Acts 12-13

Ch 12
Theme – Herod Agrippa I persecutes the church; Apostle James is beheaded (1st apostolic martyr); when Herod sees that this pleases religious Jews, arrests Peter as well; Peter in prison until after the Feast of Unleavened Bread (fine with murder, but not with violating outward form of the Law); Peter sleeping (confident in Jn 21:18); angel guides Peter out of jail; Peter thinks it's a vision (like Acts 10:10-16); when Peter realizes, goes to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark; poor Peter left outside the gate; Rhoda the servant girl is dismissed and disregarded (since Barnabas & Saul/ Paul are in Jerusalem, were they there?); Peter keeps knocking; Peter explains, charges them to notify James (who is not there), & goes into hiding; Herod Agrippa I has guards executed; flattery of delegation from Tyre & Sidon; Herod is judged by God because he refused to fear God & give God the glory God is due; Herod is eaten by worms, but Gospel continues to spread; Barnabas & Saul/ Paul return to Antioch from Jerusalem & bring John Mark with them

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Ch 13
Theme – While ministering before the Lord/ worshipping & fasting, the Holy Spirit commands Antioch church leaders to set Barnabas & Saul/ Paul apart for ministry; how to hear from the Lord: 1) listen to the Spirit (the Word), 2) fast from distractions, 3) pray, 4) seek Godly counsel; Barnabas & Saul/ Paul sent out on Paul's 1st Missionary Journey (Acts 13:4-14:48); travel to Cyprus (hometown area of Barnabas); travel the island from East to West; Barnabas & Saul/ Paul opposed by false prophet, NAME CHANGE; Paul confronts Elymas; Elymas struck blind (like cursing of fig tree in Mark 11:13-14, his outward condition now matches his inward condition); travel to southern coast of modern day Turkey; John Mark goes home; Paul & Barnabas go to Synagogue (ministry pattern); Paul's sermon (v14-51, example of Paul's teaching to those w/ O.T. background); teaching Jews & God-fearing Gentiles; history beginning with the Exodus, then continuing through Wilderness Wandering, Campaign for the Promised Land, Time of the Judges, to asking for a king; contrast between King Saul (king the people would have chosen: 1Sam 10:23-24) & King David (man after God's own heart- 1Sam 13:14); God is a God who removes & raises up; promise of a Messiah given to David, not Saul; the Messiah is Jesus!; the Lord

Jesus is foretold by John the Baptist; Gospel is for Jews & Gentiles; the Jewish people rejected the Messiah they were being prepared for; their rejection fulfilled the Scripture about the Messiah; even those who loved Him put Him in a tomb, BUT GOD!; Resurrection witnessed by witnesses; Resurrection proves the Scripture promises were fulfilled (Ps 2:7, Isa 55:3, Ps 16:10); the promise to the Messiah is superior to what was promised to David; Resurrection proclaims the forgiveness of sins is available to ALL WHO BELIEVE; many of the people want to hear more, but jealous religious leaders reject and oppose the Gospel message; Paul & Barnabas withstand them & declare that their rejection does not stop the Gospel, but it continues to the Gentiles; Paul & Barnabas apply Isa 49:6 to themselves (always God's plan to save the Gentiles as well as the Jews); Gentiles rejoice & as many as were appointed were saved (Sovereign election); Jewish persecution drives Paul & Barnabas out of the area to Iconium; church in Pisidian Antioch continues with joy & the Holy Spirit

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Ch 14

Theme –Ministry in Iconium, persecution drives Paul & Barnabas to Lystra; lame man healed & people with pagan worldview try to worship Paul & Barnabas; sample sermon of Paul speaking to people with pagan background (a more full sermon is in Acts 17/ Mars' Hill); Jewish agitators from Antioch Pisidia & Iconium stir up crowd in Lystra; Paul stoned & left for dead; Paul gets up & goes back into Lystra; Paul & Barnabas goes to Derbe; return trip through all the cities in order to strengthen & organize the church (not one & done); return to Antioch in Syria; Night of Sharing

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