

Acts 13: What Will You Do with the Grace of God?

- A. Let's take a look together at Paul's very first recorded sermon, documented in *Acts 13* during Paul's first missionary journey. Paul and Barnabas have come to Antioch in Pisidia. It is a Sabbath day in a synagogue.
- B. "After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message... 'If you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.' So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said..."

I. God Raises Up a Great _____: The Message of God's Law

- _____: God chose Abraham and his descendants as a means of bringing grace into the world
- _____: God made Israel into a great nation during their slavery in Egypt; at the right time, he led them out
- _____ - _____: For 40 years, God put up with Israel in the wilderness
- _____: After destroying 7 Canaanite nations, God gave Israel their land as an inheritance

} "All this took about 450 years."

II. God Raises Up a Great _____: The Message of Israel's Future

- _____: God gave Israel judges until Samuel the prophet
- _____: In the days of Samuel, Israel asked for a king; God gave them Saul for forty years
- _____: When God had removed Saul, he raised up David to be their king
 - ⇒ God testified of him: "I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do my will"
 - ⇒ David wrote some beautiful psalms that not only praised God, but prophetically looked forward to God's Holy One
 - ⇒ David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, died and "saw corruption"

III. God Raises Up His Own _____: The Message of Mankind's Salvation

- _____ - _____: Of David's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised
 - ⇒ Before Jesus' coming, John proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel
 - ◇ But John also made clear that he was not the long-awaited Deliverer
 - ⇒ Inhabitants of Jerusalem and the Jewish rulers did not recognize Jesus nor understand the utterances of the prophets
 - ◇ In fact, they fulfilled the utterances of the prophets by condemning Jesus
 - ◇ Though they did not find in Jesus any guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed
 - ⇒ When they had carried out all that was written of Jesus (_____ - _____), they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb
 - ⇒ But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to men and women who are now active witnesses (_____)

IV. God Raises *THE* _____: "What Will You Do with My Grace?"

- "We bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled by raising Jesus from the dead, no more to return to corruption"
- "Let it be known to you therefore, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone can be set free" (_____ - _____)
- "What will you do with God's grace?"
 - ⇒ Will you fall into the very trap the prophets foretold?
 - ⇒ Will you come into contact with and continue in the grace of God?