

From Antioch to Antioch

Acts 12:25 - 13:52

by Don Falkos

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With the blessing of the leadership in Syrian Antioch, Barnabas and Saul sailed to the island of Cyprus. John Mark went with them. The governor of the island sent for them because he wanted to hear the word of God. But a sorcerer tried to intervene and prevent the governor from placing his faith in Jesus.

Saul, who was also called Paul, said to the sorcerer, "You are a child of the devil, an enemy of everything that is right. You are going to be blind for a while." The man immediately went blind; and the governor believed in the Lord.

Paul and his companions sailed to the mainland. At Perga in Pamphylia, John Mark left them and went back to Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabas continued on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they went to the synagogue where they were invited to speak.

Paul said, "God promised to provide a savior from the line of King David. Jesus is that savior. He was crucified, died, and was buried. But God raised him from the dead. Through Jesus everyone who believes is set free from sin. Take care you don't miss out on what God is offering to you."

On the next Sabbath, almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. The Jews were jealous. They tried to contradict Paul and heaped abuse on him.

Paul said to the Jews, "We offered the word of God to you first. Since you have rejected it, we now offer it to the Gentiles." And many Gentiles believed.

The Jews stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, who left Pisidian Antioch and moved on to Iconium.