

'Acts' - Extra Teaching Points #16

Acts 13:13-43 (NASB)

Acts 13:13-25

Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; but John left them and returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it." ¹⁶ Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: ¹⁷ "The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it. ¹⁸ **"For a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness.** ¹⁹ "When He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance — **all of which took about four hundred and fifty years.** ²⁰ "After these things He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ "Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² "After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, **'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.'** ²³ "From the descendants of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, ²⁴ after John had proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ "And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not He. But behold, one is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

Q: What can we learn from the way Paul retells the history of the people of Israel?

- One point could be that it normally takes a while to get to the place where we can understand what God is really doing.
 - God worked with Israel for several hundred years to produce a king who would establish the pattern of how God's people should be ruled.

Q: Paul knew David was a man with deep faults and failings; so why does he point out that God called him "A MAN AFTER MY HEART" (vs. 22)?

- Probably because he ruled over God's people with justice and truth.
 - Paul is quoting a combination of 3 verses:
 - "I have found David..." ([Ps 89:20](#))
 - "A Man after My Heart..." ([1Sam 13:14](#))
 - "Who will do all My will..." ([Is 44:28](#))
 - Saul, his predecessor, had the kingdom taken from him precisely because he didn't rule that way, and God wanted that kind of king for His people.

Q: So far, we've seen Peter (Acts 2:14-36), Stephen (Acts 7:2-53), and now Paul, all tell the story of Israel when they preached the gospel. How important is it for us to know the Old Testament today?

- **2Tim 3:14-17** "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known **the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.** ¹⁶ **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;** ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, **equipped for every good work.**"
 - The New Testament had not been written when Paul wrote this to Timothy. The only scriptures Paul could be referring to were in the Old Testament.
 - FYI: The New Testament never makes the claim to be "Scripture", with the possible exception of [2Peter 3:16](#), which refers to Paul's writings being distorted, along with "other scriptures".
 - The New Testament is indeed reliable, not because it claims to be scripture, but because it is the record of eyewitnesses.

- Paul told Timothy the Old Testament:
 - “leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”. (see also [John 5:46](#))
 - “Teaches” us, “reproofs” (scolds) us, “corrects” us, “trains” us, and “equips” us.
- The New Testament explains the Old Testament, and continues God’s story.
 - If all we know is the New Testament, we might not understand the whole story well enough to know where it is really going or how to play our role in that story.
 - It might be comparable to only knowing the “answers” section at the back of a math book.
 - You might have the right answer to certain questions, but you might not really know how to find the answers to problems for yourself.

Acts 13:26-43

*“Brethren, sons of Abraham’s family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. ²⁷ **“For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him.** ²⁸ “And though they found no ground for putting Him to death, they asked Pilate that He be executed. ²⁹ “When **they had carried out all that was written concerning Him,** they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. ³⁰ “But God raised Him from the dead; ³¹ and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. ³² “And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, ³³ that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, ‘YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.’ ³⁴ **“As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: ‘I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY and SURE blessings OF DAVID.’** ³⁵ “Therefore He also says in another Psalm, ‘YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.’ ³⁶ “For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay; ³⁷ but He whom God raised did not undergo decay. ³⁸ “Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹ and through Him everyone who believes is freed*

*from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. ⁴⁰ **“Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon you: ⁴¹ ‘BEHOLD, YOU SCOFFERS, AND MARVEL, AND PERISH; FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU.’”** ⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath. ⁴³ Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.*

Q: What is so startling about what Paul is saying here?

- This isn’t just a history lesson... it’s a warning!
 - Those who lived in Jerusalem, and their leaders, didn’t just fail to recognize Jesus in what the prophets had said... **they rejected Him!**
 - You don’t want to be like them!
 - **Vs 40-41 You need to make sure you are not one of the ones the prophets were talking about who couldn’t recognize what God was doing!**
- Jesus’ resurrection proves:
 - God has fulfilled His promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, and all the prophets.
 - The New Creation has begun!
 - **You need to recognize this, and be a part of it!**

Q: Paul’s sermon here is very similar to Peter’s in Acts 2. They both quote Psalm 2:7, but Paul also quotes Is. 55:3. Why does Paul include this quote from Isaiah?

- The point Paul is making about the promises to David in Isaiah 55:3 is that God is now opening up those promises He made to David for everybody!
 - Isaiah 55 is about the new life that would break out for the whole world, based on what the suffering savior in Isaiah 53 would do, and the New Covenant in Isaiah 54.

Follow Up Assignment

Q: How well do you know the Old Testament?

- Do you see it as being as important as Paul told Timothy it was?
 - What will you do to let the Scriptures teach, scold, correct, train, and equip you?

Q: To be a part of the New Creation, you need to let God make you new. In one sense, He did that when you were born again. In another sense, He is still transforming your life.

- How are you doing at letting Him transform you?
- What does [Romans 12:1-2](#) confirm or dispute about your answer?