



# Mission

Taking Jesus  
to the World

What's Your Mission?

Acts 1:1–13:3 Overview

*Pastor Nathan Mains* – Jan 10, 2010

# Ancient Promises reveal God's heart

□ Adam & Eve – “...*he* (the promised deliverer, offspring of the woman) *will crush your* (Satan/serpent's) *head, and you will strike his heel.*“ Genesis 3:15

□ Abraham - "*Leave your country, your people ... and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you...*" - Gen 12:1-3  
"*To your offspring I will give this land.*"  
Gen 12:7 (NIV)

## Promises of a Coming King

□ David – *I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail. I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure.* Psalm 89:28-29

□ Isaiah - *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.* Isaiah 9:6-7

# Then Jesus Comes

- 5 BC – Jesus is born in Bethlehem
- 8-30 AD – Jesus works as a carpenter in Nazareth
- 30-33 AD – Jesus ministers in Galilee & Judea and chooses 12 disciples to be with Him. They believe he's the promised one
- 33 AD Jesus is crucified & resurrected; He then appears to His followers & gives them their mission to focus on till He returns. He promises the Holy Spirit to be with them & empower them for the mission.

The Mission Jesus left his followers

Matt 28:19-20 *Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

Acts 1:6 *So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

➤ **Do you get why they ask this question?**

7 *He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. (NIV)*

➤ **So, What's next? What's our Mission till then?**

So Jesus repeats the Mission

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*“ (NIV)

➤ And then what happened?

# Previous Acts Message Series

□ **Story of the First Church** – Good News spreads thru Jerusalem (April–June 2007 )  
Acts 1:1–6:7

**Acts 6:7** *So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.*

➤ Then persecution comes and forces the new Jesus movement out of Jerusalem into Judea & Samaria

## □ Spreading Flame – Good News spreads thru Judea & Samaria (Sept–Nov, 2007)

Acts 6:8–12:24

➤ **Acts 9:31** *Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.*

➤ Herod tries to douse it - ...*But the word of God continued to increase and spread.*

(Acts 12:24)

## □ Spreading Flame II - Good News begins to go to the ends of the earth (Feb–March, 08)

Acts 12:25–14:28

# Acts: the Story of Saul/Paul

- Born in Tarsus – 500 miles N of Jerusalem
- Trained by Gamaliel in Jerusalem
- Becomes a Pharisee of Pharisees
- Later in 33 AD – Stephen is martyred; Saul holds the cloaks of Stephen’s murderers – Acts 7;
- Saul’s Mission - Acts 8:3 *Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison... 9:1 breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples.*
- Acts 9:1...*He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. (NIV)*

# God had a different Mission for Saul

*Acts 9:3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.*

*4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"*

*5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.*

*"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*

*8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.*

*9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. (NIV)*

# Ananias' tough Assignment

The Lord to Ananias: *"Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul... Acts 9:11 (NIV)*

Acts 9:13 *"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."*

9:15 *But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.*

9:16 *I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."* (NIV)

# Saul's New Life

Acts 9:19-20 ...Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?"

22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

9:23 After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him, (NIV)

# Switching Missions can be tough

*Acts 9:24 but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him.*

*25 But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.*

➤ *Saul in Arabia (Galatians 1:17)*

*26 When he came to Jerusalem [37 AD], he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.*

□ *So is Paul's past too much to overcome? Is Yours?*

"I felt as if I were walking with destiny,  
and that all my past life had been but a  
preparation for this hour and this trial."

-- Winston Churchill

Sometimes we need help

*Acts 9: 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.*

*He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.*

*28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.*

*29 He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him.*

*30 When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. ['off the radar', Saul's home town, 500 mi. N]*

# Preparations for Mission

- 37-45 AD Paul in Syria, Tarsus, & Cilicia
- 38 AD Peter witnesses to Cornelius opening the door for the Gospel to go to Gentiles – Acts 10
- Acts 11:19 *Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to 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.*

## Better check this out

*Acts 11:22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.*

*23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts... a great number of people were brought to the Lord.*

*25 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. (NIV)*

□46 AD Antioch helps Jerusalem church

# Antioch Embraces the Mission

**Acts 13:1** *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.*

(NIV) - its 47 AD

# What about us?

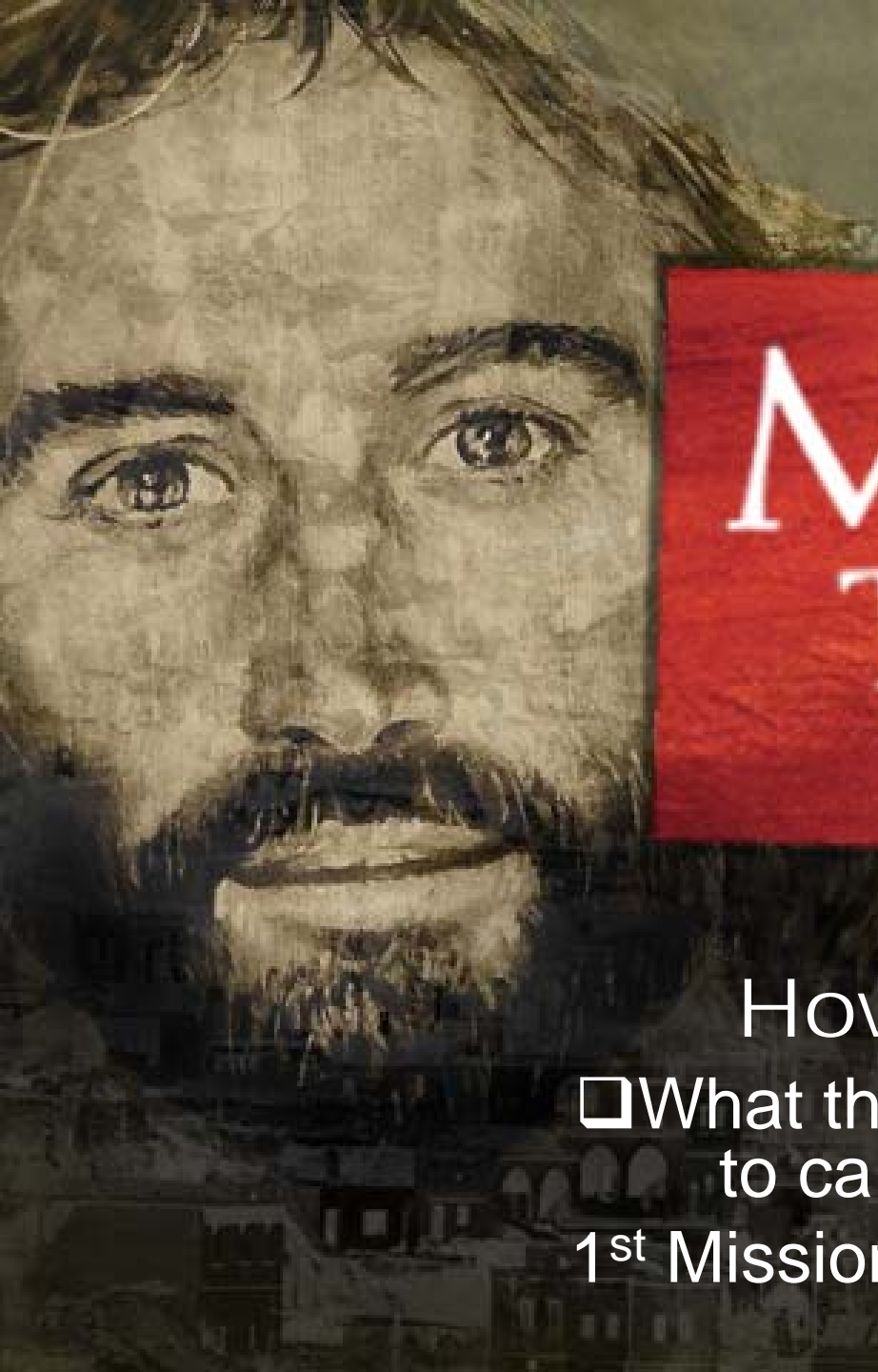
- ❑ If God can choose and use someone like Saul, there is hope. Nothing you have done has disqualified you from usefulness to God.
- ❑ No one is beyond the possibility of change. God is able to dramatically change people and circumstances as part of His Mission including you.
  - ❑ Jesus: *“I will build my church”*
- ❑ Paul’s mission: **to make disciples; turning people from lives focused on worthless things to eternal life with the living God thru faith in Jesus Christ.** (Special Focus: non-Jews and those who have never heard)
  - ❑ What’s Your Mission

## Time to Respond

☐ Believe that Jesus is the Christ who died and rose again and is now at the right hand of the Father offering eternal life and His indwelling Spirit to all who believe.

☐ Embrace Christ's Mission & your part in it - Trust the Holy Spirit to do His work. Just focus on you making the most of your opportunities.

*Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful... 5-6 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (NIV)*



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Next Week:

How to Make Disciples

□ What the Antioch church & Paul did  
to carry out Christ's Mission:

1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey – Acts 13 & 14

