

Paul's First Missionary Journey

Acts 13: 13-37

September 20, 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 13: 13-37; Genesis 12, 20, 26; Exodus 14: 10-18, 21,22; Isaiah 53

The Setting and the Sermon:

Acts 13: 13-37

➤ **Pisidian Antioch = Modern day Turkey**

- **Vv. 13-16a**
 - **Vv. 16b - 21**
 - **Vv. 22, 23**
 - **Vv. 24, 25**
 - **Vv. 26-28**
 - **Vv. 29-34**
 - **Vv. 35-37**
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Small Group Discussion:

- 1) Who was Paul's audience?**
- 2) What is meant by the "Law" and the "Prophets"?**
- 3) How did God exalt the people when they dwelt in the land of Egypt?**
- 4) How did Israel betray God in the Wilderness?**
- 5) Why did God remove Saul as king, and raise up David in his place?**
- 6) Whom did God promise would come from the seed of David?**
- 7) Why was the purpose of John the Baptist and why did he not consider himself worthy to unlatch the sandals from the feet of the Savior?**
- 8) To which voices of the prophets is Paul referring to in verse 27?**
- 9) What is the meaning of "have begotten"?**
- 10) What corruption is Paul talking about in verses 36 and 37?**

**Next Week: First Missionary Journey
Acts 13: 38-52**