

Historical Background of the Church in Syrian Antioch (c. 34–46)

Acts 11:19–21

19 So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.
 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began* speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.
 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

Barnabas Sent to Antioch / Saul Brought to Help the Ministry (c. 46)

Acts 11:22–26

22 The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.
 23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain *true* to the Lord;
 24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.
 25 And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul;
 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Agabus' Prophecy of Coming Famine (c. 46)

Acts 11:27–28

27 Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.
 28 One of them named Agabus stood up and *began* to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the *reign* of Claudius.

Saul's Second Visit to Jerusalem: The Famine Visit (c. 47)

Acts 11:29–30

29 And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send *a contribution* for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.
 30 And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

Galatians 2:1–10

1 Then after an interval of fourteen years

I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also.

2 It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but *I did so* in private to those who were of reputation, for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.

3 But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

4 But *it was* because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty

which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.

5 But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

6 But from those who were of high reputation (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—well, those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me.

7 But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter *had been* to the circumcised

8 (for He who effectually worked for Peter in *his* apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles),

9 and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we *might go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

10 *They* only *asked* us to remember the poor—the very thing I also was eager to do.

Saul and Barnabas Return to Syrian Antioch with John Mark (c. 47)

Acts 12:24–25

24 But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.

25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their mission, taking along with *them* John, who was also called Mark.

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