

Study Notes and Questions for Acts 13 (Part 2) :4-52

- Why do you think in **verse 4** Luke emphasized the role of the Holy Spirit in sending out Paul and Barnabas?
- Twice in this chapter we see Paul and Barnabas going into the Jewish synagogue before going to the Gentiles. Why did Paul and Barnabas say, “**It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you.**”? (See 13:46)
- **Study note:** Notice that until now Luke has written “Barnabas and Saul” because Barnabas has been the leader, but now he shifts to “Paul and Barnabas” to indicate that Paul takes the lead in evangelism. When the two return to Jerusalem, the order returns to “Barnabas and Paul” (15:12) because Barnabas is more recognized there. The order of names was a way of signifying seniority in ancient times.
- In the first part of Paul’s sermon in the Antioch synagogue, he traces Israelite history. Why do you think this recounting of history was so common among the Jews?
- How can you tell that this sermon was spoken in the hearing of Jews?
- What has God promised the Jews that He has now fulfilled (see 13:32–37)?
- What will happen if the Jews believe what Paul claims about Jesus (see 13:38–39)?
- Why did the Gentiles receive the gospel so much more eagerly than the Jews did?
- Why do you think the Jews found it so hard to accept that Jesus was the Messiah and that the Law could not justify a person?
- In Acts 13:47, Paul quotes Isaiah 49:6, which was originally addressed to the Servant of the Lord whom we know to be the Messiah. How can Paul apply the Messiah’s commission to himself and Barnabas?
- How would you summarize the Holy Spirit’s role in this chapter?