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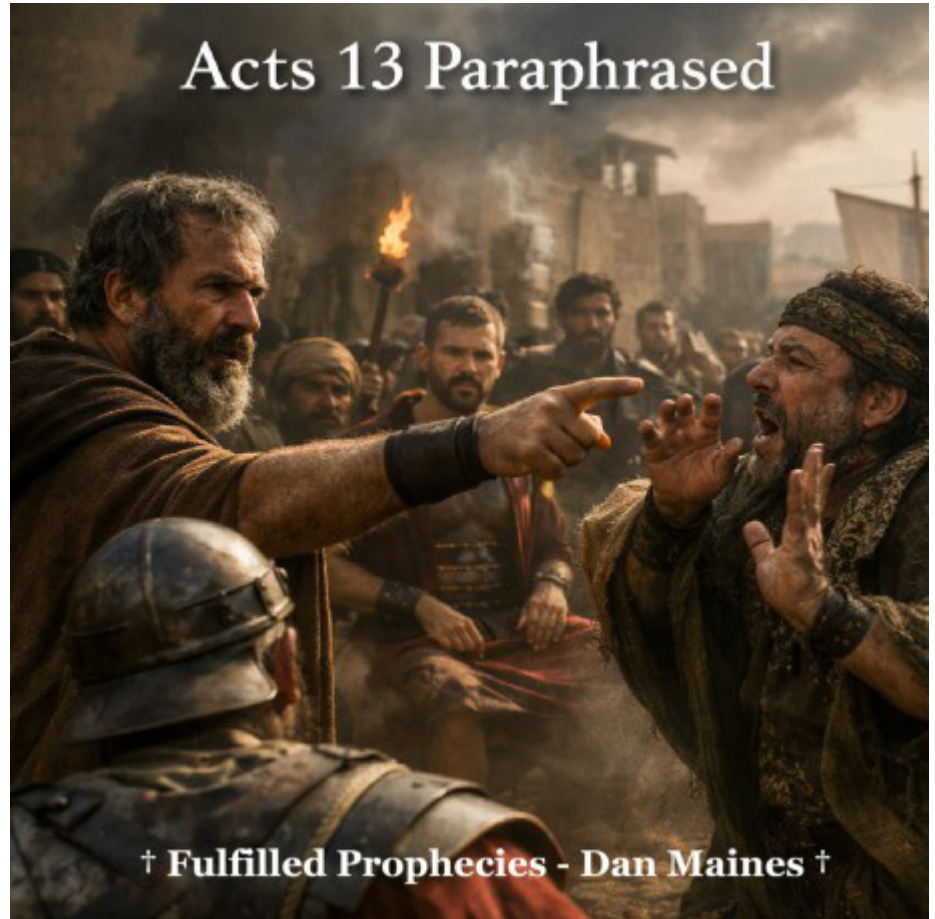
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Acts 13 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Acts 13 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This chapter shows the gospel moving out to the nations exactly as God promised, it's happening in their generation

† The Spirit sends Paul and Barnabas, proving God Himself is directing the mission

† What we see here is fulfillment in motion, not something still waiting

Acts 13:1

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers,

Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul

† The leadership is diverse, showing the gospel has already reached beyond Israel

† Antioch becomes the sending center, not Jerusalem

† Eusebius records Antioch as a major hub for Gentile believers

Acts 13:2

While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work which I have called them

† The mission starts with God, not man

† They were already chosen, now they're being sent

† This shows direct Spirit guidance in the first century

Acts 13:3

Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them away

† The church confirms what God already declared

† This is recognition, not human authority creation

† Irenaeus points to this as apostolic commissioning

Acts 13:4

So being sent out by the Holy Spirit they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus

† Again, the Spirit is the sender

† The gospel is moving outward geographically

† Cyprus is Barnabas' home region

Acts 13:5

When they reached Salamis they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews and they had John as their helper

† The pattern begins with the Jews first

† Synagogues were the entry point

† This aligns with Romans 1:16

Acts 13:6

When they had gone through the whole island they came to Paphos where they found a magician a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus

† False prophets oppose truth immediately

† His name shows deception tied to truth

† Josephus mentions similar figures influencing rulers

Acts 13:7

He was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus an intelligent man who summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God

† A Roman authority seeks truth

† The nations are being drawn in

† This fulfills prophecy about rulers hearing

Acts 13:8

But Elymas the magician opposed them trying to turn the proconsul away from the faith

† Truth always meets resistance

† This is spiritual opposition

† Satan works through deception

Acts 13:9

But Saul also called Paul filled with the Holy Spirit looked directly at him

† Saul's name shifts as his Gentile mission becomes central

† The Spirit empowers confrontation

† Authority comes from God

Acts 13:10

and said you who are full of deceit and fraud you son of the devil enemy of all righteousness will you not stop making crooked the straight ways of the Lord

† Paul exposes the truth boldly

† This is direct confrontation, not compromise

† Truth calls out deception

Acts 13:11

Now the hand of the Lord is upon you and you will be blind for a time not seeing the sun and immediately darkness fell on him and he went around seeking someone to lead him

† Judgment is immediate

† This mirrors Paul's own blindness earlier

† God shows His authority clearly

Acts 13:12

Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened being amazed at the teaching of the Lord

† The miracle confirms the message

† Faith comes through truth and power

† The gospel reaches leadership

Acts 13:13

Now Paul and his companions sailed from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia but John left them and returned to Jerusalem

† Not everyone remains faithful

† This shows human weakness

† This later causes division

Acts 13:14

But they continued from Perga and came to Pisidian Antioch and on the Sabbath entered the synagogue and sat down

† The synagogue pattern continues

† The message begins with Israel

† Fulfillment is tied to their scriptures

Acts 13:15

After the reading of the Law and the Prophets the leaders sent

to them saying brothers if you have any word of encouragement speak

† The Law and Prophets point to Christ

† Paul is given an open door

† This sets up fulfillment preaching

Acts 13:16-41

Paul stood and motioned with his hand and said men of Israel and you who fear God listen God chose our fathers brought them out of Egypt gave them the land raised up David and from his descendants brought a Savior Jesus as promised John proclaimed before Him they rejected Him and put Him to death but God raised Him and through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed and everyone who believes is freed from what the Law could not free you from

† Paul walks through Israel's history to show fulfillment

† Jesus is the promised seed of David

† Justification is through Him, not the Law

† This fulfills Psalm 2, Isaiah 55, and Habakkuk

Acts 13:42

As they were leaving the people begged that these things be spoken again the next Sabbath

† Truth creates hunger

† The message stands out

† People want more

Acts 13:43

After the synagogue broke up many Jews and God fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas

† Both Jews and Gentiles respond

† The wall is coming down

† One people is forming

Acts 13:44

The next Sabbath nearly the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord

† The gospel spreads quickly

† Entire cities are impacted

† This shows the power of truth

Acts 13:45

But when the Jews saw the crowds they were filled with jealousy and contradicted what Paul was saying

† Jealousy drives rejection

† It's not lack of evidence

† Hearts were hardened

Acts 13:46

Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly saying it was necessary the word be spoken to you first but since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life we are turning to the Gentiles

† This is the turning point

† The nations now receive what Israel rejected

† This fulfills Isaiah 49:6

Acts 13:47

For so the Lord has commanded I have placed you as a light for the Gentiles that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth

† Direct fulfillment of prophecy

† Salvation is for all nations

† The mission expands globally

Acts 13:48

When the Gentiles heard this they rejoiced and glorified the word of the Lord and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed

† The Gentiles receive it with joy

† Belief aligns with God's calling

† His plan is unfolding

Acts 13:49

And the word of the Lord spread through the whole region

† The gospel cannot be contained

† It spreads outward

† The kingdom advances

Acts 13:50

But the Jews stirred up influential people and caused persecution against Paul and Barnabas

† Opposition escalates

† Power structures resist truth

† This fulfills Jesus' warnings

Acts 13:51

But they shook off the dust of their feet against them and went to Iconium

† This is a sign of judgment

† Responsibility shifts

† Jesus commanded this action

Acts 13:52

And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit

† Joy remains despite persecution

† The Spirit sustains them

† The kingdom keeps moving forward

Historical References

† Josephus records Jewish resistance to new movements among the nations

† Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, affirms the Gentile mission as fulfillment

† Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, documents Antioch as a major sending center

How it applies to us today

† The gospel has already gone to the nations, we're living in that fulfilled reality

† Rejection doesn't stop God's plan, it advances it

† The kingdom is already established, not future

† We walk in what they were bringing into reality

Q & A Appendix

Q Why did Paul go to the Jews first?

A Because the promise was to them first, then the nations (Romans 1:16)

Q What does turning to the Gentiles mean?

A The covenant blessings were opened fully to the nations (Isaiah 49:6)

Q Was this the start of the kingdom?

A No, it was expansion of what Jesus already established (Matthew 12:28)

Q Why were the Jews jealous?

A Because the Gentiles were receiving what they thought was theirs alone

Q What does shaking off the dust mean?

A It's a sign of judgment against rejection (Matthew 10:14)

† **This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies** †

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Source Index

† Acts 13

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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