

Commitment to the Gospel *How God Saves, Directs, and Sends through His Unstoppable Message*

Acts 13:13-52

God advances His redemptive plan through the proclamation of the Gospel – a message rooted in Scripture, fulfilled in Christ, and demanding a response.

Acts 13:13 “Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem.”

The Background of the Gospel.

- ❖ Paul and Barnabas’s call and intention in Antioch in Pisidia were to proclaim the Gospel, and they did this by finding the Jews who gathered in the synagogue.
 - ↳ Paul and Barnabas had a mission.

Acts 13:14 “But they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.”
 - ↳ Paul and Barnabas found a way to proclaim the Gospel.

Acts 13:15 “After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, ‘Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.’”
- ❖ Paul and Barnabas were given the opportunity to share the message of salvation, and they directed people to the Gospel’s fulfillment of the scriptures.
 - ↳ God chose Israel.

Acts 13:16-20 “So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: ‘Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. ¹⁷The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm He led them out of it. ¹⁸And for about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, He gave them their land as an inheritance. ²⁰All this took about 450 years. And after that He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.’”
 - ↳ God chose David.

Acts 13:21-22 “Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²²And when He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after My heart, who will do all My will.’”

Psalms 89:3-4 “You have said, ‘I have made a covenant with My chosen one; I have sworn to David My servant: “I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.””
 - ↳ God promised that the Messiah would come from David.

Acts 13:23 “Of this man’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as He promised.”
 - ↳ John the Baptist confirmed the arrival of the Savior in Jesus.

Acts 13:24-25 “Before His coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me One is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’”

John 1:29b-30 “... ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is He of whom I said, “After me comes a Man who ranks before me, because He was before me.””

- ❖ The gospel contains the work of God towards people in need of salvation; in it, God has entrusted His grace and power for eternal life to those who believe.
 - ↪ The Gospel is a historical account of salvation through Jesus.
 - ↪ The Gospel contains the power of God for salvation.
 - ↪ The Gospel compels us to complete its mission.

The Fulfillment of the Gospel.

- ❖ Paul shares the historical facts that reveal that the promise of Jesus was fulfilled according to God's plan.
 - ↪ The people of Israel, in their ignorance, rejected and condemned Jesus.

Acts 13:26-29 "Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. ²⁷For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize Him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning Him. ²⁸And though they found in Him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have Him executed. ²⁹And when they had carried out all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb."

Luke 24:25-27 "And He said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?' ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."
 - ↪ Jesus was innocent and without sin but died for the sins of the world according to God's plan.
 - ↪ Jesus was raised from the dead with power.

Acts 13:30-31 "But God raised Him from the dead, ³¹and for many days He appeared to those who had come up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now His witnesses to the people."
- ❖ Paul is a witness to the people of the Good News from God through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.
 - ↪ Paul proclaimed the Good News to the people.

Acts 13:32a "And we bring you the good news..."
 - ↪ The fulfillment of His resurrection proves that He was the Son of God.

Acts 13:32b-33 "that what God promised to the fathers, this he 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 begotten you.'"
 - ↪ The message of redemption through Jesus offers freedom from sin and from the law to those who believe.

Acts 13:38-39 "Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹and by Him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses."

The Charge of the Gospel.

- ❖ The fulfillment of the Gospel requires a response to the call of God.
 - ↪ The redemptive work of Jesus offers forgiveness and justification through the gospel.

Romans 3:23-24 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 2:16 "yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."
 - ↪ The Gospel warns the scoffers and the careless.

Acts 13:40-41 "Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about: ⁴¹"'Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.'"

↳ Responses to the Gospel divide: some hunger, others resist.

Acts 13:42-45 “As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. ⁴³And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God. ⁴⁴The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.”

↳ The Gospel directs believers to persevere in the grace of God.

Acts 13:43b “as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.”

Colossians 1:22-23a “He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

↳ The Gospel went to the Jew first, then to the Gentile.

Acts 13:46-48 “And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, ‘It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” ⁴⁸And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the Word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.”

Luke 24:47 “and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

↳ The Gospel is opposed, but it will never be stopped.

Acts 13:49-52 “And the Word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. ⁵⁰But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

❖ The gospel demands a response: repent and receive forgiveness and justification by faith or reject God’s Word and His offer of eternal life.

Endnotes:

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