

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

Acts 11:19–21

19 Now those who had been scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, proclaiming the message to no one except Jews alone.
 20 But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, *when they* came to Antioch, began to speak to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the good news about 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 And the report came to the attention of the church that was in Jerusalem about them, and they sent out Barnabas as far as Antioch,
 23 who, *when he* arrived and saw the grace of God, rejoiced and encouraged *them* all to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts,
 24 because he was a good man and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large number were added to the Lord.
 25 So he departed for Tarsus to look for Saul.
 26 And *when he* found *him*, he brought *him* to Antioch. And it happened to them also *that they* met together *for* a whole year with the church and taught a large number *of people*. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Agabus' Prophecy of Coming Famine (c. 46)

Acts 11:27–28

27 Now in those days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.
 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up *and* indicated by the Spirit *that* a great famine was about to come over the whole inhabited earth (which took place in the time of Claudius).

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

Acts 11:29–30

29 So from the disciples, according to their ability to give, each one of them determined to send *financial aid* for support to the brothers who lived in Judea,
 30 which they also did, sending *the aid* to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Galatians 2:1–10

1 Then after fourteen years [*from his conversion*]

 I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking along Titus also.
 2 Now I went up *there* because of a revelation and laid out to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles, but in private to the influential people, lest somehow I was running, or had run, in vain.
 3 But not even Titus *who was* with me, *although* he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.
 4 Now *this was* because of the false brothers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, in order that they might enslave us,
 5 to whom not even for an hour did we yield in subjection, in order that the truth of the gospel might remain continually with you.
 6 But from those who were influential (whatever they were, *it makes* no difference to me, God does not show partiality)—for those who were influential added nothing to me.
 7 But these, *when they* saw that I had been entrusted *with* the gospel to the uncircumcision, just as Peter to the circumcision
 8 (for the one who was at work through Peter for *his* apostleship to the circumcision was at work also through me for the Gentiles),

9 and *when* James and Cephas and John—those thought to be pillars—acknowledged the grace given to me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right *hand* of fellowship, in order that we *should go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcision.
10 *They asked* only that we should remember the poor, the very thing I was also eager to do.

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

Acts 12:24–25

24 But the word of God kept on increasing and multiplying.

25 So Barnabas and Saul returned [*from*] Jerusalem *when they* had completed *their* service, having taken along with *them* John (who is also called Mark).

Paul's First Missionary Trip (c. 47–48)

Acts 13–14

Paul and Barnabas Commissioned by the Holy Spirit

13:1 Now there were prophets and teachers in Antioch in the church that was there: Barnabas, and Simeon (who was called Niger), and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen (a close friend of Herod the tetrarch), and Saul.

2 And *while* they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart now for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

3 Then, *after they* had fasted and prayed and placed *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

Cyprus and the False Prophet Bar-Jesus (Elymas)

4 Therefore, sent out by the Holy Spirit, they came down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed away to Cyprus.

5 And *when they* came to Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they also had John as assistant.

6 And *when they* had crossed over the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain man, a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name *was* Bar-Jesus,

7 who was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul *and* wished to hear the word of God.

8 But Elymas the magician (for his name is translated in this way) opposed them, attempting to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

9 But Saul (also called Paul), filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

10 *and* said, “O *you who are* full of all deceit and of all unscrupulousness, *you* son of the devil, *you* enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord!

11 And now behold, the hand of the Lord *is* against you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun for a while. And immediately mist and darkness fell over him, and he was going around looking for *people* to lead *him* by the hand.

12 Then *when* the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, *because he* was astounded at the teaching about the Lord.

Perga and John Mark's Departure

13 Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos *and* came to Perga in Pamphylia, but John departed from them *and* returned to Jerusalem.

Pisidian Antioch and the Pauline Synagogue Speech

14 And they went on from Perga *and* arrived at Pisidian Antioch. And they entered into the synagogue on the day of the Sabbath *and* sat down.

15 So after the reading from the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent *word* to them, saying, “Men *and* brothers, if there is any message of exhortation by you for the people, *say it.*”

16 So Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand, he said, “Israelite men, and those who fear God, listen!

17 The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and exalted the people during *their* stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.

18 And for a period of time *of* about forty years, he put up with them in the wilderness.

19 And *after* destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave their land *to his people* as an inheritance.

20 *This took* about four hundred and fifty years. And after these *things*, he gave *them* judges until Samuel the prophet.

21 And then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, *for* forty years.

22 And *after* removing him, he raised up David for their king, about whom he also said, testifying, ‘I have found David the *son* of

Jesse *to be* a man in accordance with my heart, who will carry out all my will.’ [Ps 89:20; 1 Sam 13:14]

23 From the descendants of this man, according to *his* promise, God brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus.

24 Before his coming John had publicly proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

25 But while John was completing *his* mission, he said, ‘What do you suppose me to be? I am not *he*! But behold, one is coming after me of whom I am not worthy to untie the sandals of *his* feet!’

26 “Men *and* brothers, sons of the family of Abraham and those among you who fear God—to us the message of this salvation has been sent!

27 For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, *because they* did not recognize this one, and the voices of the prophets that are read on every Sabbath, fulfilled *them by* condemning *him*.

28 And *although they* found no charge *worthy* of death, they asked Pilate *that* he be executed.

29 And when they had carried out all the things that were written about him, they took *him* down from the tree *and* placed *him* in a tomb.

30 But God raised him from the dead,

31 who appeared for many days to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem—who are now his witnesses to the people.

32 And we proclaim the good news to you: that the promise that was made to the fathers,

33 this *promise* God has fulfilled to our children *by* raising Jesus, as it is also written in the second psalm,

‘You are my Son;
today I have fathered you.’ [Ps 2:7]

34 But that he has raised him from the dead, no more going to return to decay, he has spoken in this way: ‘I will give you the reliable divine decrees of David.’ [Isa 55:3]

35 Therefore he also says in another *psalm*,

‘You will not permit your Holy One to experience decay.’ [Ps 16:10]

36 For David, *after* serving the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was buried with his fathers, and experienced decay.

37 But he whom God raised up did not experience decay.

38 “Therefore let it be known to you, men *and* brothers, that through this one forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and from all *the things* from which you were not able to be justified by the law of Moses,

39 by this one everyone who believes is justified!

40 Watch out, therefore, lest what is stated by the prophets come upon *you*:

41 ‘Look, you scoffers,
and be astonished and perish!
For I am doing a work in your days,
a work that you would never believe
even if someone were to tell it to you.” [Hab 1:5]

42 And *as they* were going out, they began urging *that* these things be spoken about to them on the next Sabbath.

43 And *after* the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and the devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking to them *and* were persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

The Jews, Filled with Jealousy, Persecute and Oppose Paul and Barnabas

44 And on the coming Sabbath, nearly the whole city came together to hear the word of the Lord.

45 But *when* the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and began contradicting what was being said by Paul *by* reviling *him*.

46 Both Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly *and* said, “It was necessary *that* the word of God be spoken first to you, since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life! Behold, we are turning to the Gentiles!

47 For so the Lord has commanded us:

‘I have appointed you to be a light for the Gentiles,
that you would bring salvation to the end of the earth.’ [cf. Isa 42:6; 49:6]

48 And *when* the Gentiles heard *this*, they began to rejoice and to glorify the word of the Lord. And all those who were designated for eternal life believed.

49 So the word of the Lord was carried through the whole region.

50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high social standing and the most prominent men of the city, and stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and threw them out of their district.

51 So *after* shaking off the dust from *their* feet against them, they went to Iconium.

52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Iconium and More Jewish Persecution

14:1 Now it happened that in Iconium they entered together into the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in such a way that a large number of both Jews and Greeks believed.

2 But the Jews who were disobedient stirred up and poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against the brothers.

3 So they stayed *there* for a considerable time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who testified to the message of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be performed through their hands.

4 But the population of the city was divided, and some were with the Jews and some with the apostles.

5 So when an inclination took place *on the part* of both the Gentiles and the Jews, together with their rulers, to mistreat *them* and to stone them,

6 they became aware of *it and* fled to the Lycaonian cities—Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding region.

7 And there they were continuing to proclaim the good news.

Lystra/Derbe and the Stoning of Paul

8 And in Lystra a certain man was sitting powerless in his feet, lame from birth, who had never walked.

9 This man listened *while* Paul was speaking. Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be healed,

10 said with a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet!” And he leaped up and began walking.

11 And *when* the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices in the Lycaonian language, saying, “The gods have become like men *and* have come down to us!”

12 And they began calling Barnabas Zeus and Paul Hermes, because he was the principal speaker.

13 And the priest of the *temple* of Zeus that was just outside the city brought bulls and garlands to the gates *and* was wanting to offer sacrifice, along with the crowds.

14 But *when* the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard about *it*, they tore their clothing *and* rushed out into the crowd, shouting

15 and saying, “Men, why are you doing these *things*? We also are men with the same nature as you, proclaiming the good news *that* you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all the things *that are* in them— [Exod 20:11]

16 who in generations that are past permitted all the nations to go their *own* ways.

17 And yet he did not leave himself without witness *by* doing good, giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying *you* with food and your hearts with gladness.”

18 And *although* they said these *things*, *only* with difficulty did they dissuade the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

19 But Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium, and *when they* had won over the crowds and stoned Paul, they dragged *him* outside the city, thinking he was dead.

20 But *after* the disciples surrounded him, he got up *and* went into the city. And on the next day he departed with Barnabas for Derbe.

Return Journey to Syrian Antioch

21 And *after they* had proclaimed the good news in that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging *them* to continue in the faith and *saying*, “Through many persecutions it is necessary *for* us to enter into the kingdom of God.”

23 And *when they* had appointed elders for them in every church, *after* praying with fasting, they entrusted them to the Lord, in whom they had believed.

24 And they passed through Pisidia *and* came to Pamphylia.

25 And *after* they proclaimed the message in Perga, they went down to Attalia,

26 and from there they sailed away to Antioch where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had completed.

27 And *when they* arrived and called the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles.

28 And they stayed no little time with the disciples.