:29 Jesus answered, "That kind of spirit can be forced out only with prayer."

Prayer fuels faith. No one prays with out believing. Prayer brings us closer to our Father and it reminds us that we are not always in control. Simply put.. we can not control every aspect of our lives, and yet even these things that we can not physically control... through the power of prayer.. and humbling ourselves before our Father... we are able to move mountains. Not by our own doing or our own hand.. but through the power of prayer which once again fuels... faith and trust in our Father.

We as Gods children who have the faith of even a mustard seed... can move mountains through the power of prayer. In the end my friends.. it's all about faith, and how much we really and truly believe. And remember.. faith with out works... my friends... is dead.

As true Christians who understand the biblical definition of the love of God... we need to learn to pray with out ceasing... no matter where we are, no matter what we're doing... pray.. pray for the grocery clerk, pray for the gas station attendant, pray for the mail man, pray for the paper boy... pray while you're taking a shower, pray when you're planting your garden, pray when your at work, and pray when your at play.

Remember the greatest commandment?

Deu 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deu 6:6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

Deu 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in
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your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Deu 6:8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

Deu 6:9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”. Simply put my friends... you can not obey this commandment with out being in constant prayer and constant communication with the Father, and if we would put this to practice... we would be lead astray by the things of this world.. a lot less often.

Pray as often as you can, make it a habit to include him in all that you do, and the evil one who prowls around like a roaring lion will have a difficult time when it comes to sifting you. The Apostles were constantly in prayer about everything and so should we be in these evil times that we're now living in.

And before we move forward there is something else that I want to make mention of while we're on the subject of the Ruach Hakodesh and prayer.

Remember when we were talking about the different factions of Judaism, and we spoke about the Saducees who ran the Temple and the Pharisees who ran the Synagogues, and the Samaritans, who had their own version of the scriptures... do you remember the other faction that we least spoke about?

The Esseens were also around in Yahshua's time, and the Esseens had kept themselves pure when it came to mixing themselves with the Saducees and the Pharisees or even the Samaritans. The Esseens were a more private group who had more truth than most of the other factions of Judaism seemed to have, and surprisingly enough... it was these same Esseens that had kept the Dead Sea Scrolls found in the caves of Qumran.

One of the most interesting writings that we find from the Essene's was found in a document labeled 1QH20 and it says this:

“And I, the Instructor, have known you, my God, through the Spirit which you gave in me, and I have listened loyally to your wonderful secrets through your Holy Spirit. You have opened within me knowledge of the mystery of your wisdom, and the source of your power.....”

And do you know what makes this even more impressive?.. This was written several years prior to the birth of our Messiah.

And so it seems that these Essene's that were living in the desert of Qumran who were separate and apart from the teachings of the Synagogues, and the Temple authority.. were leaps and bounds ahead in their understanding because they were not indoctrinated by the other factions of Judaism, and rather than listening to men and the doctrines of men... they separated themselves and trusted in the Ruach Hakodesh even before it was given to dwell with in men.

I want us to remember.. that the Ruach Hakodesh was known by men before the time of Yahshua. The difference before Yahshua was that the Ruack Hakodesh would only rest upon men, but it would dwell with in men.

Remember this scripture from the days of Mosses?

Num 11:24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent.

Num 11:25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

Num 11:26 Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.

So Gods people were always aware of the Ruach Hakodesh of God but it was never made to dwell with in the spirits of men until it was given by the Messiah. From time to time we read of instances when the spirit rested upon men but then left them after a certain amount of time. But now that we are in the Messiah and he in us.. that Ruach.. that Spirit that he has.. is in us all constantly yearning to lead us and guide us, and to teach us his ways and to help us remember the things that our Messiah came to preach and to teach.

The Essene's were far more advanced in many ways than the Temple authorities or the Synagogue's because they were much like the Berians who read the scriptures daily and were constantly trying to verify what the Apostles were teaching and preaching through the scriptures that they already had.

And because they knew the scriptures so intimately, (which was only the Tanack, and the Torah by the way.. remember the New Testament would not be written for another 170 years after the death burial and resurrection of our Messiah) it wasn't as hard for the Essene's to believe the truth of the Gospel message because it's all throughout the Old Testament writings and they could see it plane as day.

The reason we don't see our Messiah in the Old Testament is because we've been programmed not to read the Old Testament by our modern day Saducees and Pharisees, but the truth is that our Messiah is the very Word of God himself who was made flesh to come and walk among men, and the prophecies of him are found all throughout the Old Testament.

Teaching and Preaching at the Synagogue's:

As we move into verse 5 we once again see that Paul and Barnabas were preaching and teaching in christian churches... is that what it says?... Lets read verse 5 again:

Act 13:5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.

Once again it's important to make note of the fact that the Apostles were not preaching and teaching in Gentile churches that were separate and apart from the Jews my friends.

They did not come to build new Christian Churches and a new religious system. They did not come to build magnificent structures with steeples on them (which by the way are demonic in nature for anyone who understands what an "obelisk" or what a "falisk" is, and where the pagan practice of steeples comes from, but that's another teaching) but aside from the demonic pagan practice of church steeples.. that's not what the early church was all about my friends and we need to wake up and we need to understand where so many of these false traditions and teachings come from.

The idea of separating the Jewish people from the new believers was never and I repeat... NEVER taught or commanded by any prophet, High Priest, Apostle, or any believer. It was not taught by our Messiah and certainly not commanded by our Father in Heaven.

The Jewish people were one tribe out of the twelve tribes of the House of Israel and the Gentiles were being grafted into the House of Israel to be in the body of the Messiah and there for the offspring of Abraham and heirs to the promise of Abraham.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

So let no man no Pastor, no Priest, no Bishop, or Pope tell you any different my friends. Know your scripture for yourselves and do not beckon to the wolves in sheep's clothing that teach and preach things that are not found written Word of God our Father.

Now some Bible commentators will teach and preach that Paul went to the synagogue's to preach because it's written "first to the Jew and then to the Gentile", and this is true, but this does not negate the fact that the followers of "The Way" who were believers in the Messiah were never meant to be separated from Gods Jewish people or any of the other 11 tribes of Israel for that matter.

Once again just as Paul tells us in Galatians 3:28.. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." You just

can not get around the fact... as far as our Father is concerned.. we are all one, not two separate houses, or two separate churches.

The two house doctrine that several Christian denominational charters of men teach is nothing more than a false doctrine not found anywhere in the written Scripture, and yet they continue to try and sell it to us because that's what their denominational doctrine is built around, and if you take that away from them... then their whole tent falls down.

Bar – Jesus The Jewish Sorcerer:

In verse 6 we're introduced to a Jewish sorcerer by the name of Bar-Jesus (also known as Elymayas). It's important to understand that the very name “Jesus” was a common name in those days, and so the name Bar-Jesus is not particularly meant to mock the name of our Messiah, it was simply the name of this particular Jewish sorcerer.

What I find more perplexing than his name is the fact that he is Jewish, and being Jewish he had to know the punishment for partaking in magic and sorcery was death according to the Torah. Paul had little sympathy for this magic man and struck him blind for trying to get in the way of the Gospel message that Paul had been sent to share.

Paul himself who was struck blind on his way to Damascus would have been well aware of how this form of rebuking someone could bring them to repentance. What Paul had done to this sorcerer had a great effect on the Roman Governor who was impressed by what Paul had done to this so called Jewish Sorcerer.

This with out a doubt is what opened the door for Paul to speak the Gospel message to this Roman Governor, and we're told that in verse 12, that the Roman Governor believed because he was astonished at what Paul had taught him concerning the teachings of the Messiah. And with that my friends... I think we'll close here for now and we'll pick up where we left off next Wednesday evening at 7pm eastern standard time.