

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 went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the message to no one but Jews.

20 But there were some men from Cyprus and Cyrene among them who came to Antioch and began to speak to the Greeks too, proclaiming the good news of the Lord Jesus.

21 The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

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

Acts 11:22–26

22 A report about them came to the attention of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts, 24 because he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, and a significant number of people were brought to the Lord.

25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to look for Saul,

26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught a significant number of people. Now it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

Agabus' Prophecy of Coming Famine (c. 46)

Acts 11:27–28

27 At that time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

28 One of them, named Agabus, got up and predicted by the Spirit that a severe famine was about to come over the whole inhabited world. (This took place during the reign of Claudius.)

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

Acts 11:29–30

29 So the disciples, each in accordance with his financial ability, decided to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.

30 They did so, sending their financial aid to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Galatians 2:1–10

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

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

2 I went there because of a revelation and presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did so only in a private meeting with the influential people, to make sure that I was not running—or had not run—in vain.

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

4 Now this matter arose because of the false brothers with false pretenses who slipped in unnoticed to spy on our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, to make us slaves.

5 But we did not surrender to them even for a moment, in order that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

6 But from those who were influential (whatever they were makes no difference to me; God shows no favoritism between people)—those influential leaders added nothing to my message.

7 On the contrary, when they saw that I was entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised just as Peter was to the circumcised

8 (for he who empowered Peter for his apostleship to the circumcised also empowered me for my apostleship to the Gentiles)

9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who had a reputation as pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing

	that we would go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 They requested only that we remember the poor, the very thing I also was eager to do.
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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 mission, bringing along with them John 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 these prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, Manaen (a close friend of Herod the tetrarch from childhood) and Saul.

2 While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart 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 off.

Cyprus and the False Prophet Bar-Jesus (Elymas)

4 So Barnabas and Saul, sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

5 When they arrived in Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. (Now they also had John as their assistant.)

6 When they had crossed over the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus, 7 who was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. The proconsul summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God.

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

9 But Saul (also known as Paul), filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at him

10 and said, "You who are full of all deceit and all wrongdoing, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness—will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?"

11 Now look, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a time!" Immediately mistiness and darkness came over him, and he went around seeking people to lead him by the hand.

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

Perga and John Mark's Departure

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

Pisidian Antioch and the Pauline Synagogue Speech

14 Moving on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

15 After the reading from the law and the prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any message of exhortation for the people, speak it."

16 So Paul stood up, gestured with his hand and said, "Men of Israel, and you Gentiles who fear God, listen:

17 The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay as foreigners in the country of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.

18 For a period of about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.

19 After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave his people their land as an inheritance.

20 All this took about four hundred fifty years. After this he gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet.

21 Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years.

22 After removing him, God raised up David their king. He testified about him: *'I have found David the son of Jesse to be a man after my heart, who will accomplish everything I want him to do.'* [[Ps 89:20](#); [1 Sam 13:14](#)]

23 From the descendants of this man God brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, just as he promised.

24 Before Jesus arrived, John had proclaimed a baptism for repentance to all the people of Israel.

25 But while John was completing his mission, he said repeatedly, "What do you think I am? I am not he. But look, one is coming after me. I am not worthy to untie the sandals on his feet!"

26 Brothers, descendants of Abraham's family, and those Gentiles among you who fear God, the message of this salvation has been sent to us.

27 For the people who live in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and they fulfilled the sayings of the prophets that are read every Sabbath by condemning him.

28 Though they found no basis for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed.

29 When they had accomplished everything that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and placed him in a tomb.

30 But God raised him from the dead,

31 and for many days he appeared to those who had accompanied him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are now his witnesses to the people.

32 And we proclaim to you the good news about the promise to our ancestors,

33 that this promise God has fulfilled to us, their children, by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second psalm, 'You are my Son; today I have fathered you.' [Ps 2:7]

34 But regarding the fact that he has raised Jesus from the dead, never again to be in a state of decay, God has spoken in this way: 'I will give you the holy and trustworthy promises made to 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 he had served God's purpose in his own generation, died, was buried with his ancestors, and experienced decay,

37 but the one whom God raised up did not experience decay.

38 Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through this one forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

39 and by this one everyone who believes is justified from everything from which the law of Moses could not justify you.

40 Watch out, then, that what is spoken about by the prophets does not happen to you:

41 *'Look, you scoffers; be amazed and perish!*

For I am doing a work in your days,

a work you would never believe, even if someone tells you.' [Hab 1:5]

42 As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people were urging them to speak about these things on the next Sabbath.

43 When the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking with them and were persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

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

44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city assembled together to hear the word of the Lord.

45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and they began to contradict what Paul was saying by reviling him.

46 Both Paul and Barnabas replied courageously, "It was necessary to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles.

47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have appointed you to be a light for the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" [cf. Isa 42:6; 49:6]

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began to rejoice and praise the word of the Lord, and all who had been appointed for eternal life believed.

49 So the word of the Lord was spreading through the entire region.

50 But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high social standing and the prominent men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and threw them out of their region.

51 So after they shook the dust off their feet in protest 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 The same thing happened in Iconium when Paul and Barnabas went into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a large group of both Jews and Greeks believed.

2 But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.

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

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

5 When both the Gentiles and the Jews (together with their rulers) made an attempt to mistreat them and stone them,

6 Paul and Barnabas learned about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding region.

7 There they continued to proclaim the good news.

Lystra/Derbe and the Stoning of Paul

8 In Lystra sat a man who could not use his feet, lame from birth, who had never walked.

9 This man was listening to Paul as he was speaking. When Paul stared intently at him and saw he had faith to be healed,

10 he said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And the man leaped up and began walking.

11 So when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!"

12 They began to call Barnabas Zeus and Paul Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

13 The priest of the temple of Zeus, located just outside the city, brought bulls and garlands to the city gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

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

15 "Men, why are you doing these things? We too are men, with human natures just like you! We are proclaiming the good news to you, so that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them. [[Exod 20:11](#)]

16 In past generations he allowed all the nations to go their own ways,

17 yet he did not leave himself without a witness by doing good, by giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying you with food and your hearts with joy."

18 Even by saying these things, they scarcely persuaded the crowds not to offer sacrifice to them.

19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and after winning the crowds over, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, presuming him to be dead.

20 But after the disciples had surrounded him, he got up and went back into the city. On the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

Return Journey to Syrian Antioch

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

22 They strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, "We must enter the kingdom of God through many persecutions."

23 When they had appointed elders for them in the various churches, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the protection of the Lord in whom they had believed.

24 Then they passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia,

25 and when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

26 From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

27 When they arrived and gathered the church together, they reported all the things God had done with them, and that he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles.

28 So they spent considerable time with the disciples.

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