

Paul's First Missionary Journey

Acts 13: 1-12

September 13, 2023

This great missionary, one time persecutor of the church, was introduced briefly in Acts 7:58 and 8: 1-3, in connection with the stoning of the first martyr of the church, Stephen. Saul was born into a Jewish family in Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 22:3). Saul's family was of the tribe of Benjamin (Phil. 3:5). Saul was named after the most prominent member of the tribe, King Saul. The vocational background of Saul was that of a tentmaker, a trade he would have learned from his father. Apparently the business was a thriving one, and history suggests that Saul's family was of some wealth. Saul was born a Roman citizenship and there have been several suggestions concerning how he obtained that citizenship. One of the most prominent suggestions is that his grandfather was granted Roman citizenship because of some special service he rendered to a Roman proconsul. None the less he was a Roman citizen (16: 35-40). Saul was educated and trained by one of the most prominent Rabbi's, Gamaliel. Prior to his conversion Saul was a great persecutor of Christians. Saul and Paul are one in the same. It was the custom of the day to have dual names (Abram/Abraham; Jacob/Israel). God chose Saul as the missionary to the Gentiles and thus he used his Roman name, Paul.

Paul's Traveling Companions: Barnabas and John Mark

Main Route: Cyprus and Turkey

Miles traveled: Approximately 1400

Scripture References: Acts 12: 25; 13: 1-12; 4:36; 8:9;

Colossians 4:10; Matthew 7:15

Barnabas and Saul Commissioned:

Acts 13: 1-3

Barnabas and Saul's Mission in Cyprus:

Vv. 4-12

Small Group Discussion:

- 1) Why were these men fasting?**
- 2) Who spoke giving instruction concerning Barnabas and Saul?**
- 3) What does the laying on of hands symbolize?**
- 4) What is a false prophet?**
- 5) Can a false prophet do miracles (Matthew 24: 23, 24)?**
- 6) Why was Paul harsh with the false prophet, Elymas?**
- 7) What impact did the hand of the Lord have on Elymas?**
- 8) What astonished the proconsul causing him to believe?**
- 9) What should Holy Spirit filled Christians say to false prophets today when they are leading people astray?**

Next Week: First Missionary Journey
Acts 13: 13-37