

**When they arrived next in their journey at Pisidian Antioch – where did Paul and Barnabas go first (v. 14)?** They attended the Sabbath service in a local synagogue.

**How did the synagogue ruler respond to Paul's presence (v. 15)?** After the Scriptures had been read, the rulers of the synagogue, recognizing these visitors as Jewish, invited them to speak if they had any word of encouragement for the people.

This first recorded sermon of Paul illustrated how Paul preached to an audience grounded in the Old Testament which would be his pattern throughout much of his ministry. He explained the plan and purpose of God, starting with the Old Testament and explained that Jesus was the Messiah they had been looking for.

**How did Paul begin his message (v. 17a)?** The message begins with God's choice of the nation of Israel as His earthly people.

**How did Paul proceed from there (vv. 17b-22)?** He laid a foundation of Jewish history similar to what Stephen did (Acts 7). Paul first reviewed God's continuing plan of Israel's redemption covering a period of several hundred years from Abraham, through Joshua, the period of the Judges, and ending with the Kings and David.

**What was the message of vv. 23-29?** Paul described the events connected with the life and ministry of Christ starting with John the Baptist's prediction of the arrival of the Messiah and concluding with Jesus' rejection and crucifixion and burial.

**What was the message of v. 26?** Paul personalized the Gospel. He noted that the Gospel was for both Jews ("children of Abraham") and Gentiles ("God-fearing Gentiles"). Note that he addressed both Jew and Gentile as "brothers."

**What was the message of vv. 30-37?** Paul emphatically proclaimed the resurrection of Christ which included quoting several Old Testament sources to authenticate his claims.

**What was the message of vv. 38-41?** Paul announced the forgiveness of sins through faith in the Savior alone and warned of the danger of rejecting Him. This is the only reference in Acts to justification by faith in Jesus.<sup>1</sup>

**How did Paul conclude his message (vv. 40-41)?** With a solemn warning to those who might be tempted to refuse God's great offer of salvation by quoting from Habakkuk 1:5.<sup>2</sup>

God's work of providing the Messiah was something that they could not afford to disbelieve and/or scoff at or they would perish.<sup>3</sup>

**How did the people respond initially to Paul (vv. 42-43)?** They were favorably inclined. Paul's message, empowered by the Holy Spirit, created great interest in the hearts of many people who listened to him.<sup>4</sup>

**What happened on the next Sabbath (vv. 44-45)?** Most of the city gathered to hear Paul preach. However the Jewish leaders were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against Paul.

**How did Paul and Barnabas respond (v. 46)?** Like the apostles in Jerusalem had done (4:19-20), Paul and Barnabas responded to the Jewish opposition with bold words. Paul and Barnabas were not easily intimidated. They explained that they were under obligation to declare the Gospel message first of all to the Jewish people. However, since the Jews had rejected the message, and had thus condemned themselves as unworthy of everlasting life, Paul and Barnabas announced they were turning to the Gentiles with the Gospel.<sup>5</sup>

**Application:** God sent Paul to the Gentiles; He sent Peter to the Jews. Is there a specific group or class of people he is sending you to? A particular profession perhaps? Neighbors?

**How did the Gentiles respond to Paul and Barnabas' words (v. 48)?** While this announcement of salvation for the Gentiles infuriated the Jews, it caused great rejoicing among the Gentiles who were present. They glorified the Word of the Lord which they had heard. All who were appointed for eternal life believed.

This verse is a simple statement of the sovereign election of God. It should be taken at its face value and believed. The Bible teaches definitely that God chose some before the foundation of the world to be in Christ (Ephesians 1:4). It teaches with equal emphasis that man is a free moral agent and that if he will accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, he will be saved. Divine election and human responsibility are both scriptural truths and neither should be emphasized at the expense of the other. While there seems to be a conflict between the two, this conflict exists only in the human mind and not in the mind of God. Men are damned by their own choice and not by any act of God.<sup>6</sup>

**As the Word of God spread throughout the whole region, who did the Jews target next to stir up persecution against Paul and Barnabas (v. 50)?** God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city.

**What was the tactic of the women/men?** They stirred up the crowd into an emotional frenzy resulting in persecution with Paul and Barnabas expelled from the city.

**What did Paul and Barnabas do in response (51)?** They shook the dust off their feet and left town. Shaking the dust off one's feet was a graphic way that Jews illustrated separation from unbelievers (Matthew 10:14; Luke 9:5; 10:11).<sup>7</sup>

**As they left the city, how did they do so (v. 52)?** Rejoicing and filled with the Holy Spirit. Rejoicing having suffered persecution is a mark of the Apostles (5:41).

**We see illustrated here the pattern that we will see almost everywhere Paul goes?** Upon arrival in a new city, he goes first to the Synagogue. Secondly, the Jews get mad and kick him out. Thirdly, he goes to the Gentiles.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on Acts, 2022 Edition (published by <http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>), 291.

<sup>2</sup> William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 1623.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on Acts, 2022 Edition published by <http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>, 291.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 292.

<sup>5</sup> William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 1623.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on Acts, 2022 Edition (published by <http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>), 295.