

## DON'T SCOFF AT GOD'S GRACE

Acts 13:13-52

### INTRODUCTION

Paul and Barnabas leave the island of Cyprus for what is today southern Turkey. Ascending from the coastal city of Perga, they arrive in Pisidian Antioch, a Roman colony on the elevated plateau in the province of Galatia. While many of the people received the apostle's message, resistance by some Jews and prominent citizens organized persecution and had them expelled.

### THIS WEEK:

Discover this week from Acts 13:13-51 how despite those who reject the saving message of life in Christ, God ensures that those open to the message will hear it.

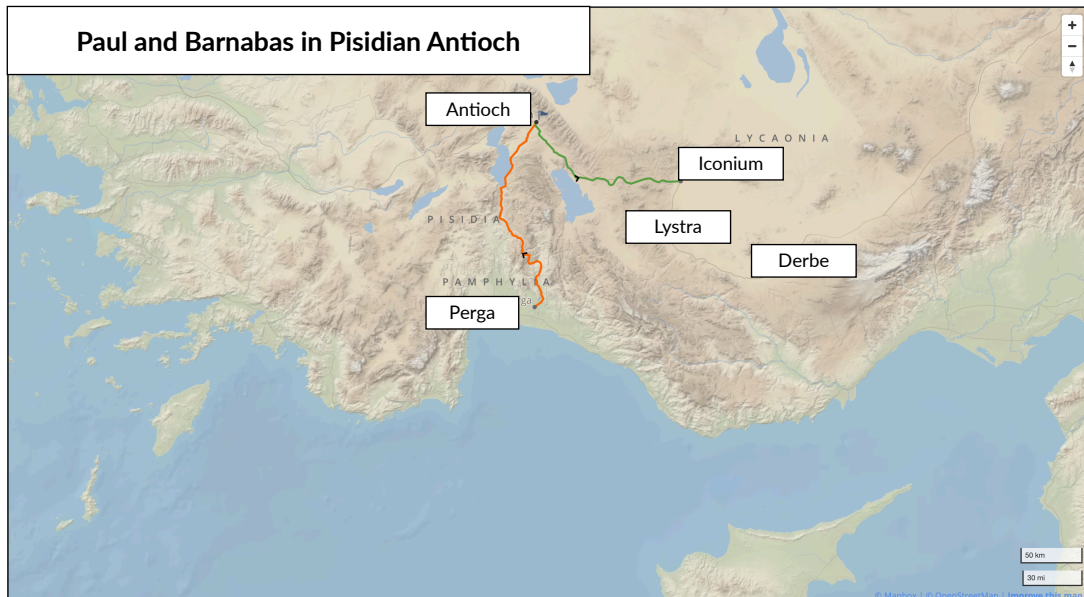
### OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Acts 13:13-51 and then answering the following questions:

1. Describe the changes that occurred to Paul's traveling party upon arriving in Pamphylia and where the apostles went after arriving in Pisidian Antioch (vv. 13-14):
2. Paul's sermon to the Jews and God-fearers traces God's grace towards Israel up to the time of King David (vv. 17-22). What claim does Paul make about the significance of Jesus being a descendant of David, and what proofs does he offer to support his claim (vv. 23-38)?
3. What was Paul's warning to those who heard his message (vv. 40-41), and what was the people's general response (vv. 42-44)?
4. After some of the Jews insulted and contradicted Paul and Barnabas (v. 45), what did Paul say he and his companions were going to do (v. 46)? What reason did Paul give for them doing this (v. 47)? How did the Gentiles respond (v. 48)?

## INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:



5. How does Paul's message in Acts 13:23 about the promise of a Savior relate to God's covenant with David found in 2 Sam 7:12-16? In what way does Psalm 2 (especially v. 7) point to Jesus' divinity?
6. What does Paul mean by "the forgiveness of sins" in Acts 13:38, and how does this concept connect with Jesus' words at the Last Supper in Luke 22:19-20?
7. The thrust of this passage is for people to believe the "promise." This passage uses this term multiple times (vv.23, 32). Based on 1 John 2:25; 5:11-12, 1 Tim 1:16, and Titus 1:2, What is the precise promise we are believing in Jesus for?
8. What does Paul mean in Acts 13:39 when he says, "Everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses" (Rom 3:20-24)?

## **APPLICATION** *Why does it matter?*

Now that you know what the passage means, think through the various ways it may apply to your life or the lives of others:

9. Think about the mountain of evidence Paul marshaled to convince the Jews that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. What are some of the reasons you think the evidence was not persuasive to them (the implication is that the Jews “scoffed” at Paul’s message)? What are some of the reasons people are not persuaded today?
10. Notice the excitement generated during the week about the gospel message in between the two Sabbaths (almost the whole town showed up on the following Sabbath). Why do you think there was so much interest? How can you ensure that your life creates interest in others to want to know more about Jesus
11. Acts 13:52 says the disciples were “filled with joy and the Holy Spirit” despite opposition. How does opposition lead to joy? Has there been a time in your life when opposition from family, friends or acquaintances because of your faith brought joy?
12. How does knowing that justification comes through faith in Jesus, and not through works (Acts 13:39), impact your day-to-day life or worldview?

## **TAKE AWAY** *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?
14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?
15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?