

SAUL & BARNABAS AT ANTIOCH; RELIEF TO JUDEA -- ACTS 11:19-30

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

THERE WAS POWERFUL EVANGELISM TO BEGIN THIS CHURCH – Acts 11:19-21

Act 11:19 Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.

Act 11:20 But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists (language & culture were Greek), preaching the Lord Jesus.

Act 11:21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

Acts 1:12-14 Acts 11:26 - “the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch”

Antioch was the third largest city (Rome and Alexandria) and had a large Jewish colony. There were about 300,000 free citizens and slaves. The Temple of Daphne, with ritual prostitution, was also in Antioch. There was an earthquake in AD 526, killing 250,000 (Justinian)

What characterized this church in Antioch?

Luke might have been from Antioch.

THERE WAS POWERFUL EVANGELISM TO BEGIN THIS CHURCH – Acts 11:19-21

v. 19 “the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch” - It was born in persecution – cf. – Acts 8:1-14 - Proselytes – cf. - Acts 6:5 - (Nicolas)

v. 20 “preaching the Lord Jesus.” - It was based on the Person and work of Jesus Christ-this is Biblical evangelism! The preaching of Jesus Christ and Him crucified! The preaching of the cross and resurrection. Cf. 1 Cor. 2:1-2; Acts 18:22-34; Acts 2:22-24; 3:13-20; 13:23-33

v. 21 “the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.” - It was blessed with great results

“SAUL & BARNABAS AT ANTIOCH - ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN? – RELIEF TO JUDEA” - Acts 11:19-30

The Greek mission is initiated by unnamed evangelists (vs. 19-21)

The Gospel “good news” always includes the life and ministry of Jesus Christ on earth as a man; His crucifixion and death; His resurrection – victorious over sin and death – and His ascension into heaven, demonstrating the standard of righteousness that God will receive and because He lives; therefore we who believe in Him will also live!

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THERE WAS PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO DEVELOP THIS CHURCH – Acts 11:22-26

Act 11:22 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.

Act 11:23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that he was glad,

Act 11:24 For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Act 11:25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul.

Act 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

THERE WAS PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO DEVELOP THIS CHURCH – Acts 11:22-26

v. 22 “they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.” - Through the concern of the church in Jerusalem – “they sent” –cf. - Acts 8:14 – apostles sent Peter and John

v. 23-24 “he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. [24] For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith” - Through the ministry of Barnabas – Acts 11:23-25 - Cypriot Jew – cf. - Acts 4:36; 11:20, 23 - “encourage” – Cf. - Acts 4:36 - “son of encouragement”

v. 23a “he was glad,” - His attitude - He recognized the grace of God behind this work

v. 23b “that he was glad,” - He rejoiced in what God was doing

v. 23b “encouraged them all” - His admonition

v. 24 “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.” - His attributes – He was good. He built up, he didn’t tear down! “added” – prostithemi (Gr.) - cf. Acts. 2:41 (3,000 souls), 47; 5:14 (following Anaias/Sapphira); 11:24 (the Gentiles at Antioch)

v. 25 “Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul.” - His awareness of what was needed – “seek” – indicates some difficulty in finding him. Saul was in Tarsus for 8 – 10 years – cf. - Galatians 2:1

v. 26 “taught a great many people.” - Through the teaching of Barnabas and Saul – “called” – “to bear the name” “Christians” – adherents, like “Herodians”

The Greek mission is endorsed by Barnabas (vs. 22-24)

The Greek mission is consolidated by Saul (vs. 25-26)

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THERE WAS PRACTICAL EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM THIS CHURCH – Acts 11:27-30

Act 11:27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch.

Act 11:28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Act 11:29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.

Act 11:30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

The Greek mission is **authenticated by good works** (vs. 27-30)

v. 28 “there was going to be a **great famine** throughout all the world,” - Claudius, 41-54 AD (4 great famines)

Josephus – famine in Judea AS 44-46 under Cuspius Fadus and AD 46-48 under Tiberius Alexander

Vs. 29-30 “determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. [30] This they also did, - This giving and sending of relief was practical evidence to confirm this church! t, – cf. Acts 5:32-35 “offered willingly” - Exo 25:2 (tabernacle); Deu 15:8 (poor); 1Ch 29:6 (David/Solomon Temple); Ezr 1:6 (Ezra Second Temple); Ezr 3:5 (worship begins); Neh 11:2 (giving Nehemiah’s return); 1Pe 5:2 (shepherds of the flock) James 2:15-16 (not meeting a need when you can)

Its importance to Paul was that it was a **symbol of Gentile-Jewish solidarity in Christ** - Rom 15:27 *It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.*

2Co 9:7 “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

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Majesty – Martin Smith

*Majesty, Majesty
Your grace has found me just as I am
Empty handed but alive in our hands
Singing Majesty, Majesty
Forever I am changed by Your love
In the presence of Your Majesty
Majesty*

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord) – Matt Redman

*Verse 1:
The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes*

*Chorus:
Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul/ Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name*

*Verse 2:
You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Then thousand reasons for my heart to find*

*Verse 3:
And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore*

*Jesus, I'll worship Your holy name
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name
Sing like never before/ O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Jesus, I'll worship Your holy name
I'll worship Your holy name*

Questions:

1. Did the conversion of Cornelius and the outpouring of the Spirit upon the Gentiles end the early church's evangelism to the Jews?
2. Who or what group of people probably were the first to call the believers "Christian". What does "Christian" mean? How was it derived?
3. At the time of writing of the Book of Acts, how many cities in the Roman Empire were larger than Antioch. What were they?
4. According to church historians, what city was Dr. Luke from?
5. V. 19 says "persecution arose". What happens when the church is persecuted?
6. We read a lot about Barnabas in today's study. What was his given name? Why was he given the name "Barnabas" by the disciples? (Acts. 4:36)
7. Do you see the value of the gift of encouragement in Barnabas's life here in chapter 11? (vs. 23-26). Do you have the gift of encouragement? Are you exercising that gift?