

44-Acts-Pt13-Transcript

a lot of ability to wait on whisper exactly more you should play well have you seen Charlotte on well welcome back to Wednesday night Bible study and clearly there are no shortage of false prophets it seems that to be a prophet is something that's highly desirable and a lot of men and women believe that they can satisfy their ego and their ambitions by claiming to be prophets but we mustn't be taken in by them and now as we study Acts chapter 13 we're gonna come across another false prophet and we want to look for certain warning signs that we are able to discern who is really speaking for God and who isn't also in this chapter we're going to see the gospel really go out to the Gentile population in earnest in a sense everything that we've covered up to now up to now right up to Acts chapter 12 has it has really been just an introduction to the real core Ministry of Paul which we're now going to get into as we get into Acts chapter 13 so let's begin with prayer and then let's get right in to the study our Heavenly Father we praise you and thank you again that we can come together and we can study your word we pray that you'll be with us and that you'll help us father to fully digest the messages that are contained for us in the book of Acts written by Luke Paul's companion we thank you for this father and ask that you bless our study now and we pray in Jesus Holy Name Amen

so let's uh begin in Acts chapter 13 and we left extra Acts chapter 12 with Herod dying as a result of him trying to position himself as God and then Saul and Barnabas then leaving Jerusalem with

John Mark as there is
assistant and now we come to Acts
chapter 13 and it says now there were in
the church that was at Antioch so
they've left Jerusalem there now in
Antioch there were certain prophets
there and teachers so notice a
distinction between prophets and
teachers and notice that it was just not
unusual to have prophets among the
Brethren so there were prophets and also
teachers so some are able to foretell
the future and speak under inspiration
and others are just very very clear and
very succinct and very capable in how
they teach the Word of God so who were
these so they lead with Barnabas so or
Luke leads with Barnabas so a man of
tremendous influence and we were
introduced to him back in I believe it
was Acts for perhaps or as five so we
see Barnabas and Simeon that was called
Niger or and so clearly this is a
dark-skinned man a black man and he was
it says here ana-lucia s-- of Cyrene so
these are all Jews and then the church
is still very much focused on the Jewish
population and again it's not unusual to
have black Jews and when we go back to
Acts chapter eight with Philip and the
the ethiopian eunuch who clearly was
also a jew keeping the Feast of
Tabernacles and Lucius of Cyrene again
this is in Africa northern Africa and
many in which had been brought up with
Herod the Tetrarch so someone who was
brought up in in Herod's court and then
Saul so someone this menon was brought
up in Herod's court but clearly a
convert or a Jew and able to teach and
encourage the Brethren as they
ministered to the Lord and fasted so
they do their worshipping God and
fasting the Holy Spirit said separate me

Barnabas and Saul for the work were unto
I have called them and I think this is a
very very powerful scripture for us to
think about that we often think that the
church has to be always together we have
to be homogeneous we all have to be on
top of each other in doing
the same thing and here what we see by
the inspiration of the holy spirit was
was Paul and Barnabas being separated to
do a separate work and I think sometimes
we have to just be a bit more
accommodating of each other of our
brethren and other organizations
realizing that there may be a purpose
behind these different administrations
and we don't all have to necessarily
come under the same banner as long as we
are inspired by the Holy Spirit and we
are loving one another and respecting
one another and respecting the body of
Christ so here Paul and Barnabas the
Holy Spirit had a work for them
and and and it would now separates them
from the rest of the church and when
they had fasted and prayed and laid
their laid their hands on them they sent
them away and as I said this is now when
the the ministry to the Gentiles is
going to begin in earnest
so they being sent forth by the holy
spirit departed on to Seleucia and from
there they sailed to Cyprus so just in
terms of the the Middle East and Paul's
journey I've just highlighted the area
where they were you can see from
Jerusalem going up north you can see
Antioch and then if you follow the black
arrows you'll see where they sailed from
Antioch to Cyprus and first in Salamis
then Pappas and then they're gonna go up
to two program but just to get an idea
of where they are just north of Africa
and north of Jerusalem in fact and just

south of Iraq Turkey that area so he says here so they were sent by the Holy Spirit they went to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus and when they were at Salamis they preached the Word of God where did they preach the Word of God in the synagogue's of the Jews so this was something we really really have to get very very clear on Christianity is a Hebraic I don't wanna call it a religion it's a covenant with the Hebrews and so the only Hebrew is left now are the Jews and so Christianity is all about the Jews and and we just assume that it's some sort of greco-roman religion and it's not it's a Hebraic religion and here they are focused on the Jewish population so he says here so when they were we were I think we were in verse five when they were at Salamis they preached the Word of God in the synagogue's of the Jews so we met them in a Jewish synagogue they are separated they leave the the Jewish brethren there and they come to Selim us and they go straight to the Jewish synagogue and they had also John this is John Mark as their assistant and when they had gone through the aisle unto Paphos so again they're travelling through this this region when they had gone through the aisle and Apophis they found a certain sorcerer a false prophet a Jew whose name was biases so notice that this false prophet is actually a Jew and and again we shouldn't be surprised when we have false brethren and false prophets and false leaders within the covenant community and I'll just remind you of the words of Jeremiah the prophecy of Jeremiah where God says through Jeremiah I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem a horrible thing they commit

adultery and walk in lies they
strengthen also the hands of evildoers
and none does return from his wickedness
so notice whatever prophesying they're
doing whatever teaching they're doing
they're not teaching brethren to repent
they're not turning people to the law of
God and so the people remain in their
wickedness and they are all of them unto
me as Sodom so God has just disgusted
and again they're not turning from their
wickedness and the inhabitants thereof
as Gomorrah therefore says the Lord of
Hosts concerning the prophets behold I
will feed them with wormwood and make
them drink the water of gall for from
the profits of Jerusalem is profaneness
gone forth into all the lands so again
we shouldn't be fooled just because
somebody positions themselves as a
prophet or as a minister or as a teacher
or in any way represent
god we have to see through man and
listen for the Holy Spirit and the Holy
Spirit will always direct us to the law
of God otherwise we're like Sodom and
Gomorrah to God thus says the Lord of
Hosts hearken not unto the words of the
prophets that prophesy unto you so this
is an instruction where to ignore these
prophets in these false leaders they
make you vain they destroy you they
speak a vision of their own heart and
not out of the mouth of the Lord and
that's where we're listening for a
vision that comes from the Lord and it's
not like something he just made up last
night we need to search the Scriptures
and whatever vision the prophet is
presenting we need to find it in the
scriptures because all of God's heart is
in the scriptures and so if a true
prophet comes to us they're gonna point
us to the scriptures and they're gonna

point us to God's law not some dream
that they've had and something that
they're making up and God spoke to me
last night and this is what he said no
turn us to the scriptures so here he
says they speak a vision of their own
heart and not out of the mouth of the
Lord I have not sent these prophets yet
they ran so there under their own steam
I have not spoken unto them yet they
prophesied I have heard what the
prophets said that prophesy lies in my
name saying I have dreamed I have
dreamed and God told me to tell you how
long shall this be in the hearts of the
prophets that prophesy lies yes they are
prophets of the deceit of their own
heart which think to cause my people to
forget my name by their dream so they're
actually competing with God and using
their dreams to turn people away from
God and from from his name which they
tell every man to his neighbor as their
fathers have forgotten my name for Baal
the Prophet that has a dream let him
tell a dream and he that has my word
let him speak my word faithfully so
notice here that God says there's a
difference there are people that just
make stuff up out of their imagination
and then there are people that are going
to point us to the scriptures and
they're going to truly give us the Word
of God faithfully and that's what we're
looking for we don't want people to
we're not following men
we're following God and we're looking to
the scriptures let him speak my word
faithfully what is the chaff to the weak
there's there's quite a difference here
between the chaff and the wheat says the
Lord is not my word like a fire do you
need to be making something else up know
God's Word is enough and we just need to

communicate his word and it's like a
fire says the Lord and like a hammer
that breaks the rock in pieces this this
is the power of God's Word and we
mustn't allow anybody to take us away
from God's Word
anybody who tries to come with another
book or a dream or some kind of vision
or imagination if it's not rooted in
God's Word
we're not interested God's Word is
enough God's Word is powerful and God is
faithful to his word and whatever vision
he has as again what Paul says in 1st
Corinthians 14 the spirit of the
prophets is subject to the prophets all
of the scripture aligns there's no such
thing as contradiction if it's coming
from God therefore behold I am against
the prophets as the Lord that steal my
words every one from his neighbour
they're taking us away from God's Word
is what this is saying they're pointing
us to something else other than God's
Word behold him against the prophet says
the Lord that used their tongues and say
he says behold I'm against them how many
times is God telling us he's against
these prophets behold I'm against them
that prophesy false dreams says the Lord
and do tell them and cause my people to
err by their lies and by their lightness
yet I sent them not nor commanded them
therefore they shall not profit these
people at all says the Lord so if we are
switched on we're not going to be taken
away from God's Word we're not going to
be taken away from the Covenant that God
has promised everything's got to tie
back to the Covenant or we're not
interested so let's get with that
backdrop then let's get back to acts 13
and when they had gone through the aisle
of palace they found this this sorcerer

so he's a man of magic he's a man of miracles he's able to do things that impress people and again if they're not pointing us to the Word of God we're not interested in miracles because we know that there are deceitful workers when we know that miracles are real they're there the people have the ability to perform miracles but what's their objective are they driving us to the law of God and to the word of god and to the Covenant of God or they do they have some other agenda and here clearly this this man has another agenda he's a false prophet a Jew whose name was baristas which was with the deputy of the country Sergius Paulus so a very important man a deputy and he says here a prudent man so this man this is an intelligent man and an Luke wants us to know that this is an intelligent man and yet he's following this false prophet so intelligence isn't enough and and clearly if it's an intelligent man and a man of such a rank he could be very very useful in the covenant community could be very very useful and influential for the church but intelligence is not enough we've got to be faithful to God's Word and even intelligent people can have their intelligence hijacked and and here the devil likes to use intelligent people because when he can get them working for him they are able to articulate things in a way that sound believable and even though it's completely wrong it sounds good sounds reasonable and people follow them so the devil was after this man and an intelligent man but look look at this he called for Barnabas and Saul and desired to hear the word of God so this is often the problem with intelligence is that we believe what we want to believe so it's

an intelligent man but yet he's hanging out with biases and and he wants to believe and so whatever this man is telling him he's kind of following along fortunately he's heard of fallen Barnabas and the gospel that they're preaching and so he wants to hear what they have to say he decided to hear the word of God but L Elemis this same by ASUS the sorcerer for so is his name by interpretation withstood them so he actually sees them as competitive and and wants to prevent them from actually bringing the Word of God to sir yes so he withstood them seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith isn't that amazing that rather than rejoice in God's Word we have these men on earth and it takes us all the way back to Nimrod in fact who want to compete with God and turn people to them rather than allowing people to turn to the Lord then Saul who is called Paul who also is called Paul filled with the Holy Spirit set his eyes on him so he saw very clearly what was going on and now it's not Saul speaking it's the Holy Spirit speaking this is under the inspiration of the full inspiration of the Holy Spirit he said all full of all subtlety and all mischief this guy wasn't me so it's a real contrast here Paul is full of the Holy Spirit this man by ASUS or LMS is full of subtlety and mischief so he is a real tool for the devil positioning himself as a Jewish prophet you cha Hays actually says it here you child of the devil you enemy of all righteousness so this is what false prophets are this is a very serious matter and we can't allow ourselves to be taken in by them will you not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord and we got a sense of

their character through the prophecy of Jeremiah is inspired by the holy spirit now now Paul seems very harsh here and I think in Christianity sometimes we think that we always just have to be soft we can never be harsh we can never speak straight we can never call a spade a spade we always have to be apologizing Paul was full of the Holy Spirit and he gave it straight and he actually was following the example of our Lord when Jesus met with the Pharisees he just told them straight you serpents you generation of vipers how can you escape the damnation of Hell so let's be very clear when someone is perverting the way of God and leading people to the devil and not to God we need to have the courage and the conviction to speak out so it says here continuing in acts 13 and now behold the hand of the Lord is upon you and you shall be blind not seeing the Sun for a season so this prophet is trying to lead people now himself needs to be led and so Paul puts this curse on him and he's gonna he's gonna be blind for a season we don't know how long this is but for some period of time now he's in a sense the laughingstock of the community and everybody knows that this man was positioning himself to be a prophet encountered Paul and Barnabas and then was made blind and everybody would know very clearly stay away from this man he doesn't know what he's doing and he doesn't know where he's going in fact he needs to be led and immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand then the deputy when he saw what was done believed being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord so again an intelligent man listening

very clearly to the Apostle Paul and how he articulated the gospel seeing the miracles and he believed he now became a part of the covenant community now when Paul and his company left from pappas and came to purga in Pamphylia so again you can see the map here where they were they went from Salamis to pal fest and back up to a Peugeot so you see where they are traveling in through the Middle East it says here that John departing from them returned to Jerusalem so we don't really understand what's happened here but John was their assistant and he left from Jerusalem came up with them on to Antioch and then traveled through this region with them and then all of a sudden he leaves and he goes back to Jerusalem and we know we met him with mother's house when everybody was praying for the release of Peter and probably he's returned to his mother's house now so we'll probably get more detail in well we will get more detailed in the near future but right now all that Luke says is he left he departed from them when they were in Pamphylia but when they departed from purga they came to Antioch in Pisidia so there's another Antioch you can see that's north just north of the circle that I have there Antioch in Pisidia so when they got there again they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down so I you know I don't know how people miss this but the church is Hebraic they keep the Sabbath they keep the annual holy days that were keeping Pentecost when when they received the Holy Spirit it's very clear as we go through Acts they're keeping the days of unleavened bread they're keeping Passover they're counting to Pentecost they're keeping the fast and now every

week they're keeping the Sabbath and they're taking the gospel message to the Jews they're going into the synagogue's on the Sabbath and preaching the gospel so they go into the synagogue here in in Antioch in Pisidia and they sit down and after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them saying you men and brethren if you have any word of exhortation for the people go ahead and speak so they see they have these guests rabbis and they know that their teachers and their Jews it's not like they see them as some kind of foreign religion they see them as fellow Jews and so they read the law they read the prophets and now they're giving them an opportunity would you like to give an exhortation from from the reading or from other some other part of Scripture then Paul stood up and beckoning with his hand said men of Israel and you that fear God give audience listen to me I've got something really important to say to you and then notice how he starts the god of this people of Israel the God of this people of Israel tchau our fathers this is where he begins we are a chosen people and and the the true God chose us and so they would all understand that that this is it's not a religion it's a covenant relationship and God made a covenant with Abraham that relationship that he that special relationship with Abraham cascaded down to Isaac and cascaded down to Israel and then to the 12 tribes the 12 father's the 12 patriarchs of Israel so it's it's not about religion it's about the faithfulness of God and the Covenant promise that he has made that he has chosen these people to represent him and so Paul begins with this and they would

fully understand this they would be in full agreement he chose our fathers and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt and with a high arm brought he them out of it so they would fully understand this now notice that this sounds a lot like the way Stephen started his message and remember he said just quick though we'll just have the introduction when when when Stephen was given the opportunity to defend himself he said men brethren and fathers listen the god of glory appeared unto our father Abraham he goes back to the Covenant and when he was in Mesopotamia Mesopotamia before he dwelt in Quran and said unto him get out of your country and from your kindred and come into the land which I will show you this is the beginning of the Covenant and he said so then notice now so that's it and then he went on he gave his very long sermon given the whole history of Israel as a backdrop to the rebellion of the Jews against Christ then when Christ confronts Paul he says in verse 5 of chapter 9 Paul says to him who are you Lord and the Lord said to him I'm Jesus whom you've been persecuting it's hard for you to kick against the pricks so so you have been stubborn a God had chosen Paul from from the womb and he was working with Paul and trying to pull Paul but Paul had been kicking against the pricks and clearly the way that he now starts his when he's preaching to the Jews he uses the same technique that Stephen used for him Stephen started with the history the the covenant the fact that these people were chosen and that the promise the covenant embeds a promise and that that promise is fulfilled through Jesus Christ and so

clearly that got to him and it was effective and now he's doing the same thing so he goes on he says he started here the god of his people chose our fathers and then in verse 18 and about the time of forty years he suffered he their manners in the wilderness so he put up with them for forty years in the wilderness and when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan or Kanaan he divided their land to them by lot so each tribe got a piece of the land except for Levi who were then overseeing everything and after that he gave unto the judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years until Samuel the Prophet so they then had judge's ruling over them until Samuel this is all history and they would know this and afterward they desired a king and God gave unto them Saul the son of cists or Kish a man of the tribe of Benjamin by the space of forty years and when he had removed him he raised up unto them David to be their king to whom also he gave testimony and said I have found David the son of Jesse a man after my own heart which shall fulfill all my will so David just had the right heart to finally do what God had a covenant with Israel to do when they inherited the promised land and none of them did it even with all the judges even with Saul as king finally when David took the throne then David was faithful and did exactly what God expected them to do and what God is saying so so Paul begins with the Abrahamic or or the the covenant to Israel which of which is the Abrahamic covenant coming down through Israel then embeds the Mosaic Covenant and now he alludes to the Davidic covenant that God is a God of covenant

and so now we have this covenant that he has with David and David will do his will of this man's seed has God according to his covenant promise raised unto Israel a savior Jesus he wants them to understand that God is a God of covenant and that that covenant now has come down to David and and God has made an everlasting covenant with David that that that David seed shall sit on the throne forever and he's saying it's fulfilled this covenant promise of God is fulfilled in our Savior Jesus when John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel again John would went to Israel and preached repentance to Israel and as John fulfilled his course he said who do you think I am I am NOT him so they were all looking for this Messiah they were all looking for this Savior and John says it's not me it's not me but behold there comes one after me and they would know they heard John preaching this there comes one after me whose shoes of his feet I am NOT even worthy to loose now he says he concludes men and brethren children of the stock of Abraham the the Father the one whom God covenant it with an everlasting covenant you children of Abraham and whosoever among you fears God's and I he's also speaking to the proselytes the the god-fearers that had converted to Judaism to you is the word of this salvation sent this that this this salvation is for you it is the fulfillment of the Covenant promise it's not to the whole world it's to the seed of Abraham for they that dwell at Jerusalem and their rulers because they knew him not nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath day so you know

they started off with the rulers reading the prophets along the prophets and there was probably something in the prophets that they read that Paul is alluding to and he's showing them that every week on the Sabbath day they're reading the prophets and they have no clue what they're doing they have no understanding of how the prophets words are being fulfilled or have been fulfilled in Christ which are read every Sabbath day they have fulfilled them in condemning him so the prophets actually prophesied that they would condemn him that they would pierce him and and that's what they've done but because they didn't understand even though they're blind they are actually fulfilling the prophecies that they're reading every week and though they found no cause of death in him yet desired they pilot that he should be slain so there was no reason to kill him but they were just stirred up and driven to slay him again it's this this sense the sense of envy and competition and they had their whole racket set up and they saw Jesus as competition just like these false prophets see God as competition and and want to compete with God this is it's crazy as this the the ego of human beings and when they had fulfilled all that was written of him they took him down from the cross and laid him in a Sepulchre but God raised him from the dead and he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem who are his witnesses unto the people and again they know this they they have heard people saying with the great news spreading all around from these witnesses that Jesus rose from the dead and we declare unto you great news glad tidings happy news

how that the promise the covenant which was made unto the father's God has fulfilled the same unto us their children God is faithful and and faithful ministers faithful teachers point us back to the promises that God made and show us how God fulfills these promises false prophets take us away from the promises of God and start making things up God wants us to know how faithful he is and God God was impressed with Abraham because Abraham took him at his word he made a promise to Abraham and Abraham said if this is God's promise I'm good with it even to the point of being willing to slay Isaac because he knew that God's Word is true and that was accounted to him for righteousness and that's what God wants to see in us that a we understand his promises and be we understand his character and that he will never go against his promises and so now he's saying to them these promises that God made he's fulfilled them to us the people of Israel the descendants of Abraham he's fulfilled them to us in that he has raised up Jesus again so Christ came he was crucified even though there was no reason to put him to death and then God brought him back from death as it is also written in the second Psalm you are my son this day have I begotten you and they would be very familiar with the contents of the second Psalm which basically show the futility of resisting the Son of God that all the nations are going to resist him and he's going to crush them all and so they understand that you don't want to be on the wrong side or what Paul is trying to get them to understand is you don't want to be on the wrong side of the Son of God and as concerning that he raised him

up from the dead now no more to return
to corruption he said on this why so
Christ was in the grave and God promised
that his soul
would not see corruption so he raised
him from the dead and said on this wise
I will give you the sure mercies of
David so it's not just the mercies of
David it's the absolute mercies of David
again speaking to the covenant
faithfulness of God that God found David
a man after his own heart and he made a
covenant promise of forever promise to
David and these are the sure mercies
these are the absolute truth because it
came from God and so these sure mercies
of David even though David is dead and
gone
Christ has returned from the grave and
he will sit on David's throne and
they're sure mercies these absolute
promises will be fulfilled in Jesus
Christ therefore he says also in another
song you shall not suffer your Holy One
to see corruption again they would
understand what the contents of that
Psalm and he's bringing that out that
David is dead and gone and he his body
is corrupted but not Christ because the
promise the Covenant promised is
actually fulfilled in Jesus Christ for
David after he had served his own
generation by the will of God fell on
sleep so he died and was laid unto his
father's and saw corruption so the
promise is not fulfilled in David even
though the promise was made to David but
he whom God raised again saw no
corruption and he is of the seed of
David and then this is God's promise be
it known unto you therefore men and
brethren this is a powerful sermon and
now here's the conclusion that through
this man is preached unto you the

forgiveness of sins and by him all that believe are justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses so this is now a new covenant that through Christ all sin can be forgiven if you accept him as your personal Savior and so he mail makes the offer to them to come to Christ to accept him as their Savior and to have all sins forgiven now the warning

beware therefore lest that come upon you which is spoken of in the prophets and maybe this might be one of the prophets that they were reading and so he's saying yeah I have a word of exhortation for you here it is and so he gives them all of this backdrop all of this context this history and the fulfillment of the Covenant promises and then he says now beware that the very prophets that you're reading just as you just as your you have fulfilled the other prophecies that said you would put Christ to death even though he didn't deserve it now beware that this prophecy doesn't come upon you and then he reads the prophecy behold you despisers you despisers behold you despisers and wander and perish for i work a work in your days a work which you shall in no wise believe though a man declare it unto you so what is this then so there's some sort of work that the prophets are telling them that God Himself will do and if a man came to them and said God is gonna do this work it's unbelievable they will not accept it it's just even though I say yeah God is gonna do this they won't accept it he is quoting here from the Prophet Habakkuk and let's let's take a look at this prophecy that what what is this work that even though they're told God is gonna do this they

won't believe it what is it that's good
I have a book a back of the one
beginning in verse one the burden this
is a great burden that fell on Habakkuk
the burden which Habakkuk the Prophet
SAW so this is something that he had a
vision
and he saw this Oh Lord how long shall I
cry and you will not hear so he was very
concerned that he was seeing something
and he was appealing to God crying out
to God and God wasn't answering and so
he takes his complaint to God and says
God how long is this gonna go on
where I'm crying out to you but you're
not listening how long shall I cry and
you will not hear even cry out unto you
of violence so Habakkuk was seeing a
level of violence that was very
disconcerting very discouraging caused
him great pain and he took it to the
Lord and and in there was no response in
fact he saw more violence and you will
not save you how come your hand won't
come and stop this why do you show me
iniquity and caused me to behold
grievance so Habakkuk is looking into
the community the Israelite community
and and he's seeing all kinds of wrong
doing all kinds of sinfulness to the
point of terrible violence terrible
iniquity and God is not doing anything
about it for spoiling and violence are
before me there I'm in this community
and this is all I see and there are that
raised up strife and contention now when
I try to correct them they want to argue
with me they're blaspheming there's all
of this conflict in the community
therefore because God won't act
therefore the law is slapped and
judgment never goes forth so they're
getting their way and they're there
departing from the law of God they're

there they're enjoying their iniquity
for the wicked surrounds the righteous
therefore a wrong judgment precedes so
the wicked now are getting into
positions of power
the righteous are being discarded and
marginalized and and wrong judgment
proceeds and and matter is going from
bad to worse and from worse to
unbearable and and all Habakkuk can do
is go to God and say please God do
something and nothing happens
so now he complains bitterly to God to
say I'm just constantly witnessing this
in the covenant community and you won't
ask why is this God answers
God says Habakkuk open your eyes and
stop looking at the covenant community
instead look to the heathen community
look to the pagans look to the look to
the people who have no idea who I am
look for your answer there behold you
among the heathen and regard take note
and wonder marvelously like be in all of
what I'm about to do for I will work a
work in your days which you will not
believe though it be told you this this
is what Paul was was alluding to and
harkaman back to and they would know
these scriptures and so there's a
problem in the covenant community the
problem is so bad it's like the people
have abandoned God altogether and
there's no judgment there's no righteous
judgment the law is being the part of
their departing from the law and they're
getting their way and God says Habakkuk
it's all under control I'm actually
working with the pagans I'm working with
the heathens and that's where you'll
find the answer I'm gonna do something
which even if I told you you wouldn't
believe it for lo I raise up the
Chaldeans the Babylonians I personally

got the one who has made a covenant with
this community I'm gonna go to the
Babylonians and I'm gonna raise them up
personally
to come and destroy the covenant
community because that's the covenant if
we go into the book of Deuteronomy we
see it - the Mosaic Covenant was an
if-then covenant if you do this then
I'll do this but if you do this then
I'll do this and everything God does is
faithful to his covenant and so the
covenant community can't get away with
this they're doing this but he says I'm
gonna raise up the Chaldeans that bitter
and hasty nation these are horrible
people which shall march through the
breadth of the land to possess the
dwelling places that are not theirs so
this is a kind of people that are
basically pirates and thieves and
they're going to come into the covenant
community to take everything and that's
what God is doing and this is God's work
God is doing it they are terrible about
duck they are awful their judgment and
their dignity shall proceed of
themselves they have their own culture
they have their own sense of honor their
horses are swifter than the leopards and
are more fierce than the evening wolves
and their horsemen shall spread
themselves and their horsemen shall come
from far they shall fly as the Eagle
that hastens to eat so this is this is a
beast power that is coming to just
consume they shall come all for violence
so these people wanted violence
I'll give them violence here comes
violence their faces shall sup up as the
east wind and they shall gather the
captivity as the sand so they're gonna
come in and they're gonna take Judah
captive and they shall scoff at the

kings in other words they're gonna be so powerful that they don't regard that the power of the kings of Judah they'll just anybody in their way they'll just crush them and the princes shall be a scorn unto them they shall divide every stronghold for they shall heat dust

and take it so this is the prophecy now that Paul the prophecy of Habakkuk that Paul is alluding to to say don't think you can be in this covenant and do whatever you want it's a covenant it's an agreement there there are two parties and there are conditions and and and you might break you might break your your your the expectations in the Covenant the terms and conditions but you're gonna suffer the consequences of the Covenant it's all there in writing and so you've broken the Covenant this is what's gonna happen to you but yet there's Jesus whom if you repent and accept him all is forgiven

but it's up to you so beware so now how do they respond well when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue the Gentiles besought desired that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath so they were like wow this is amazing we'd like to hear this again and it kind of speaks to personal agendas so the Gentiles seemed like they were open they didn't have a they didn't have an axe to grind they didn't have a dog in the fight or the horse in the race they just want to hear the word of God but the Jews had this whole power structure set up and they didn't want to lose what they had set up and so now they see Paul as competition they see Barnabas as competition the Gentiles just want to hear the word of God it seemed like Sergius Paulus you know he just wanted

hear the word of God by ASUS he had something going he everybody was seeing him as a great prophet and so he sees Paul or saw Paul as competition so we want to kind of watch our personal agendas and I do see this as I do speak to various people and people who think that you know they're Israel or people who think that you know it can't be the big they were they're unwilling to accept that God actually has a covenant with people other than them and they their ego kicks in and they just can't hear the truth we just going to be simple people gotta be humble people who just believe in God and just believe in God's Word and will accept God's Word and so the Gentiles are hearing all of this and it's marvelous that God has chosen Israel and God is actually working now through Israel and through Jesus there's this opportunity to be absolved of all sin we want to hear more of this and so the Gentiles asked that you know he would come back the next Sabbath notice Sabbath not Sunday Sabbath Gentiles Sabbath come and preach this now when the congregation was broken up when everybody was leaving many of the Jews and religious proselytes these are the Gentiles now followed Paul and Barnabas so there are a lot that really were sincere and they loved what they heard and they wanted to hear more and so they followed Paul and Barnabas who's speaking to them persuaded them to continue in the grace of God so they came to understand the grace of God and they're just saying stick with it stay with it and the next Sabbath day then so a week goes by they come back the next Sabbath day so news is spreading throughout the the six days when they

come back the next Sabbath day what does it say came almost the whole city to hear the word of God so these people were just so excited about this this doctrine that Paul and Barnabas were teaching and how they were opening up the scriptures that they told everybody and the next Sabbath is massive proud it's like the whole city is there and instead of rejoicing that people are turning to God what's the reaction when people have their own personal agenda but when the Jews saw the multitudes instead of rejoicing that God's Word is going out and people are responding to God's Word how do they respond they were filled with envy and this is what we have to be so careful of and even I could go on and on but we've just got to watch the hearts of man do we rejoice in God's Word

or do we have some other agenda because we have another agenda it's gonna be found out just as it was here with the Jews but when the Jews saw the crowd they were filled with envy and how did they respond they spoke against those things which were spoken by Paul contradicting and blaspheming he can you believe this so Paul is through the power through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit he's going into the scriptures and he's showing the brethren what the scriptures say this is what the scriptures say out of envy these Jews are listening and they're finding other scriptures and they're contradicting everything that Paul and Barnabas are saying and they're trying to lead the people away and trying to discredit the Ministry of Paul and Barnabas how did Paul and Barnabas respond again they're filled with the Holy Spirit this is going all the way back to Pentecost the

Holy Spirit came so that they could be witnesses martyrs even for Jesus Christ and they would do it with all boldness so again filled with the Holy Spirit how do they respond then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold Christianity is not for cowards Christianity is not for cowards let me say it again Christianity it's not for cowards we need the Holy Spirit to follow Christ and if we have the Holy Spirit we will follow Christ with boldness and we will wax bolder and bolder and we will not fear evil men and these are very very clearly evil men they're all in the Jewish garb they have the right words they've got the scriptures but they're trying to point people away from God's Word rather than toward it and away from the Covenant then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold and said you know what it was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you that this was a necessity we you know whenever we went anywhere we go to the synagogues first we go to the Jew first because this is necessary this this gospel of grace this fulfillment of the Covenant is to the Jew first so it's necessary that we brought it to you first but seeing you have put it from you and judge yourself unworthy of everlasting life lo we turn to the Gentiles and that's exactly what the instruction was to go to preach the gospel but if it's not accepted wipe the dust off your your brush the dust off your your feet and move on and so now what we see is as we said this is really the transition point that Luke is writing to for Theophilus to understand that Paul's ministry is to the Gentiles but he was also when he was confronted by Christ told that his ministry was going to be to Israel to Kings and to

the Gentiles and so now we see the ministry transitioning he's been separate Paul and Barnabas have been separated from the rest of the church for this very special work which God has chosen Paul from the womb and given him the skills and the capabilities and the the assets to be able to do this ministry and so now he turns in earnest to the Gentiles and and this now again even this turning to the Gentiles is a fulfilling of the Covenant because the Covenant began with Abraham and back in Genesis 12 God Moses writes now the Lord said to Abram get you out of your country and from your kindred who are all pagans and from your father's house who was an idolatry unto a land that I will show you and I will make of you this is this is a promised land and I will make of you in that land a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great and you you Abraham shall be a blessing and I will bless them that bless you and curse him that curses you and then notice this last phrase and in you shall all the families of the earth be blessed and so that's what's happening now that the earth is going to be blessed through Abraham that the whole earth all families of the earth will be blessed through Abraham and this is the beginning of it now that the Jews it was necessary to come to the Jews as the seed of Abraham and offer it to them and of course many of them accepted in the church the church is clearly a Jewish Church Hebraic church but now that these Jews have really violently resisted the gospel Paul says okay now we turn to the Gentiles and and to go on to acts 447 then 4 so has the LORD commanded us saying I've

set you to be a light of the Gentiles or a light to the Gentiles and you should be for salvation unto the ends of the earth so this is the work that God has separated Paul and Barnabas to do to take this gospel to the Gentiles to be a light to the Gentiles and to go unto the ends of the earth and remember this is the table of contents that in Acts chapter 1 when they're asking is this the time you're going to restore the kingdom to Israel the answer is it's not for you to know that that the father has has that all sorted out that's not your business but you're going to receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you shall be my witnesses first in Jerusalem then in Judea then in Samaria and then to the uttermost parts of the earth and so now we're transitioning in this book to this next chapter which is how the gospel now goes from this small Jerusalem city of Jerusalem how it goes from there and spreads to the whole earth and invites all Gentiles and all families of the earth to participate in the blessings of Abraham and to become children of Abraham by being grafted into this covenant with Abraham and in Isaiah speaks of this as well in Isaiah 49 he says and now says the Lord that formed me from the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob again to him to gather in Jacob though Israel be not gathered yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord so Israel is resisting yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord and my god shall be my strength and he said it is a light thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel I will also give you for a light

to the Gentiles that you may be my salvation unto the end of the earth so this has always been in God's agenda people freaked out that there's a chosen people and people can get quite nasty and violent and envious that God has chosen a people but God has chosen his people because he chose Abraham and his design was always to bless all the families of the earth through Abraham so I think everybody just needs to calm down okay if you're not the chosen people rejoice that God has chosen a people and rejoice that through those people salvation is open up to the ends of the earth let's not bring our ego to this let's just understand you know we're born into this world something is happening we have been blessed to understand that what is happening is God is blessing all the families of the earth or intends to bless all the families of the earth through Abraham and hopefully the families will will will accept and then when the Gentiles are brought in God will remove the blindness from Israel and gather in all Israel live back into the Covenant Luke also speaks of this or wrote of this in chapter 2 when I believe was Simeon the prophet who saw the birth of Christ and he says Lord now let your servant depart in peace so he was an old man and he hate now he says I can die now according to your word from my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all people a light to lighten the Gentiles so always always always this was in God's agenda to include the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel where you could even say through the glory of your people Israel and when the gentleness are coming back now to acts

13 when the Gentiles heard this they were thrilled and they glorified the word of the Lord and as many were ordained to eternal life believed and so they were called to understand and they believed and the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region so again cause for a great rejoicing that people are coming to understand that the Gentiles are coming to understand that that everybody is now that that covenant promise that God made to Abraham is now being fulfilled through Jesus but the Jews stirred up the devout and honorable women and the chief men of the city and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them out of their coasts so Paul warned them he said beware that the prophecy of Habakkuk does not come upon you by despising the Word of God and and and engaging in violence within the covenant community and instead of hearing that warning and taking heed they do the very thing that Habakkuk saw in his day and so God is going to fulfill this prophecy and this prophecy again is going to be fulfilled multiple times first through wrong this whole area or the Jerusalem was destroyed by Rome in 70 AD and all of this area all of the Middle East 600 years later when the the Muslims burst out of the Arabs burst out of Arabia and just completely destroyed all of this and then again this this Babylonian Empire exactly what God said happened in six in the seventh century and now we're set up for the exact same thing to happen again and this time is going to be global it's going to be worldwide and so but but the focus is on the land that was promised to Abraham and so here he says now to conclude this chapter he says they expelled them out of their

coasts but they again they shook off the dust of their feet against them and came to Iconium so they are now finished with the the Jews there and they've moved on and the disciples were filled with joy and with the holy spirit so there's a lot of opposition to God's work and that's why we need the Holy Spirit and as we do the work of God we're going to be effective we're going to it's God's will according to John 15 that we bear much fruit but without Christ we can do nothing but filled with the Holy Spirit we can bear this fruit and there will be much joy when we see people turning to the Lord

repenting of their sins acknowledging the Covenant of God and the Word of God then there is much rejoicing and so now we've made this transition from Acts or in acts to Paul now really focusing on taking this good news to the Gentiles and let's continue next week when we get to Acts chapter 14 so thanks very much for joining

I look forward hopefully you can join us on the chat and if you can look forward to talking to you then if not we look forward to God willing seeing you again next week