

NEW VISION

15:36-16:40

TESTIMONY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH 13-28

As a result of the confirmation of God's plan to accept Gentiles into the new people of God, when the church was spread throughout the world by the persecution, they preached the gospel everywhere. This movement led to the missionary journeys to new frontiers.

Paul was one of the main participants in the spread of the gospel to these new areas (13:1-28:31).

FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY 13-14

The first missionary journey recorded was made by Paul and Barnabas into nearby islands and Asia Minor

This journey was most significant because of the pattern established of rejection by the Jews and acceptance by Gentiles.

COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM 15:1-35

Although the issue of salvation for the Gentiles had been settled by the revelation to Peter, the Jewish background of many in the church continued to raise problems.

At first the salvation of Gentiles provokes a debate about how they could be saved.

If the Gentiles no longer have to become Jewish proselytes, what are the conditions?

Some demand that they be circumcised and follow the law of Moses.

The Jerusalem council was convened to resolve this issue (15:1-35)

Peter reminds them of how God approved the salvation of Gentiles by faith alone.

Why should they add another requirement?

He reminds them that the salvation of all people is by faith alone, even theirs!

Paul and Barnabas add their report of what God has done through them.

God has given evidence of His blessing on their work without requiring obedience to the law

James proposes that they leave the Gentiles alone.

They should not be restricted by the church in a way that God Himself has not required (15:13-19).

James recommends that they write to the Gentiles, asking them not to conduct themselves in a way that would be offensive to Jews (15:20-21).

The council accepts James' suggestion and sends a letter to the churches

Messengers are named to accompany Paul and Barnabas with the letter.

The response in Antioch 15:30-35

The people are grateful for the answer they receive.

The work continues through the wise leadership
God has given to His church.

SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY 15:36-18:22

Paul and Barnabas decide to visit the churches again
on a second missionary journey

PREPARATION FOR THE JOURNEY 15:36-41

As they prepare for the trip, God uses a dispute
between them concerning John Mark to multiply
their ministry on two new teams. 15:36-41

Since John Mark abandoned them earlier, Paul
doesn't want to bother with him again.

Barnabas sees the future potential in Mark and
wants to take him.

A sharp dispute occurs between Paul and Barnabas
and they split. No criticism is found against
either man in Acts.

The strongest evidence of failure is the word
describing the sharp dispute.

Both men have a valid argument.

Nevertheless, the division isn't based on love.

God uses their weakness for His own purposes.

Paul's ministry is fruitful; and later he himself
recommends Mark, thus attesting the value of
Barnabas' investment in him.

SELECTION OF TIMOTHY 16:1-5

What kind of person is he?

Another attempt at discipleship by Paul is described when he selects Timothy to work with him (**16:1-5**). Timothy had valuable training in the home. 16:1; 2 Tim. 1:15; 3:15

His reputation before the community was also excellent. 16:2

Therefore, Paul chooses to take him along on this trip. 16:3

Circumcised to prevent a “stumbling-block” issue.

Result: Churches grow.

ADVANCE INTO MACEDONIA 16:6-11

When Paul tries to go into the same area visited on the first journey, he is prevented from doing so by the Lord.

After prayerful consideration of what the Lord wants to do, they are redirected to Macedonia by a vision of a man asking for help (**16:6-11**).

God moves them another step away from Israel.

It's immediately apparent that this move changes the religious environment.

Fewer Jews are present in the cities and a more direct confrontation with paganism is necessary.

The persecution continues but is multiplied because it now comes from both Jewish and pagan sources.

MESSAGE PROCLAIMED AT PHILIPPI 16:12-40

When Paul begins to minister in Philippi (16:12-40), there is no synagogue. [Not 10 Jewish men!] He finds a women's prayer meeting and goes there.

Acceptance by Lydia 16:12-15

Lydia, a Jewish business woman and faithful worshipper of God, heard Paul's message and trusted Christ (16:12-15).

Her response demonstrates appropriate response for Jewish people around the world, who are seeking to follow God.

Deliverance of possessed girl 16:16-18

When they free a girl from a demon (16:16-18), her owners complain because of their business loss and have Paul arrested (16:19-24).

Complaint of her owners 16:19-21 Pagan opposition: "These are Jews!"

Arrest of Paul and Silas 16:22-24**Conversion of the jailer 16:25-34**

After God demonstrates that the prison has no power over His servants, they stay in jail to tell the jailer about Jesus.

Amazed by what he sees and hears, the man and his family trust Christ. Message is true for his family also!

Release of Paul 16:35-40

In order to demonstrate the injustice of the accusations and persecution of the early church, Luke relates the way the rulers tried to release Paul (16:35-40). 35-36

They want to send him away quietly.

Paul insists that they come and escort them out since they had no right to arrest a Roman citizen without a formal charge. 37

In fear, they come and lead him out, thereby demonstrating his innocence. 38

Significance of 2nd journey for development of the church?

Main lessons for us today?