

God's Continued Faithfulness in Christ

- God sent the good news of salvation
 - This salvation is now for Jews and Gentiles (Acts 13:26)
- The Jews condemned the Savior (Acts 13:27)
 - This is consistent with the pattern Paul established
 - They rebelled when God rescued them from Egypt
 - They rejected God by demanding a king
 - Now they rejected the Messiah God sent
 - They missed that the Old Testament points to Jesus (Acts 13:27)
 - Though Jesus was sinless, he was put to death (Acts 13:28)
- In this was, the Jews fulfilled Scripture (Acts 13:29)
 - In doing so, they served God's plan for salvation (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - The resurrection validates our salvation (Acts 13:30-31)
- Paul then quoted Psalm 2 and Psalm 16 from the Old Testament and showed how they were ultimately about Jesus

Part Three: A Call to Salvation (Acts 13:38-41)

- Forgiveness of sins is now available through Jesus (Acts 13:38)
- The only way to receive this forgiveness is by faith (the law can't free you, Acts 13:39)
- Don't be like Israel and rebel against the faithfulness of the Lord (Acts 13:40-41, 2 Timothy 2:11-13)

Paul's Sermon

Acts 13:13-44

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- This is the Apostle Paul's first recorded sermon (although he certainly had preached many before this)
- This is the longest written version of one of Paul's sermons (although all of them are certainly abridged)
- This is an example of a synagogue sermon
- The sermon breaks down into three parts:

Part One: God's Faithfulness to Israel (Acts 13:16-25)

- Paul began each of the three sections by addressing his listeners
 - Along with Jews, Paul included Gentiles who worshiped God ("you who fear God," Acts 13:16)
- God initiated his relationship with Israel when he chose Abraham (Acts 13:17; Genesis 12:1)
- Paul laid out a series of examples of God's faithfulness to Israel

First Example of God's Faithfulness to Israel

- God was faithful in Egypt
 - He kept his promise to make Israel a great nation (Genesis 12:2; Acts 13:17)
 - He delivered them from slavery in Egypt (Acts 13:17)
- God was faithful as Israel went through the wilderness
 - The people were not faithful to God (Exodus 16:2; 31:1; Deuteronomy 1:26)

- Although God punished them, he did not abandon his people (Acts 13:18)
- God faithfully brought Israel into the promised land
 - God kept his promise to give Israel the land (Genesis 12:7; Acts 13:19)
 - This is all a type (or symbol) of our deliverance from sin into the Kingdom of God

Second Example of God's Faithfulness to Israel

- God remained faithful in land of Israel
 - He cared for them through judges and the Samuel (Acts 13:20)
 - He protected them with judges (Judges 2:16)
 - He guided them through Samuel (1 Samuel 3:20)
 - Israel knew that God was with them (1 Samuel 7:12)
- God was faithful through the reign of King Saul
 - Despite God's faithfulness, Israel asked for a king (Acts 13:21)
 - King Saul was a result of Israel's rejection of God (1 Samuel 8:7)
 - Like the wilderness, Saul lasted for forty years (Acts 13:21)
- God faithfully removed Saul and anointed King David
 - God reclaimed the throne through David (Acts 13:22)
 - David loved God and obeyed God (Acts 13:22)
 - David's line led to Christ as Savior and King (Acts 13:23)
- In both of Paul's first two examples, God worked through Israel's rejection to accomplish his own faithful purposes

Third Example of God's Faithfulness to Israel

- God is committed to sending a savior
 - Paul had shown this by types (the promised land, King David)
 - And Paul also said it directly (Acts 13:23)
- Israel had once again turned from God
 - John the Baptist called Israel to repentance and baptism (Acts 13:24)
 - You don't need to repent unless you've sinned
 - You don't need to be baptized unless you are alienated (Jews weren't baptized in the Old Testament; only Gentiles who converted)
- Now God's greatest was here
 - John the Baptist had been the greatest prophet (Matthew 11:11)
 - Yet Jesus is infinitely greater than John (Acts 13:25)
 - Jesus is the fulfilment of God's greatest promise
 - The promise of salvation
 - Every other promise points to this one

Part Two: God's Promise Fulfilled in Christ (Acts 13:26-37)

- Paul began this section by again addressing his audience
- Again he included Jews along with Gentiles who worship God ("those among you who fear God," Acts 13:26)