### Acts

## Chapter 13

1There were several Prophets and teachers in the congregation at There were several Prophets and teachers in the congregation at <span class="placename">AntiOchThere were several Prophets and teachers in the congregation at <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>. These included BarNabas, SymeOn (who was called Niger), Lucius of There were several Prophets and teachers in the congregation at <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>. These included BarNabas, SymeOn (who was called Niger), Lucius of <span class="placename">CyreneThere were several Prophets and teachers in the congregation at <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>. These included BarNabas, SymeOn (who was called Niger), Lucius of <span class="placename">Cyrene</span>, Mnaen (who had gone to school with Herod, the district ruler) and Saul.  
  
2And it was while they were serving the Lord and fasting that the Holy Breath said to them:  
  
 ‘You must appoint BarNabas and Saul to do the work I’ve called them for.’  
  
3So thereafter, [the brothers] fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on them and sent them on. 4Well, the Holy Breath first sent these men to Well, the Holy Breath first sent these men to <span class="placename">SeleuciaWell, the Holy Breath first sent these men to <span class="placename">Seleucia</span>, then they sailed to Well, the Holy Breath first sent these men to <span class="placename">Seleucia</span>, then they sailed to <span class="placename">CyprusWell, the Holy Breath first sent these men to <span class="placename">Seleucia</span>, then they sailed to <span class="placename">Cyprus</span>.  
  
  
  
5And when they arrived at the city of And when they arrived at the city of <span class="placename">SalamisAnd when they arrived at the city of <span class="placename">Salamis</span> [in Cyprus], they started preaching the word of God in the Jewish synagogues there, along with John (Mark) who had come along to help them.  
  
6Then from there, they traveled across the whole island to Paphos, where they met up with a Jew named BarJesus, who was a sorcerer and a false prophet.  
  
7He happened to be with the Island’s governor at the time (an intelligent man named Sergius Paulus), who had summoned BarNabas and Saul, because he really wanted to hear the word of God. 8But the sorcerer ElyMas (that’s how his name is pronounced [in Aramaic]) opposed them and tried to keep the governor from becoming interested in the faith.  
  
9Then Saul (who’s also called Paul) became filled with Holy Breath, and he looked at the man very hard and said:  
  
 10‘O you unethical and deceitful person!  
  
 ‘You son of the Slanderer and enemy of everything that’s righteous!  
  
 ‘When will you stop twisting the straight ways of the Lord?  
  
 11‘Now look! Jehovah’s hand has touched you so that you’ll be blind and unable to even see the sun for a while!’  
  
And at that, [the man’s eyes] started to cloud over and grow dim, so he had to search for someone to lead him by the hand.  
  
12Well, when the governor saw this, he was shocked and he started believing in the Lord’s teachings.  
  
  
  
13From there, Paul and the men who were with him sailed from Paphos to [the mainland city of] Perga in PamPhylia. However, John [Mark] left them at this point and he returned to JeruSalem.  
  
14Then from Perga, they traveled on to AntiOch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath, they entered the synagogue and sat down. 15Then, after a reading of the Law and the Prophets, the presiding officers of the synagogue called them forward saying:  
  
 ‘Men… Brothers… If you have anything encouraging to tell the people, say it!’  
  
16So Paul got up, and with a sweeping gesture, he said:  
  
 ‘Men, IsraElites, and all of you who fear God, listen!  
  
 17‘The God of the people of IsraEl chose our ancestors, and when they were visitors in the land of Egypt, He elevated them… He raised His arm and brought them out of there.  
  
 18‘But after that, He [had to] put up with their bad manners in the desert for 40 years. 19Then, after destroying seven nations in the land of CanaAn, He gave them each an inheritance of land… 20And all of this happened in a period of 450 years.  
  
 ‘Thereafter, He gave them the judges until the time of the Prophet SamuEl… 21For that’s when they asked for a king.  
  
 ‘So then God gave them Saul, son of Kish (a man from the tribe of BenJamin), who ruled over them for the next 40 years.  
  
 22‘Then after He removed him, He promoted David to be their king; for God gave this testimony about him:  
  
 ‘I’ve found David...’ [Psalm 89:20] (son of JesSe),  
  
 ‘A man after My own heart, who’ll do as I wish.’ [paraphrasing 1 Samuel 13:14]  
  
 23‘And it was from [this man’s] offspring, according to the promise, that God brought a Savior to IsraEl named Jesus.  
  
 24‘Now, John [the Immerser] preached publicly about an immersion of repentance to all the people of IsraEl before [Jesus] arrived. 25And as John was finishing the ‘race’ that he was to run, he asked [the people]:  
  
 ‘Whom do you think that I am? I’m not really the one!  
  
 ‘Rather, {Look!} someone is coming behind me whose shoelaces I’m unworthy to untie!’  
  
 26‘So, men… Brothers… You sons of the race of AbraHam and all among you who fear God: These words of salvation were sent to us! 27However, the people who lived in JeruSalem and their rulers didn’t recognize this man [about whom John spoke].  
  
 ‘And when they were acting as his judges, they fulfilled the things that the Prophets said… The things that are read aloud [here] on each Sabbath! 28For although Pilate couldn’t find any reason for putting this man to death, the people demanded that he should have him executed!  
  
 29‘Well, after they’d finished doing everything that was written would happen to [this man], they took his body down from the tree and laid it in a tomb.  
  
 30‘However, God then raised him from the dead!  
  
 31‘And for several days thereafter, those [of us] who’d traveled with him from Galilee to JeruSalem, saw him again!  
  
 ‘So we’re now his witnesses to the people. 32And here we are, announcing the good news to you about the promise that God made to our forefathers, 33and which He’s now completely fulfilled upon their children… Upon us!  
  
 ‘For He resurrected this Jesus, just as it was written in the second Psalm:  
  
 ‘You are My son,  
 And today I am your Father!’  
 [Psalm 2:7]  
  
 34‘Yes, He resurrected him from the dead so that [his body] wouldn’t see corruption.  
  
 ‘For He had said to him:  
  
 ‘I’ll give you the sacred, trusted things of [King] David.’ [last line of Isaiah 55:3]  
  
 35‘And He said in another place:  
  
 ‘You won’t allow your Holy one to see corruption.’ [paraphrase or different translation of Psalm 49:9]  
  
 36‘Yet when David, who served his people well and followed God’s instructions, fell asleep [in death], he was buried with his ancestors, and [his body] did see corruption.  
  
 37‘However, this one who was raised by God didn’t see corruption!  
  
 38‘Understand this, men and brothers:  
  
 ‘We’re declaring to you that your sins can now be forgiven through him. 39Yes, all the wrong things that the Law of Moses couldn’t excuse you from, can now be excused for you by this one – if you’ll believe [in him]!  
  
 40‘Just make sure that [this thing] which was said by the Prophet doesn’t happen to you, when he said:  
  
 41‘Behold, O you who show scorn;  
 Yes, be amazed, and then perish!  
 For there’s a work that I’ll do in your days,  
 Which you could never believe  
 Should someone declare it to you!’  
 [slightly paraphrased Habakkuk 1:5]  
  
42Well, while the Jews everyone was leaving the Synagogue, the Gentiles [spurious words], many of the people begged them to explain more about this on the next Sabbath.  
  
43And after the meeting at the synagogue was concluded, several of the Jews and proselytes started following Paul and BarNabas, who urged them to stick closely to God’s favor.  
  
  
  
44Then on the next Sabbath, most of the city had assembled there to hear the word of God. 45And when the Judeans saw all these people, they became extremely jealous and started contradicting the things that Paul was saying in blasphemous ways.  
  
46However, Paul and BarNabas just kept on speaking out boldly. And they told them:  
  
 ‘We were told that we had to speak the word of God to you first. But since you’re just pushing it away and you don’t judge yourselves to be worthy of age-long life, {Look!} we’ll now be turning to the gentiles!  
  
 47‘In fact, Jehovah commanded us to do this when He said:  
  
 ‘I’ll make you a light to the nations…  
 To bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’  
 [last two lines of Isaiah 49:6]  
  
48Well, when the gentiles in the crowd heard this, they started rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord!  
  
And at that, everyone who was inclined to accept age-long life became believers, 49and the word of the Lord was thereafter spread throughout that whole country.  
  
50However, the Judeans who were there incited many of the city’s elite (the devout women and the leading men), and they sent people against Paul and BarNabas who threw them out of the city.  
  
51So they just shook the dust off their feet against them, and traveled on to Iconium.  
  
52However, the disciples [back in AntiOch] continued to be filled with joy and Holy Breath.