

The First Missionary Journey Begins

Acts 13:1-11

Introduction:

Chapter 13 is the major break in Acts

1-11

Jewish Church

Peter

Jerusalem

Israel

Acts 1:8a

Israel is darkened

12-28

Gentile Church

Paul

Antioch

The world

Acts 1:8b

The Gentiles are enlightened

v 1-3. A snapshot of a healthy church

1. Teaching
2. Discipleship
3. Love and unity
4. The love of God and worship
5. Prayer and fasting
6. Missions

We also see the first missionaries

1. Proven men
2. Approved men
3. Church planted

v 4. The first of four Journeys begins: Cyprus, home of Barnabas

v 5. “Synagogues”: Why? Because Christianity came to the Jew first
It is a Jewish faith.

“Mark”: A leader for the next generation

v 6. 100 miles across Cyprus to Paphos, the headquarters of Rome.

Paul goes to Paulus because Christianity is not subversive but open and public.

But someone is waiting for Paul

just as for Peter in Samaria was confronted by Simon.

Elymas; “Bar-Jesus”

1. A sorcerer; claimant to divine knowledge and power
2. A false prophet; a Jew (Elymas: “wise one”)
3. “Bar-Jesus”; a claim of apostleship or authority
4. Immortal... he makes crooked the ways of God

He like Simon Magus was a counterfeit, a confusion

v 7. He wants power. He has attached to Paulus, the governor.
Satan’s ploy is always **error established by influence**.

v 8. A problem. Paulus is intelligent. Critical in thinking.
He is not gullible.

And so he calls in Paul to hear the gospel creating immediate resistance from Elymas.

v 9. But as Peter bound Simon (“you are in the gall of bitterness”) so Paul binds Elymas (“you son of the devil...”)

v 10. Paul calls error and evil what they are.

v 11. And God gives a miracle as proof.

He is in darkness as are all who seek truth without Christ, the light of the world

Conclusion: