

Tying Up The Loose Ends From Paul's First Journey – Part 3

Acts 13-14

Introduction:

1. We have ridden with Paul and Barnabas on their entire first missionary journey. This was a historic trip in that it was the first church planting missions trip in history.
2. Multitudes of Gentiles were saved as Paul preached the gospel of Christ that had been revealed to Him by direct revelation.
3. But we must remember that Acts is a transitional book. It is a book that takes you from Peter to Paul, from the prophetic program of Israel to the dispensation of grace, from law to grace, from the nation of Israel to the body of Christ, etc.
4. Because it is a transitional book, there can be certain events that cause you to scratch your head and ask questions.
5. During this lesson, we will go back through Acts 13 and 14 and cover some of these issues that we didn't have time to cover when we studied through these chapters. We are going to seek to tie up any loose ends.

First issue: prophets in the church – Acts 13:1

Second issue: Fasting in the dispensation of grace – Acts 13:2

Third issue: the laying on of hands – Acts 13:3

Fourth issue: to the Jew first – Acts 13:5, 14; 14:1

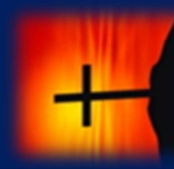
Fifth issue: the emerging dispensation of grace – Acts 13:43, 14:3, 15:11

1. In the book of Acts, two things are happening simultaneously:
 - The setting aside of Israel and her earthly prophetic program
 - The revealing and bringing in of the heavenly mystery of the body of Christ and dispensation of grace
2. Paul was saved in Acts 9, but it is during this first missionary journey that it becomes clear that God is setting aside Israel's earthly program and is doing something completely new that is rooted and grounded in His pure grace.
3. After Paul's first recorded message in Acts 13, the Bible makes an interesting statement concerning Paul in verse 43. Paul "...persuaded them to continue in the grace of God."
 - The word "grace" appears less than 20 times in the four gospels (Matthew – John), seldom in respect to the doctrine of grace.
 - In Paul's epistles (much smaller in volume), it appears over 100 times, nearly always in connection with the doctrine of grace.
 - In the book of Acts, before Paul is saved, grace is only mentioned five times, never in connection with the doctrine of grace.
 - After Paul, it is mentioned 15 times, with most of the references dealing with the doctrine of grace.

4. In Acts 11:23-25 Barnabas came to Antioch, saw the grace of God and was glad. What did he immediately do? He went and got Paul and brought him there.
5. Paul's first message is connected with grace (13:43), and Paul abode long time in Iconium testifying to the "word of his grace." **Acts 14:3** cf. **Acts 20:24**
6. Paul said that the dispensation of grace had been given unto him by God (**Ephesians 3:1-3**). Paul's message of salvation by grace through faith alone (apart from the law) was in direct harmony with the special ministry, message, and mission he had been given by Christ.
7. On Paul's first missionary journey, we see steps being taken in departing from God's prophetic program for Israel and the unfolding of the mystery. But it was just the beginning steps. More would be revealed progressively throughout Paul's ministry.

Sixth issue: Was Paul actually stoned to death? Acts 14:19-20

1. Was Paul actually put to death by the angry mob at Lystra and then miraculously raised from the dead or did they simply **think** he was dead and in reality he was only unconscious.
2. One thing is for sure, this mob definitely intended to kill him. Stoning was a form of execution. The word "supposing" carries the idea that they fully thought he was dead.
3. In 2 Corinthians 12:1-5 Paul relates how he had been caught up to the third heaven in an experience which had taken place fourteen years ago, which would place it right at this event in Lystra in Acts 14.
4. So there is no doubt that his enemies meant to kill him and thought they had accomplished their purpose, but did he actually die?
5. There is no way to know for sure because evidently Paul wasn't even sure! Notice in 2 Corinthians 12:3 he said regarding his heavenly experience "*...whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth.*"
6. Paul's body may have been rendered unconscious by virtue of the stoning and then he regained consciousness. Like a prize fighter, he finally came to, rose up, and walked right back into the city.
7. God gave Paul this heavenly experience to encourage him in a very difficult time. While his body lay lifeless on the road, his spirit soared heavenward. He was caught up into the third heaven to see the glory of the position that belongs to the members of the Body of Christ. He heard glorious things that he was not even allowed to repeat.
8. One other side note: there was a young man that was present there in Lystra who witnessed all of these incredible things. He got saved while Paul was there in Lystra. This young man in future years would become like Paul's own son. This young man was named Timothy. **2 Timothy 3:10-11**



BRINGING IN OF THE CHURCH
THE BODY OF CHRIST
REVEALING THE
HEAVENLY MYSTERY

DISPENSATION
OF GRACE

RAPTURE

SECOND
COMING

TRIBULATION MILLENNIUM

KINGDOM
OFFERED
TO ISRAEL
ACTS 2-7

ISRAEL REJECTS
KINGDOM AND
STONES STEPHEN
ACTS 7

DIMINISHING OF ISRAEL
ACTS 8-28

ISRAEL SET ASIDE AS
A NATION UNTIL THE
TRIBULATION
ACTS 28

- GOD'S PROPHETIC 1000 YEARS PROGRAM RESUMED
- CALLED THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE
- GOD PURGES AND PREPARES HIS PEOPLE, ISRAEL, FOR THEIR MILLENNIAL KINGDOM