

The Light for the Nations

God's Mission to the Gentiles

Acts 13:14-52

I. FOUNDATION: ISRAEL'S PROVIDENTIAL HISTORY (*Acts 13:16-25*)

Paul's Historical Foundation: Ten Divine Actions:

1. "The God of this people Israel chose our fathers" (v.17a) – Sovereign election of the patriarchs.
2. "and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt" (v.17b) - Supernatural growth despite oppression.
3. "and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it" (v.17c) - Miraculous deliverance from bondage.
4. "He put up with their ways in the wilderness" (v.18) - Patient endurance of their rebellion for 40 years.
5. "when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan" (v.19a) - Military victory over superior enemies.
6. "He distributed their land to them by allotment" (v.19b) - The Promised Land as God's gift, not Israel's achievement.
7. "He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years" (v.20) - Divine deliverance through repeated cycles of rebellion.
8. "so God gave them Saul the son of Kish" (v.21) - Their first king granted in displeasure at their rejection of God's rule.
9. "when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king" (v.22) - Replacement of the disobedient king with "a man after My own heart".
10. "God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus" (v.23) - The ultimate fulfillment of the Davidic covenant promise.

The Pattern: **History is "His Story"!** God is the primary Actor in all of Israel's history. Their unfaithfulness never nullified His faithfulness. Every promise finds ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

II. FACTS: THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL (*Acts 13:26-31*)

- A. The Target Audience (v.26) - The Gospel is for both ethnic Israel and Gentile believers.
- B. The Tragic Rejection (vv.27-28) - Ignorance of Scripture leads to rejection of the Living Word.
- C. The Triumphant Resurrection (vv.29-31) - The resurrection has eyewitness verification.

III. **FULFILLMENT**: OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES (**Acts 13:32-37**)

- A. The Promise Fulfilled (vv.32-33a) "And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus" - Every Old Testament promise finds its "Yes" in Christ.
- B. The Prophetic Proof (vv.33b-37) Three Key Prophecies Fulfilled:
 - Psalm 2:7 - "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You" (v.33b) - Christ's divine sonship confirmed through resurrection.
 - Isaiah 55:3 - "I will give you the sure mercies of David" (v.34) - The Messianic covenant established forever.
 - Psalm 16:10 - "You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption" (v.35) – A Bodily resurrection prophesied.
 - Other prophecies – Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; Genesis 12:2-3; Numbers 24:17; Isaiah 11:1; Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 41:19; Zechariah 11:12
- C. The David Contrast (vv.36-37) - David died and decayed; Jesus died and rose.

IV. **FRUIT**: RECEPTION AND REJECTION (**Acts 13:38-52**)

- A. Salvation is through faith alone (vv.38-39)
- B. Rejection will bring judgment (vv.40-41)
- C. Responses can be surprising (vv.42-52): Initial Interest (v.42), Growing Opposition (v.45), Gentile Acceptance (v.48)

V.48 Note: "It is difficult to miss the doctrine of God's election here; the words 'were appointed' come from the verb *tassō*, a military word meaning 'to arrange' or 'to assign.' Luke used it here to show that God's elective decree included Gentiles."¹
- D. Results are two fold: "And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region" (v.49) and "the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit" (v.52)

APPLICATIONS FOR TODAY:

1. Feed the spiritually hungry, focus your energy wisely. You cannot feed people who refuse to eat.²
2. Examine your own heart for rejected truth.
3. Respond to opposition with Spirit-filled joy.
4. Don't view ministry success by crowd size but by commitment to God's Word.

¹ Stanley D. Toussaint, "Acts," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 390–391.

² Adapted from Charles R. Swindoll, *Acts, Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2016), 276.