

Antioch in Pisidia

To the Ends of the Earth - Paul's 'first missionary journey'

Foundation

Bible passage : Acts 13.13-end

Acts records three journeys of Paul that are normally called his "missionary journeys". Each of these began and ended at Antioch in Syria, except the third which ended in Jerusalem. Today this Antioch is just ruins in Turkey, near the border with Syria.

Paul's first missionary journey was with Barnabas. They had been chosen and sent out by the Holy Spirit from the church at Antioch. Their journey took them across the sea to Cyprus then on to modern day Turkey where they travelled inland. They then largely did the journey in reverse to Antioch, but bypassing Cyprus.

Along the way they visited a different town called Antioch, in Pisidia. Since Paul and Barnabas were both Jews they first visited the synagogue where the Jews would meet on the Sabbath day, Saturday. They talked to the people about Jesus, explaining how the Old Testament of the Bible pointed to Jesus long before His birth. They also warned the people about refusing to believe. The people were keen to hear more and invited them to speak again the following week.

Paul and Barnabas wanted to speak to the Jews because they were their own people and it was also easier because they already knew about the Old Testament and the promises of God to Abraham and about the Christ. But when a large crowd turned up the following week to hear Paul and Barnabas some of the Jews became jealous.



So, rather than listen, people began to interrupt, to argue with Paul and Barnabas and to speak ill of them. Therefore Paul told them that they would go to the Gentiles, the non-Jews, as God had already to do. Therefore, that is what they did.

Luke writes "as many as were appointed to eternal life believed". But some of the other Jews stirred up trouble so that Paul and Barnabas were eventually driven out of the district.

Paul and Barnabas wanted to **spread the light** to everyone but started with

their own people and found that some would believe in Jesus whilst others would eventually get angry with them. But they had to trust God and do what He had told them to do.

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.**" (Acts 13.47)

"as many as were appointed to eternal life believed" Acts 13.48



Finally, the mission to Gentiles began in earnest and people God had appointed believed in the message about Jesus.