

PART 15: THE ANTIOCH MODEL

ACTS 11:19-30; 12:25; 13:1-3

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info/monday



MAIN IDEA

Like the wind spreads dandelion seeds...persecution of early church resulted in the spreading of the gospel...one big seed landed in *Antioch*!

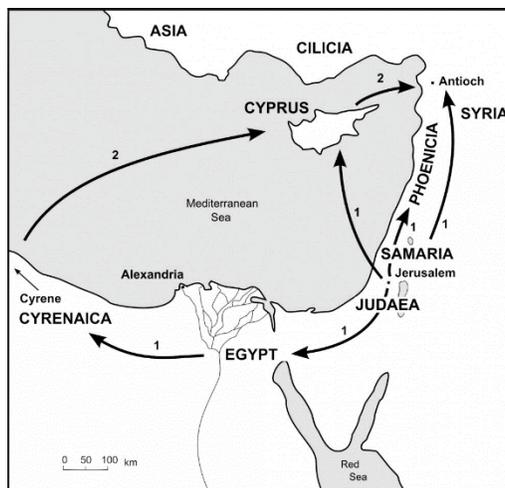
I. BACKGROUND

A. Locations

1. Antioch: the large capital city of Syria, of about 500,000 people.¹
2. Cyprus: An island in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea. It's about 148 miles long and about 40 miles across. Barnabás was a native of Cyprus.

¹ (Tenney 47)

3. Cyrene: A Libyan city in North Africa.
4. Jerusalem: The capital of Israel.
5. Judea: the mountainous southern part of the region of Israel.
6. Phoenicia: A strip of coastal territory between Samaria and Antioch.
7. Tarsus: A city of Cilicia and the birthplace and early residence of the Apostle Paul (Acts 21:39).



B. Characters

1. Agabus: One of the prophets from Jerusalem who came to Antioch and prophesied a famine throughout the world.
2. Barnabas: An early convert to Christianity. He sold a field and gave the proceeds to the support of the poorer members in the church in Jerusalem (Acts 4:36ff).
3. Claudius Caesar: Reigned AD 41-54. The fourth Roman emperor who ruled as a weak, vacillating leader.²
4. John (Mark): The writer of the Gospel of Mark and a companion to the Apostle Paul in his missionary work. Later he assisted the Apostle Peter in Rome. Three names appear in the New Testament for this early Christian: John Mark, his Jewish and Roman names; Mark; and John. The King James Bible calls him Marcus. John Mark was not one of the 12 apostles of Jesus.
5. Lucius of Cyrene: A Christian from Cyrene ministering in the church at Antioch.
6. Manaen: A leader in the church at Antioch.
7. Saul: The Hebrew name for the Apostle Paul (Acts 13:9).
8. Simeon (Niger): One of the leaders in the church at Antioch, surnamed Niger, who set apart Paul and Barnabas for their missionary work (Acts 13:1-2).
9. Stephen: One of the seven appointed to look after the daily distribution to the poor in the early church. However, Stephen's ministry was not limited to providing for the poor. He also did great wonders and signs among the people (Acts 6:8). The Jewish Sanhedrin martyred him.

II. SUMMARY

A. The church in Antioch grows as Gentiles turn to the Lord (11:19-30)

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews.²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

² (Tenney 174)

B. The ministry of Barnabas in Antioch (11:22-24)

News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.



C. Barnabas and Saul work together in Antioch (11:25-26)

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

D. Agabus predicts a famine (11:27-30)

During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)²⁹ The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea.³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul."

E. Barnabas and Saul return to Antioch from Jerusalem (12:25)

When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission to Jerusalem, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark." (See 11:27-30).

F. Barnabas and Saul are called and sent by the Holy Spirit (13:1-3)

Now in the church at Antioch, there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod, the tetrarch), and Saul.² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."

III. APPLICATION



Like Barnabas, let's find ways to be a people builder, a discipler, a trainer, and a coach to those in the church you attend.