

Reasoning out of the Scriptures by Allegory & Type



Signs in the book of Acts

study 3 Blindness to Israel

READ: Eph 4:8-16

- When he ascended to heaven, leading captivity captive, Christ gave gifts unto men. Those “gifts” are listed as:
- Apostles, prophets, evangelists (teacher of gospel), pastors (to feed) and teachers were for perfecting of the saints.
- The purpose was to mature the body of Christ in the knowledge of the Son of God, the perfect man.
- Thus, gifts meant no more tossed about, but sound in doctrine

The Lord said it was “expedient” for him to ascend to heaven—prevailing over the “prince of this world”—that the “comforter” would lead them to “all truth.” Thus, the emphasis was doctrine, not miracles (*JOHN 16:7-16*). The gifts were foremost the instruction in mature scriptural truth. The apostle states this plainly:

1Cor 12:28 “God hath set some in the church, FIRST apostles, SECONDARILY prophets, THIRDLY teachers, *after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments (ecclesial steering), diversities of tongues*” (Gk. means: *in order, succession—v. 6¹-11*)

Class 3—Blindness to Israel (Acts 10-13)

Elpis Israel, page 202-203

PETER

Acts 1-12 The Jews

Jerusalem Center of Preaching
Word spreads to Samaria

Chp 2—Peter's 1st Address

Chp 3—Lame man healed

Chp 8—Simon the sorcerer

Chp 8—Laying on of hands

Chp 10—Peter worshipped

Chp 9—Tabitha raised

Chp 12—Peter imprisoned

PAUL

Acts 13-28 The Gentiles

Antioch Center of Preaching
Word spreads to Rome

Chp 13—Paul's 1st Address

Chp 14—Lame man healed

Chp 13—Elymas the sorcerer

Chp 19—Laying on of hands

Chp 14—Paul worshipped

Chp 20—Eutychus raised

Chp 28—Paul imprisoned

Rom 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”

Mat 12:38-42 “**AN EVIL AND ADULTEROUS GENERATION SEEKETH AFTER A SIGN**; and there shall no SIGN be given to it, but the SIGN of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. **THE MEN OF NINEVEH shall rise in judgment with this generation**, and shall condemn it: because they REPENTED AT THE PREACHING of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here”

Luke 11:30 “As Jonah was a sign unto the **NINEVITES**, so shall also the Son of Man be to this generation”

- **The Lord never personally visited the Gentiles after his death and resurrection. However, Peter is called “the son of Jonah,” and was a fulfillment this prophecy, being an extension of Messiah’s work**

John 1:40-42—“And when Jesus beheld (Peter), he said, *Thou art Simon THE SON OF JONA*: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone”

Mat. 16:15-19—“**SIMON PETER** answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, **BLESSED ART THOU, SIMON BAR-JONA...**”

Act 10:1 There was *a certain man* in Caesarea called Cornelius, *a centurion* of the band called the Italian *band*,

Act 10:2 *A devout man*, and one that *feared God* WITH ALL HIS HOUSE, which *gave much alms to the people*, and prayed to God *alway*.
Caesarea—Roman city (Acts 21:8; 23:33; 25:13)

Centurion. Greek “hundred.” **100**—age of Abraham at Isaac’s birth—the son by the spirit (Gen 17:17; 21:5). The age used for all the seed of Abraham (Rom 4:19; Gal 3:16-29); number of saints (Mat 18:12; Joh 19:39)

➤ It is emphasized that Cornelius was “of good report among *all the nation of the Jews*” (Act 10:22). *Enlightened Gentiles understand “The Hope of Israel.”* Abraham’s seed constitutes both Jew and Gentile immersed into Christ (*seed—Gal 3:16*): “the Israel of God”—Gal 6:15-16.

☐ “It is named ELPIS ISRAEL, or *Israel's Hope*; for the kingdom of which it treats is that which is longed for by all intelligent Israelites... *Elpis Israel's* subject-matter IS NATIONAL, NOT SECTARIAN. It treats of a nation, and of its civil and ecclesiastical institutions in a past and *future age*. It is designed to enlighten both Jews and Gentiles in *Israel's Hope*”⁴

The Truth is not about a denomination

John Thomas

100—Abrahamic seed begotten by the Word (Jam 1:18).

Rom 4:16-19 “Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to *all the seed*; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (AS IT IS WRITTEN, I HAVE MADE THEE A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS,) before him whom he believed, even God, **who quickeneth the dead**, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, ACCORDING TO THAT WHICH WAS SPOKEN, (Gen 21:1-2) *So shall thy seed be*. And being not weak in faith, he **considered not his own body now dead**, WHEN HE WAS ABOUT AN HUNDRED YEARS OLD, **neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb**”

Gal 4:28-31 “Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born AFTER THE FLESH PERSECUTED HIM THAT WAS BORN AFTER THE SPIRIT, even so *it is* now... So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free”

Gal 3:26-29

Luk 7:1-9 “Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum. And a certain CENTURION'S servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. And when he heard of Jesus, *he sent unto him the elders of the Jews*, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: *For he loveth our nation*, and he hath built us a synagogue. Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the CENTURION *sent friends to him*, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof... When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, *I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel*”

Mat 8:11-12 adds: “MANY SHALL COME FROM THE EAST AND WEST, AND SHALL SIT DOWN WITH ABRAHAM, AND ISAAC, AND JACOB, IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. *But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out* into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” **Luk 13:28—Gal 4:30** “cast out”

Act 10:3 He saw in a *vision* **EVIDENTLY** *about the ninth hour of the day* an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

RSV, NIV—“clearly, openly”

Act 10:4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, *Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.*

Ninth hour. When Christ died, veil of temple was rent (Mat 27:45-53)

Act 10:5 And now ***SEND MEN** TO *Joppa*, and call for *one Simon*, whose surname is Peter: ***Again, need for Gentiles to seek Jewish hope**

Act 10:6 He lodgeth with one **SIMON** a *tanner*, whose *house is by the sea side*: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

Joppa. Where Jonah fled from preaching to Gentiles (Jonah 1:3)!

Simon a Tanner. Same name as Peter: animal skins Acts 9:42 (Lev 5:2)

Sea Side. Rep, a redeemed from all people, nations (Isa. 17:12; 57:20; 60:5; Psa. 18:4,16-17; 65:7; Luke 21:25; Rev. 17:15; Dan. 7:3,17; Eze. 26:3).

Sent men to Joppa. Reps. Gentiles “afar off” (Eph 2:11-18; Act 22:21; 2:39).

***Where Hiram cut down cedars, floated in water for the Temple—2Chr 2:12-18**

Act 10:9 *On the morrow*, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon THE ROOFTOP TO PRAY about the *sixth hour*: (*Mat 27:45*)—*Exo 30:3 incense altar top (roof)*

Act 10:10 And he *became very* HUNGRY, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, *he fell into a trance*

On the morrow. Acts 10:30 says Cornelius' vision was "FOUR DAYS AGO" PETER IS 3 DAYS FROM CORNELIUS. "On the morrow" (v 9), then "on the morrow" (v 23), and "the morrow after" (v 24). Jonah—3 days! Fell into a trance. deep sleep figurative of Messiah, whose sacrifice was for the benefit of both Jew and Gentile, as Peter learns (Eph 2:12-16)

Act 10:11 And *saw heaven opened*, and a CERTAIN VESSEL descending unto him, as it had been a GREAT SHEET knit *at the four corners*, and let down to the earth: (*Num 14:21; Rev 5:9-10*)

Heaven opened. Way of salvation opened (Joh 1:51; Rev 4:1; 15:15; 19:11). Certain vessel. Specifically, Christ (Act 9:15; 2Cor 4:7; 2Tim 2:20-21). Sheet. *Thayer: White linen*. Covering for Jew/Gentile—Rom 3:9 (Isa 53:11) Four corners. Israel scattered and re-gathered to include the Gentiles; people from every nation (Isa 11:12; Mat 24:31; Rev 5:9-10; 7:9)

Act 10:12 Wherein were *all manner of fourfooted beasts* of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

Act 10:15 And *the voice spake* unto him again the second time, *What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common...*

All manner—quoted Lev 11:27 rep. the unclean “walk” of godless heathen (Lev 20:22-27)! “Unclean” symbolizes the dead (Lev 5:2; Num 6). Beasts. Natural, fleshly men (Ecc 3:19-21; Psa 49:12,20; Jude 1:10). God hath cleansed, call not thou common. Same tran. “defile” (Mark 7:20-23; Rev 21:27). Only cleansed Gentiles can be graft into the Hope of Israel (Joh 15:3; 17:17; Eph 5:26; 1Pet 1:22-23; Psa 19:7-9; 2The 2:13).

Act 10:34 Then Peter **opened his mouth*, and said, *Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:*

Act 10:35 But *in every NATION he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him. *teach (Act 8:35; Mat 5:2; Eph 6:19)*

In every nation. The “Israel of God” is both Jew/Gentile (Acts 15:9; Rom 2:25-29; 10:12-13; 1Cor 12:13; Gal 3:26-29; 6:15-16; Eph 2:13-18; Rev 5:9-10)

Acts 11—detailed recount to Jews (Truth faithfully passed—2Tim 2:2; Gen 24)

This is the last major event recorded of Peter in Book of Acts

Act 12:1 Now **about that time* Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex CERTAIN of the church.

Act 12:2 And *he killed James* the brother of John with the sword.
**Unleavened bread (v 3) or Passover (v4)*

James—disciple, son of Zebedee and elder brother of John (Mat 10:2).

➤ James is the Greek form Jacob; which is the prophetic name for Israel after the flesh (Isa 2:3-6; Jer 30:7; 30:10, 18; 31:11). Political death of the nation associated with the death of Messiah (Luk 19:41-44).

Act 12:3 And because he saw *it pleased the Jews*, he proceeded further *to take Peter* also. (Then were the days of *unleavened bread*.)

Unleavened Bread—This is the time of the Passover, when the Lord himself was crucified (Mark 14:1, 12; Mat 26:17-19). Peter, like the Lord, was taken because “*it pleased the Jews*.” (Mat 27:23; Acts 24:27). The parallel between the two is remarkable in this account.¹⁰

Act 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, *he put him in prison*, and delivered *him to four quaternions of soldiers* to keep him; intending after **Easter* to bring him forth to the people.
**Passover—RV, RSV, NIV...etc*

Prison—symbolic of the grave, where the Lord was taken.

Psa 102:20 “To hear the groaning of *the prisoner*; to LOOSE those that are *appointed to death*” (Psa 79:11; Gen 40:1-3)

Four quaternions—other trans. have “four soldiers, set in four watches.” Only one other reference to four soldiers is here:

John 19:23 “The soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and *made four parts, to every soldier a part*”

Four—covering: all nations, kindred, people, tongues: N-S-E-W.

Intending after Passover to bring him forth—to arise again (Act 2:23-24)

Act 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but *prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him*.

Ecclesia—praying for the release and return of the persecuted Messiah; figuratively represented in the apostle Peter.

Act 12:6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was **SLEEPING BETWEEN TWO SOLDIERS, BOUND WITH TWO CHAINS**: and the keepers before **THE DOOR KEPT THE PRISON**. *(keepers at Jesus' grave assuring death Mat 27:62-66)*

Sleeping—reps. the state of death (Act 7:60; 13:36; John 11:11-14).

- *Strong's "figuratively, to decease." Used in Joh 11:11-12 Lazarus; Act 7:60 Stephen; David Act 13:36; and 1Cor 15:20,51; 1The 4:13-15.*

Between two soldiers—Jesus expired between two men (Joh 19:18).

Prison—as the Lord “made his grave with the wicked” (Isa 53:9), dying between “two thieves” (Mat 27:38). He was “numbered with the transgressors” (Isa 53:12). In this, he “endured such a contradiction of sinners against himself”—Heb 12:3. In character, he was “holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners”—Heb 7:26

Bound with two chains—Jew and Gentile who are subject to sin and death (Rom 1:16; 2:9-10). Thus, while not personally guilty of sin, the Lord did “taste death for every man” (Heb 2:9).

The Lord was “put to death in the flesh,” sharing our nature; under the bonds of “sin and death” (Heb 2:14; 9:26; 1Pet 4:1; Rom 8:3)

Door of the prison—opened by sacrifice of one man (Rom 5:12-19; Isa 61:1) “... opening of the prison to them that are bound” (Rev 1:18)

Act 12:7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and *a* LIGHT SHINED IN THE PRISON: and he *smote Peter on the side*, and *raised him up*, saying, *ARISE UP QUICKLY. And *his chains fell off from his hands*. *change Jesus' nature: mortal/immortal

Angel smote side—angels resurrected the Lord (Mat 28:1-3). “Side” is the same used for the piercing of Jesus upon the cross (John 19:34).

Light shined—the symbol of “life and immortality” (Psa 107:10-14; Isa 9:2; Mat 4:16; Luke 1:79 cf. 2Tim 1:10).

Raised him up—used 70x for resurrection.

- Rom 6:9 “Christ being raised from the dead”
- 1Cor 6:14 “(God) raised up the Lord” (1Cor 15:2; 30)

Chains fell off—Jesus released “bondage of corruption” (Rom 8:21).

Act 2:24 “Whom God *hath raised up*, having *loosed* the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it”

*For the “Hope of Israel” Paul was bound with a “chain” (Act 28:20)*¹³

Act 12:8 And the angel said unto him, *Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals.* And so he did. And he saith unto him, **Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.* ***clothed in white (Rev 3:5,18)**

Gird thyself, bind on thy sandals—phrase used when Israel departed Egypt at Passover (Exo 12:11): bondage to sin & death (Heb 2:15)!

Garment—used for being clothed upon with immortality (2Cor 5:4; Rev 3:4-5; 1Cor 15:51-54)

Heb 2:9 “We see Jesus, who was *made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death*, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man”

Note: Peter casts his own “garment” about himself (Mat 27:31)

Heb 13:20 “Now the God of peace, that BROUGHT AGAIN FROM THE DEAD our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, *through the blood of the everlasting covenant*”

☐ ***“It was a sacrifice operative on himself first of all; for he is the beginning of the new creation, the firstfruits of the new harvest...As such, it was needful that he should himself be subject of the process and the reaper of the results.” —Law of Moses, R.R. pg 90***

Act 12:10 When *they were past the first and the second ward*, they came unto the **IRON GATE** that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through **ONE STREET**; and forthwith *the angel departed* from him.

First and Second Ward—Gk. “guards.” Gentile times (2,000 yrs. Luk 21:24)

One Street—One Truth (Eph 4:4-6) obstructed by the “IRON GATE” now opens w/o resistance (1Tim 4:2; Dan 2:33-42). *Gk. word “street” is “deliver.”*

Angel Departed—the Age that is to come is to be the oversight of Christ and the Saints in the Kingdom of God (Heb 1:6):

Heb 2:5-10 “Unto the angels *hath he not put in subjection the world to come*, whereof we speak... Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet... *Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with honour and glory*”

Act 12:12 And when he had considered *the thing*, *he came to the house of Mary* the mother of **JOHN, WHOSE SURNAME WAS MARK**; *where many were gathered together praying*.

He came to the house—symbol used for the ecclesia of God (1Tim 3:15; Acts 8:3; Rom 16:5; 1Cor 16:19; Col 4:15).

Mary—“sorrow” *during his absence*. Fem. (*turned to Joy*. John 16:20-22)

Gathered Together—assembly of saints in two aspects: breaking of bread (Acts 20:7-8; 2:44; 1Cor 12), and at Christ’s return (Eph 5:14; 2The 2:1).

- *At his return, the Lord will reveal himself first to the “household of faith,” for so says Peter: “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God...” (1Pet 4:17).*

Act 12:13 And *as Peter knocked at the door of the gate*, A DAMSEL CAME TO HEARKEN, named Rhoda.

Hearken—always trans “obey, obedient”—Act 6:7; Rom 6:16-17; 10:16

Knocked at the door—appeal of Christ to his brethren (John 10:1-9)

Rev 3:14-20 “(Laodiceans)... I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot... *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me*”

Damsel—reps. Individual saints urging the house or ecclesia (v.5, 12).

Accordingly, a “damsel” is a female servant, ecclesia—hears!

Damsel—associated with a “*virgin.*” Remaining faithful in Truth.

Gen 24:16 “The DAMSEL was very fair to look upon, *a virgin*”

Deu 22:23 “If a DAMSEL that is *a virgin* be betrothed” a “maid” (v.14)

Virgin follows the LAMB—NOT DECEIVED BY FALSE DOCTRINE

Rev 14:4 “These are they which were not defiled with women; for *they are virgins.* These are they which *follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.* These were redeemed from among men, *being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb*”

Wise virgins are prepared to meet the Lord, and foolish virgins are not prepared to meet their Lord—Mat 25:1-13; John 10:27

Named Rhoda—Gk “a rose.” Reprs. *fullness of life* (Isa 35:1)

- As a “damsel” of the “house of Mary” she was a SERVANT! (Gen 24:14; Ruth 2:5). As a “servant” to the ecclesial-house she urged upon others in the Truth that Peter was “knocking at the door.” This is the duty of all those “in Christ”: to *serve one another in love* (Gal 5:13). *Brotherly Love—the Atonement.* (Mat 25:34-40).

Why is she specifically named? Rev 3:1-5 “thou hast a few names even in Sardis, which have not defiled their garments...”

Act 12:14 And *when she *knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the *GATE.* ***Gk. Doorway *to be fully acquainted**

Act 12:15 And they said unto her, *Thou art mad.* But she *constantly affirmed that it was even so.* Then said they, *It is his angel.* (see exhortation: 2Pet 3:1-3; Luke 21:24)

Knew Voice—“Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice” John 18:37 “My sheep hear my voice” John 10:27. News of Christ’s return should be received with joy from those praying “without ceasing.”

Luk 12:34-36 “Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; *And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately*”

Ran in, told—some excited, some doubtful about Christ’s return!

But she constantly affirmed—trans. “confidently affirmed” Luke 22:59. The word means “to be valiant.” Edification/exhortation of brethren!
House of Mary—better to be in the House of “sorrow” than the House of Mirth (Ecc 7:2-4; Pro 14:13; Isa 5:11-12; 1Pet 4:3-4).

Act 12:16 *But Peter continued knocking:* and when they had opened *the door*, and saw him, *they were astonished.*

Peter continued knocking—maintain, persevere (Act 13:43).

Jam 5:7-9 “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord... Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh... the judge standeth before the door”

Astonished—he should not come as a “thief” to the ecclesia (1The 5).

Act 12:17 But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, *declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison.*

Brought him out of prison—the Lord’s resurrection is our redemption:

1Cor 15:15 “If Christ be not raised, your faith is in vain, and ye are yet in your sins” (Acts 5:31; 1Pet 1:3)

Heb 9:26-28 “As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation”

Act 12:17 And he said, *Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren.* And he departed, and *went into another place.*

James—the Lord's brother. Christ also appeared to him, and he became a pillar in the ecclesia (1Cor 15:7; Acts 15:13; 21:18; Gal 1:9; 2:9).

➤ This event begins with a James (Jacob, Israel) put to death, and then concludes with saints called to reveal this symbolic death and resurrection to "James."

The saints will play a significant role in educating Israel in the Atonement and first advent of Messiah (priests: Eze 44:10-31; Rev 5:9-10; 1Pet 2:1-9; Psa 132:13-17). *Events Subsequent, J. Cowie*

He departed and went into another place—Peter is next recorded in Jerusalem (Acts 15:7), discussing circumcision with the Jews.

Act 12:18 Now *as soon as it was day*, there was no small stir among the soldiers, *what was become of Peter.*

What was become of Peter—world in ignorance to events (Mat 28:13) **Day**—the resurrection of Jesus (Mat 28:1-14). It also represents the second advent of the Lord (1Cor 5:5; 2Cor 1:4; 1Cor 3:13).

Act 12:19 And when Herod had *sought for him, and found him not*, he examined the keepers, and commanded that *they* should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and *there* abode. **(Mat 28:11-14)**

Sought, found him not—while his brethren will “see” him at his appearing, the world without will not (1John 3:2; Col 3:4; Heb 9:28; Job 19:26). This will also be the result of those who know not the Truth at the Lord’s second advent. Note the language of the prophet:

Isa 26:19-21 “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain”

Act 12:20 And Herod was highly displeased with them of *Tyre and Sidon*: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's *country*.

Act 12:21 And upon a set day Herod, *arrayed in royal apparel*, sat upon his *throne*, and made an *oration* unto them.

(after judgment at house of God, judgment on harlot, nations)

Tyre and Zidon—Gentile nations friendly to Israel (2Sam 5:11; 1Kin 5:1; 9:11-12; Ezra 3:7; Mat 11:21-22; 15:21-28). Prophetically, they are associated with the Tarshish power (Britain).

See Bible Magazine, Vol 20, No 3; Vol 26, No 4...etc.

Arrayed in royal apparel—clothing representing the Roman power, Herod reps. the false system Rome {**political turns religious: v. 22, as did the 4th Beast power in Daniel's vision: Dan 7**}

Throne—same word trans. “judgment seat” (Acts 18:12)

Made an oration—Dan 7:8, 20, 25. Diverse because of “speaking”²²

Act 12:22 And the people gave a shout, *saying*, **IT IS THE VOICE OF A GOD, AND NOT OF A MAN.**

Act 12:23 And immediately *the angel of the Lord smote him*, because he gave not God the glory: and *he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.*

Act 12:24 But the **WORD OF GOD GREW AND MULTIPLIED.**

Act 12:25 And Barnabas and Saul **returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry*, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark. ****Word spreads from Jerusalem***

Voice of a God, not a man—the Roman authority attributed with religious speech falls. In the position of deity this self-exalted man: “**exalteth himself...shewing himself that he is God**” 2The 2:4.

Angel Smote—7th time in chapter. Work of saints in future—Isa 37:36

Eaten with worms—reps. judgment and destruction by God (Mark 9:44-48) and fall of Babylon (Isa 14:11). Worms eat that which dies.

Word of God grew, multiplied—result of the death and resurrection of Christ (Acts 6:7; 11:21; 19:20)! Expression used for increase of the Jews (Exo 1:12; Act 7:17); and the Kingdom of God (Dan 2:35).

Act 13:1 Now there were *in the church* that was at **ANTIOCH** *certain* **PROPHETS and teachers**; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Prophets and teachers—Why does this follow Acts 12—the figurative death and resurrection of Jesus? It emphasizes chronology of events:

- **Eph 4:8-11** “When he (Jesus) ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men... And he gave some, APOSTLES; and some, PROPHETS; and some, EVANGELISTS; and some, PASTORS and TEACHERS; For the perfecting of the saints...”

Ecclesia at Antioch—becomes new center for Truth to Gentiles. *Called the “cradle of Christianity” by scholars (Acts 11:26). Thayer “driven against”*

Act 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, **Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.* ***Gal 1:15; Rom 1:1; Jer 1:5**

Isa 49:1-6; 42:6-7 declares Messiah to be *“a light to the Gentiles.”*

Fulfilled by Paul, taking up the Lord’s ministry (Acts 9:15).

Act 13:4 So they, being *sent forth by the Holy Spirit*, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence *they SAILED to Cyprus*.

Act 13:5 And when they were at *Salamis*, they preached the word of God *in the synagogues of the Jews...*

Sailed—first mention of this manner of transport mentioned in Acts! FROM the Jewish land/earth to the waters/sea of the Gentiles!

- The “ship” represents the one true Apostolic faith (Acts 2:42).

1Tim 1:18-20 “Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck...”

Christ “thrust out” and taught from “ship” on the “waters” (Mat 13:1-3). Luke 5:2 says there were “two ships”—Jew and Gentile

Salamis—waves. Gk. root trans “waves” in Luke 21:25. **Note context:** Luke 21:24-26 “*Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled...distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the WAVES roaring...the powers of heaven shall be shaken*”

Synagogues of the Jews—Paul consistently went “first” to the Jews, “after” to the Gentiles (Acts 13:14; 14:1; 17:1-17; 16:13; 18:4; 19:8; 28:17).

Act 13:6 And when they had gone through *the ISLE unto Paphos*, they found *a certain SORCERER, a FALSE PROPHET, A JEW, whose name was Bar-jesus*: (“isle” from Gk. root “ship”)

Isle—small portion of dry land (*Hope of Israel: Land*) in the midst of the waters (*Nations*), it reps. Gentiles who embrace the Truth.

Isa 49:1,6 “Listen, O ISLES, unto me; and hearken, ye people, *from far...I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth” ***“afar” Gentiles Acts 2:39; 22:21; Eph 2:12-13.** (*Isles afar off: Isa 66:19; 60:9; Psa 72:10-11; Acts 28:1-9*)

• *John—apocalypse revealed “in the isle that is called Patmos” (Rev 1:9).*

Bar-jesus—“son of Jesus” (*salvation*): reps. the false hope of salvation of the Jews, who corrupted the Truth with heathen sorcery

Sorcerer, False Prophet, A Jew—Israel’s dispersion from the Land:

Jer 27:9-10 “Hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, **NOR TO YOUR SORCERERS**, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: **For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish”**

(Jer 14:13-14; 23:14-16, 25-26; 27:10-14; 29:21; 37:19).

Act 13:7 Which was with the DEPUTY OF THE COUNTRY, *Sergius Paulus*, a *PRUDENT man; *who called* for Barnabas and Saul, and *DESIRED TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. *Gk. “to crave”

Act 13:8 But *Elymas the sorcerer* (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, *seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.* *Gk: intelligent, TO MENTALLY PUT TOGETHER!

Sergius Paulus—first name “of the earth,” second name means “little, small.” A required disposition to hear (Isa 66:2; Ezra 9:4; 10:3)

Elymas—known for his pagan name! Acts records the constant resistance of the Jews against any Gentile enlightened (Acts 13:48-50; 17:13; 15:1; Gal 2:1-21). Act 14:2 “The unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren”

1The 2:16 “Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost”

Turn away—trans. “perverse” generation (Mat 17:17)!

Deputy—assistant to Roman governor; *emphasis from Gentile country*

*ELYMAS—“WISE ONE” *wisdom of world vs. wisdom of God (1Cor 1-2)*.²⁷

Act 13:9 Then *Saul*, (who also is called *Paul*), **FILLED** with the Holy Ghost, *set his eyes on him, **fix attention directly*

Act 13:10 And said, O **FULL** of all subtilty and all mischief, *thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?*

Paul—same as “*Paulus*” (v.7). Known by this name here forward as he goes forth to enlighten the Gentiles (*except when referring to his conversion*). A contrast to the name by which Bar-jesus was known! **Child of the Devil**—the exact statement of Christ condemning the Jews for being born “of the flesh,” and not the children of Abraham.

John 8:39-44 “Jesus saith unto them, *If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham... Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do*”

- The “seed of Abraham” and “a Jew inwardly” are those **BAPTIZED** into Christ from all nations (Mat 3:6-9; Gal 3:7-9, 14, 26-29; Rom 4:9-25; 2:29)! Thus, the token of “circumcision” and the “barren womb” by which the Abrahamic seed was produced.

Pervert—same trans “turn away” (v.8) and “perverse things” (Act 20:30)

Act 13:11 And now, behold, *the hand of the Lord is upon thee*, and thou shalt be **BLIND**, *not seeing the sun for a season*. And immediately there fell on him a *mist* and a *darkness*; and he went about seeking some to *lead him by the hand*.

(Zedekiah's eyes put out rep. the nation. Jer 52:11)

Hand of the Lord Upon Thee—used of Yahweh against Israel:

Deu 2:15 “For indeed *the hand of the LORD was against them*, to destroy them” (Israel in wilderness). 1Sam 12:15; Isa 51:17

Jud 2:15 “Whithersoever they went out, *the hand of the LORD was against them for evil...*” (Israel mingling among nations).

Blind—expression for Israel’s spiritual hardness to Messiah (see: Mat 23:16-26; Luke 6:39; John 9:41; Isa 29:10). Blind guides, blind to sin, blind leaders of the blind. (see: Rom 11:2; 2Kin 25:7; 1Sam 4:15).

Not Seeing the Sun—the “sun” is the symbol used for the second advent of Christ (Mal 4:2); and specifically as the seed of David sitting upon the throne over Israel (see: Psa 89:34-36). However, note carefully this is not a permanent state. It is only for a certain duration.

For a Season—word “**season**” is the exact same used for the period or duration of Jewish blindness and Gentile enlightenment!

- **Luke 21:24** “They shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until **THE TIMES** of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (see also: Eph 1:10)

Darkness—the very word used by Jesus toward the Jews after beholding the faith of the Gentile centurion: (John 3:19; Acts 26:18)

- **Mat 8:11-12** “I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. *But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth*”
(scattered among Gentile nations)

Paul was sent to the Gentiles to “open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light” (Acts 26:15-18). The Jew is now in the same condition of the Gentile, as a “mist” or veil of spiritual darkness is over all nations (Isa 25:7; 60:1-3). This was and is self-imposed ignorance due to hardness of heart (2Cor 4:4).

Act 13:12 Then the deputy, *when he saw what was done*, believed, being astonished *at THE DOCTRINE of the Lord*.

The Doctrine—proving all “signs” are related teach doctrine. Here, the Gentiles “believe” because of the “doctrine” of the Jew (Isa 41-48). The “doctrine” was revealed by what “he saw.” He was a “prudent” Gentile (v. 7—to mentally assemble).

Rom 11:25-28 “I would not, brethren, *that ye should be ignorant of this mystery*, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that *blindness* in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. *As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes*”

• **Doctrine of the Kingdom: root of all parables.** (Mark 4:2; Psa 49:4)

Saw—is translated “perceive” (Mar 4:12), “knowing” (Mark 5:33), “knew” (Luke 4:41; 6:8)...etc. and means *to understand!*

Rom 11:7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were *blinded*

Rom 11:8 (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, *eyes that they should not see*, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

Rom 11:9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:

Rom 11:10 *Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see*, and bow down their back always.

Rom 11:11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: **BUT RATHER THROUGH THEIR FALL SALVATION IS COME UNTO THE GENTILES**, for to provoke them to jealousy...

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; *that blindness in part is happened to Israel*, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Rom 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

The rest of Acts 13 is Paul's exposition in a synagogue of the Jews, where the apostle warns the Jews they rejected their Saviour. The response was similar to that of Elymas: Act 13:42-48 “And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. ”

2Cor 12:11 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

2Cor 12:12 Truly THE SIGNS OF AN APOSTLE WERE WROUGHT AMONG YOU in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

- *Proof of Paul's apostleship was evident in his endurance under trial—vs 1-10—as well as the signs, wonders and mighty deeds performed by him personally. We emphasize again that the “signs” were manifested in the personal lives of those who conducted them, being a living testimony of the doctrine employed in them personally and the Acts of their lives: both apostles and prophets.*
- *Paul says that the “approving as the ministers of God” included “afflictions” and “distresses” (2Cor 6:4-10). Thus, in both “word and deed” the apostles manifested the doctrine, which was accompanied by “mighty signs and wonders” (Rom 15:18-19). This is a stark contrast to today's effeminate clergy, who most often live in luxury and bathe in the adulation of men (1The 2:1-11).*