

Notes on the Greek New Testament
Day 170 – June 19th – Acts 12:24-13:15

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Acts

Bruce, FF, *The Acts of the Apostles*, London, 2nd ed. 1952

Polhill, John B, *Acts: The New American Commentary*, Nashville, 1992

Stott, John R W, *The Message of Acts*, IVP (The Bible Speaks Today), Leicester, 1990

Verse 24

Ὁ δὲ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἤρξανεν καὶ ἐπληθύνετο.
αὐξανω and αὐξω grow, spread, increase
πληθύνω increase, multiply, spread (pass
sometimes grow)

Cf. 6:7; 9:31.

Verse 25

Βαρναβᾶς δὲ καὶ Σαῦλος ὑπέστρεψαν, εἰς
Ἱερουσαλὴμ πληρώσαντες τὴν διακονίαν,
συμπαραλαβόντες Ἰωάννην τὸν ἐπικληθέντα
Μάρκον.

ὑποστρεφω return, turn back

"The best manuscripts read "to," not "from," Jerusalem, but that would scarcely make sense. Clearly the two were returning from Jerusalem to Antioch and were set for the following narrative, which took place in Antioch (13:1-3). The NIV has chosen, as most translations do, to follow the more poorly attested reading "from Jerusalem," since the context seems to demand it. Another solution, however, is to put the phrase "to Jerusalem" with "ministry," a construction found elsewhere in Luke-Acts. The translation would then read, "Barnabas and Saul returned, having finished their ministry to Jerusalem." Polhill

πληρωω fulfill, bring about
συμπαραλαμβάνω take or bring along with
ἐπικληθέντα Verb, aor pass ptc, m acc s
ἐπικαλεω call, name

Acts 13:1

Ἦσαν δὲ ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ κατὰ τὴν οὖσαν
ἐκκλησίαν προφῆται καὶ διδάσκαλοι ὃ τε
Βαρναβᾶς καὶ Συμεὼν ὁ καλούμενος Νίγερ,
καὶ Λούκιος ὁ Κυρηναῖος, Μαναὴν τε
Ἡρώδου τοῦ τετραάρχου σύντροφος καὶ
Σαῦλος.

κατὰ τὴν οὖσαν ἐκκλησίαν 'in the local church'
cf. 11:22

διδασκαλος, ου m teacher

'Prophets and teachers' could refer to one group under two names or to two separate groups – Polhill thinks the former more likely.

On 'teachers' cf. 1 Cor 12:28f.; Eph 6:11 also Acts 11:26; 15:35; 18:11; 20:20; 28:31.

τε enclitic particle and, and so
Κυρηναῖος, ου m a Cyrenian
τετραάρχης, ου m tetrarch (a ruler with
lesser powers than a king)
σύντροφος, ου m foster brother, close
friend (from childhood)

Verse 2

λειτουργοῦντων δὲ αὐτῶν τῷ κυρίῳ καὶ
νηστευόντων εἶπεν τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον·
Ἀφορίσατε δὴ μοι τὸν Βαρναβᾶν καὶ Σαῦλον
εἰς τὸ ἔργον ὃ προσκέκλημαι αὐτούς.

λειτουργεω serve, worship
νηστευω fast, go without food

For spiritual communication received during
hunger or fasting cf. 9:12; 10:10ff.

ἅγιος, α, ον holy

Presumably through one of the prophets.

ἀφορίζω separate, take away, set apart,
appoint

δη indeed, then, therefore, now

ἀφορίσατε δη The addition of δη emphasises
the imperative, cf. 15:36; Lk 2:15.

προσκαλεομαι call to oneself, summon

"It is worth noting that the two men to be released for missionary service were the most gifted and outstanding in the church." Bruce

Verse 3

τότε νηστεύσαντες καὶ προσευξάμενοι καὶ
ἐπιθέντες τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῖς ἀπέλυσαν.

τοτε then, at that time

προσευχομαι pray

ἐπιθεντες aor ptc ἐπιτιθημι place on
χειρ, χειρος f hand, power

Expressing the church's endorsement of and
fellowship in the ministry to which Paul and
Barnabas had been called.

ἀπολυω release, send away

Verse 4

Αὐτοὶ μὲν οὖν ἐκπεμφθέντες ὑπὸ τοῦ ἁγίου
πνεύματος κατήλθον εἰς Σελεύκειαν, ἐκεῖθεν
τε ἀπέπλευσαν εἰς Κύπρον,

ἐκπεμπω send out, send away
κατερχομαι come down, go down

Bruce comments that compounds with *κατα* are regularly used of movement towards the coast, either from inland (as here) or from the high seas; conversely compounds in *ἀνα* are used of movement either out to sea or inland from the coast.

Σελευκειαν The port of Antioch, 16 miles west of the city.

ἐκεῖθεν from there
ἀπέπλευσαν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl
ἀποπλεω set sail, sail away

Cyprus was an important island centre of commerce from the earliest times. In 27 BC it became a separate province, having its own proconsul (v.7).

Barnabas was a Cypriot by birth (4:36) and other natives of Cyprus belonged to the Antioch church (11:19,20).

Verse 5

καὶ γενόμενοι ἐν Σαλαμίῃ κατήγγελλον τὸν
λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς τῶν
Ἰουδαίων· εἶχον δὲ καὶ Ἰωάννην ὑπηρέτην.

Salamis was the chief Greek city on the island. It was on the east coast of Cyprus.

καταγγέλλω proclaim, preach

Throughout his journeys, Paul's settled policy was to visit the synagogues first (cf. v.14):

- i) that the good news might be preached 'to the Jew first';
- ii) Because he was sure of a good opening for his Gentile mission among the 'God fearers' among the congregation.

Ἰωάννην is John Mark (12:12,25) who was a cousin of Barnabas (Col 4:10).

ὑπηρετης, ου m attendant, assistant

Verse 6

διελθόντες δὲ ὅλην τὴν νῆσον ἄχρι Πάφου
εὔρον ἄνδρα τινὰ μάγον ψευδοπροφήτην
Ἰουδαῖον ᾧ ὄνομα Βαρισοῦ,

διερχομαι pass through, go through
νησος, ου f island
ἄχρι (and ἄχρις) until, as far as

Πάφου i.e. new Paphos. It was a Greek settlement in the west of the island where Aphrodite was worshipped.

εὔρον Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl εὕρισκω
μαγος, ου m wise man (one trained in astrology), magician, sorcerer

Cf. 8:9ff. Luke draws parallels between Peter and Paul.

ψευδοπροφητης, ου m false prophet
ὄνομα, τος n name, title, person, authority,
reputation

Verse 7

ὃς ἦν σὺν τῷ ἀνθυπάτῳ Σεργίῳ Παύλῳ, ἀνδρὶ
συνετῷ. οὗτος προσκαλεσάμενος Βαρναβᾶν
καὶ Σαῦλον ἐπεζήτησεν ἀκοῦσαι τὸν λόγον τοῦ
θεοῦ·

ἀνθυπατος, ου m proconsul (official in charge of a Roman senatorial province)

Perhaps the same as Lucius Sergius Paulus known from other sources.

συνετος, η, ου intelligent, possessing understanding
προσκαλεσάμενος Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m
nom s προσκαλεομαι call to oneself,
summon

ἐπιζητεω seek, desire, search for

Verse 8

ἀνθίστατο δὲ αὐτοῖς Ἐλύμας ὁ μάγος, οὕτως
γὰρ μεθερμηνεύεται τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, ζητῶν
διαστρέψαι τὸν ἀνθύπατον ἀπὸ τῆς πίστεως.

ἀνθίστατο Verb, imperf midd indic, 3 s
ἀνθιστημι resist, oppose, withstand

οὕτως thus, in this way
μεθερμηνεω translate

Elymas is probably a Semitic word meaning wise. Elymas is therefore a translation of *μαγος* not of the name Bar Jesus. Elymas was therefore the title by which this man was known among the Jews.

διασρεφω pervert, distort (pf. pass ptc depraved, crooked, wrong), divert, turn away, mislead, lead astray

πιστις, εως f faith, the Christian faith

"He had a shrewd suspicion that if the proconsul paid heed to Barnabas and Saul his own services were likely to be dispensed with." Bruce.

Verse 9

Σαῦλος δὲ, ὁ καὶ Παῦλος, πλησθεὶς πνεύματος
ἁγίου ἀτενίσας εἰς αὐτὸν

"Saul ... Paul..." Here both his Jewish and Gentile names are given. Henceforth he is known by the Roman name. There is a similar shift from 'Barnabas and Saul' to 'Paul and Barnabas' or 'Paul and his companions'.

πλησθεὶς Verb, aor pass ptc, m nom s
πιμπλημι fill

ἀτενιζω fix eyes on, look intently at

Verse 10

εἶπεν· Ὁ πλήρης παντὸς δόλου καὶ πάσης
ῥαδιουργίας, υἱὲ διαβόλου, ἐχθρὲ πάσης
δικαιοσύνης, οὐ παύση διαστρέφων τὰς ὁδοὺς
κυρίου τὰς εὐθείας;

ὦ Ο!

πλήρης, ες (sometimes not declined) full
δολος, ου m deceit, treachery
ῥαδιουργια, ας f lack of principle,
unscrupulousness
διαβολος, ου m the devil

Some see here an antithesis to the name Bar
Jesus.

ἐχθρος, α, ον enemy, one hated
δικαιοσυνη, ης f righteousness
παυση fut midd παω stop; midd stop,
cease, cease from

Bruce comments on παυση "The 'volitive
future', slightly imperative, with an implied
reproach.

διαστρεφω see v.8
ὁδος, ου f way, path, road, journey
εὐθως, εια, υ straight; right, upright

Verse 11

καὶ νῦν ἰδοὺ χεῖρ κυρίου ἐπὶ σέ, καὶ ἔση
τυφλὸς μὴ βλέπων τὸν ἥλιον ἄχρι καιροῦ.
παραχρῆμα δὲ ἔπεσεν ἐπ' αὐτὸν ἀγλὸς καὶ
σκοτός, καὶ περιάγων ἐζήτει χειραγωγούς.

ἔση Verb, fut indic, 2 s εἰμι
τυφλος, η, ον blind
βλεπω see, be able to see
ἥλιος, ου m the sun
ἄχρι until; ἄχρι καιρου 'for a time'

"The apostle, remembering his own example,
knew that from the darkness of the eyes, the
mind's darkness might be restored to light."
Bede.

παραχρημα immediately, at once
ἔπεσεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s πιπτω fall
ἀγλως, υος f mistiness

Used in medical writers of an inflammation
which gives the eye a cloudy appearance.

σκοτος, ους n darkness, evil
περιαγω go around
χειραγωγος, ου m one who leads another
by the hand

Verse 12

τότε ἰδὼν ὁ ἀνθύπατος τὸ γεγονός ἐπίστευσεν
ἐκπλησσομένης ἐπὶ τῇ διδαχῇ τοῦ κυρίου.

τοτε then, at that time
ιδων Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s ὁραω trans
see
γεγονὸς Verb, perf act ptc, n nom/acc s
γινομαι
πιστευω believe (in), have faith (in)

Haenchen stresses the strong apologetic motif
in the account of the conversion of such a high
Roman official.

ἐκπλησσομαι be amazed

Cf. Mt 7:28; 22:33; Mk 1:22; 11:18; Lk 4:32
also Mt 13:54; Mk 6:2; Lk 2:48.

διδαχη, ης f teaching, what is taught

Verse 13

Ἀναχθέντες δὲ ἀπὸ τῆς Πάφου οἱ περὶ Παῦλον
ἦλθον εἰς Πέργην τῆς Παμφυλίας· Ἰωάννης δὲ
ἀποχωρήσας ἀπ' αὐτῶν ὑπέστρεψεν εἰς
Ἴεροσόλυμα.

ἀναχθέντες Verb, aor pass ptc, m nom pl
ἀναγω bring up, lead up; midd or pass
set sail

Cf. v.4.

οἱ περὶ Παῦλον 'Paul and those with him'. The
expression emphasises that Paul was the
central figure.

ἦλθον Verb, aor act ind, 1s & 3 pl ἐρχομαι
ἀποχωρεω go away, leave
ὑποστρεφω return, turn back

We are not given any indication of the reason
for Mark's departure, cf. 15:37ff.

Verse 14

αὐτοὶ δὲ διελθόντες ἀπὸ τῆς Πέργης
παρεγένοντο εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν τὴν Πισιδίαν, καὶ
εἰσελθόντες εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν τῆ ἡμέρα τῶν
σαββάτων ἐκάθισαν.

διελθοντες aor ptc διερχομαι pass through,
go over

Here of crossing the Taurus range.

"Luke's note that they went from Perga to Pisidian Antioch is extremely terse, and one is apt to miss the difficulty of the trek. Antioch lay some 100 miles to the north across the Taurus mountain range. The route was barren, often flooded by swollen mountain streams, and notorious for its bandits, which even the Romans had difficulty bringing under control. Antioch itself was in the highlands, some 3,600 feet above sea level. It was one of sixteen cities named Antioch that had been established around 300 B.C. by Seleucus Nikator in honour of his father Antiochus. Although referred to as "Pisidian Antioch" to distinguish it from the others, it was actually in Phrygia but just across the border from Pisidia. In Paul's day it belonged to the Roman province of Galatia and was the leading city of the southern part of the province, having the status of a "colony city" with its privileges of local autonomy and exemption from imperial taxes. The Selucid rulers moved many Jews to the city, and there was a large Jewish population there." Polhill

παραγίνομαι come, arrive, appear

καθίζω sit down, sit, take one's seat

Verse 15

μετὰ δὲ τὴν ἀνάγνωσιν τοῦ νόμου καὶ τῶν προφητῶν ἀπέστειλαν οἱ ἀρχισυνάγωγοι πρὸς αὐτοὺς λέγοντες· Ἄνδρες ἀδελφοί, εἴ τίς ἐστὶν ἐν ὑμῖν λόγος παρακλήσεως πρὸς τὸν λαόν, λέγετε.

ἀναγνωσις, εως f reading

Bruce says, "The synagogue service in the first century consisted of:

- i) The *Shema* ('Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God the Lord is one'),
- ii) prayer by the leader,
- iii) reading of the Law (and, on Sabbath and feast days, of the Prophets),
- iv) a sermon by any suitable member of the congregation (cf. Lk 4:16)."

ἀρχισυναγωγος, ου m president of the synagogue

Usually one of the elders.

παρακλησις, εως f encouragement, help, counsel

Cf. Heb 13:22; 1 Tim 4:13. "Probably a synagogue expression for the sermon which followed the Scripture lessons." Bruce