

Barnabas

“(son of consolation or comfort) a name given by the apostles, (Acts 4:36) to Joseph (or Jose), a Levite of the island of Cyprus, who was early a disciple of Christ.

In (Acts 9:27) we find him introducing the newly-converted Saul to the apostles at Jerusalem. Barnabas was sent to Jerusalem, (Acts 11:19-26) and went to Tarsus to seek Saul, as one specially raised up to preach to the Gentiles. (Acts 26:17) He brought him to Antioch, and was sent with him to Jerusalem. (Acts 11:30)

On their return, they were ordained by the church for the missionary work, (Acts 13:2) and sent forth (A.D. 45). From this time Barnabas and Paul enjoy the title and dignity of apostles. Their first missionary journey is related in (Acts 13:14)

Returning to Antioch (A.D. 47 or 48), they were sent (A.D. 50), with some others, to Jerusalem. (Acts 15:1,36)

Afterwards they parted and Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus, his native island. Here the Scripture notices of him cease. ...”

—*Smith’s Bible Dictionary*

“Barnabas ... translated Son of Encouragement...” (Acts 4:36, NKJV).

Synagogue

I. **History.**--The word Synagogue (Greek: *synagôgê*, which means a ‘congregation,’ is used in the New Testament to signify a recognized place of worship. ... The whole history of Ezra presupposes the habit of solemn, probably of periodic, meetings (Ezra 8:15; Neh. 8:2; 9:1; Zech. 7:5)... After the Maccabaeans..., we find almost every town or village had...one or more synagogues.

II. **Structure.**--The size of a synagogue varied with the population. Its position was, however, determinate. It stood, if possible, on the highest ground, in or near the city to which it belonged...The synagogue was so constructed that the worshippers as they entered, and as they prayed, looked toward it [i.e., Jerusalem]. At the upper or Jerusalem end stood the ark, the chest which like the alder and more sacred ark, contained the Book of the Law. Here were the ‘chief seats,’ after which Pharisees and Scribes strove so eagerly (Matt. 23:6), to which the wealthy and honored worshipper was invited (James 2:2,3).

III. **Worship.**... ‘Moses’ was ‘read in the synagogues every Sabbath-day (Acts 20:21).’ ” —Extracted from *Smith’s Bible Dictionary*

See also: Acts 6:9; 9:2, 20; 13:5, 14, 15, 42; 14:1; 15:21; 24:12

Learning Guide

Acts 13:1-12

First Missionary Journey—Part 1

Barnabas and Saul Called and Appointed

“And Barnabas¹ and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them **John whose surname was Mark**”² (Acts 12:25).

“Now in the church that was at **Antioch**³ there were certain **prophets and teachers**⁴: **Barnabas**, **Simeon** who was called **Niger**, **Lucius** of **Cyrene**, **Manaen** who had been brought up with **Herod the tetrarch**, and **Saul**. 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted⁵, the **Holy Spirit** said, “Now **separate to Me** [Holy Spirit] **Barnabas** and **Saul for the work to which I have called them.**”⁶ 3 Then, having **fasted**⁷ and **prayed**, and **laid hands on them**,⁸ they **sent them away**” (Acts 13:1-3).

Congregation in Antioch	Appointment Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Elders (Acts 15:23)Prophets & Teachers (<i>Barnabas - Simeon - Lucius - Manaen - Saul</i>)Other members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SeparateFastPrayLay hands onSend on mission

¹ For more information on Barnabas see page 4 of this guide.

² John Mark mentioned nine times in the NT: Acts 12:12, 25; 15:36, 37, 39; Col. 4:10 (cousin of Barnabas); 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 1:24; 1 Peter 5:13. Twice called Marcus in AV; authored the Gospel of Mark (ISBE Vol. 3, p. 260).

³ Antioch (of Syria). “The capital of the Greek kings of Syria, and afterwards the residence of the Roman governors of the province which bore the same name... metropolis...founded in the year 300 B.C., by Seleucus Nicator. It grew under the successive Seleucid kings till it became a city of great extent and of remarkable beauty. ...in Paul’s time, was the third city of the Roman empire, and contained over 200,000 inhabitants” (*Smith’s Bible Dictionary*).

⁴ See page 3 for the role of prophets and teachers in the church.

⁵ Notice that it was during their fasting and prayer that the Holy Spirit called them to this highly significant mission.

⁶ How awesome to be called by the Holy Spirit for such a special work! Note the involvement of the congregation as they begin this very important mission.

⁷ Fasting—“to abstain from food (religiously)” (Strong’s)

⁸ Note how the church appointed them before they were sent.

⁹ Begins the next big phase of taking the gospel “to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

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Preaching in Cyprus

Seleucia

“So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia [see map on page 3], and from there they sailed to Cyprus¹⁰. 5 And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the **synagogues**¹¹ of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.

Paphos

“6 Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain **sorcerer** [Greek, *pharmakia*¹²], a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, 7 who was with the **proconsul**¹³, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 Then **Saul, who also is called Paul**, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? 11 And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.”

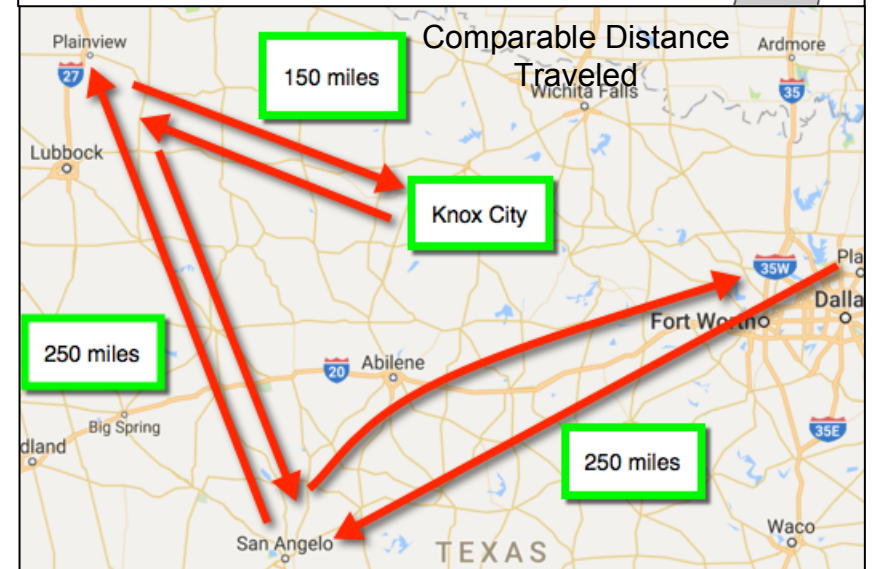
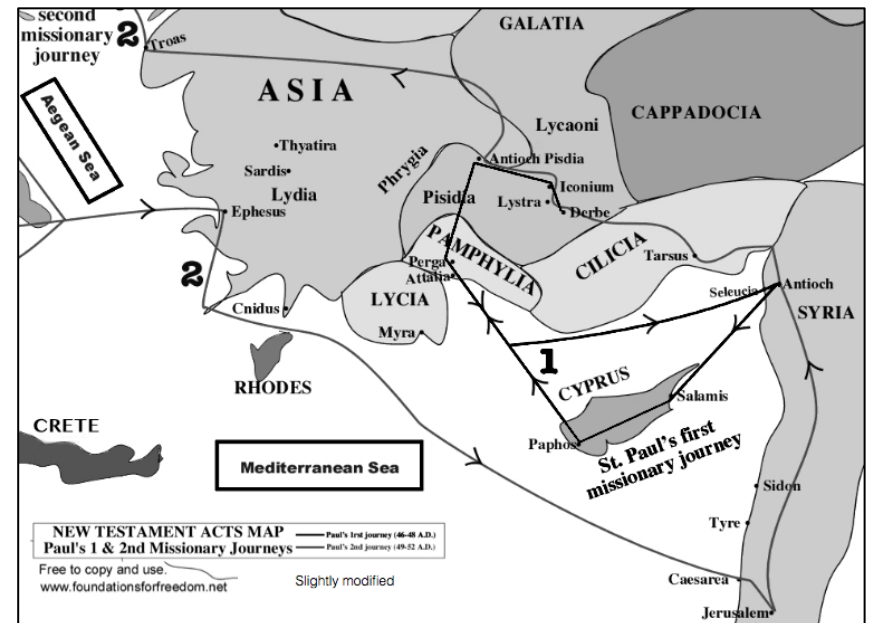
“And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. 12 **Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord**” (Acts 13:4-12).

¹⁰Cyprus, island, 138 mi. long, 60 mi. at widest point; home of Barnabas (Acts 4:36).

¹¹ **Synagogue** - see page 4 of this guide.

¹²**Sorcerer** in this case is from Greek “*pharmakia* (or — *eia*) (φαρμακεία, 5331) (Eng., ‘pharmacy,’ etc.) primarily signified ‘the use of medicine, drugs, spells’; then, ‘poisoning’; then, ‘sorcery,’ Gal. 5:20, rv, ‘sorcery’ (kjv, ‘witchcraft’), mentioned as one of ‘the works of the flesh.’ See also Rev. 9:21; 18:23. In the Sept., Ex. 7:11, 22; 8:7, 18; Isa. 47:9, 12. In ‘sorcery,’ the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc., professedly designed to keep the applicant or patient from the attention and power of demons, but actually to impress the applicant with the mysterious resources and powers of the sorcerer” (*Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary*). Sometimes in the NT “sorcery”/“sorcerer” is translated from the Greek word *mageuo*, “to practice magic” (e.g., Acts 8:9, 11).

¹³**Proconsul** (Greek, to be deputy) “A division of conquered provinces not requiring military rule, was governed by the Roman Senate by proconsuls, civil officers, The term was usually one year... They did not have the power of life and death.” (Smith’s Bible Dictionary) See, also, Acts 19:38. *What convinced this proconsul to serve God?*



Prophets & Teachers “...God has appointed these in the church: first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, after that miracles,....” (1 Cor. 12:27-28) “He...gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors and teachers**, 12 for the **equipping of the saints for the work of ministry**, for the **edifying of the body of Christ**, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man...” (Eph. 4:11-13, bold added).