

Acts 11:19-30 **Early Church at Antioch of Syria**

Church was scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen

19 Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. 20 But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

Barnabas sent to Antioch

22 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. 23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Barnabas sought for Saul and brought him to Antioch

25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. 26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Agabus predicted a great famine – pledge to send relief to Jerusalem

27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul. NKJV

Facts revealed:

Church scattered after Stephen

- ✚ Now **those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen** traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, **preaching the word to no one but the Jews only**. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, **spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus**. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and **a great number believed and turned to the Lord**. [Acts 11:19-21]
- ✧ The Church had been scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen. [Acts 8:1, 11:19]
- ✧ Those who were scattered preached the Word to the Jews only. [Acts 8:19]
- ✧ Jesus had said, "**Go into all the world** and **preach the Gospel to everyone**, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **teach them to obey all I have commanded you**, and lo, I am with you always until the end. [Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16]
- ✧ Some from Cyprus and Cyrene came to Antioch and **spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus**. [Acts 11:20]
 - ✧ The Hellenists were Jews whose families fell under the influence of Hellenism and gave up their Jewish traditions to save their lives under the assault of the Greeks and Syrians 332 BC to 140 BC.
- ✧ A great number believed and turned to the Lord because the Lord was with them.
- ✧ The Holy Spirit freely moves in hearts that are open to the message of Salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, and draws them to Jesus in humble belief.

Barnabas sent to Antioch

- ✚ Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out **Barnabas** to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. [Acts 11:22-24]
- ✧ Joses, who was also named **Barnabas** by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus. [Acts 4:35-36]
- ✧ Barnabas was a good man full of the Holy Spirit and faith. [Acts 11:24]
- ✧ Barnabas was the one who had introduced Saul to the Church in Jerusalem when they were afraid of him because Saul had previously persecuted the Church.
- ✧ Barnabas was sent to Antioch by the Church in Jerusalem, and when he arrived he lived up to his name and encouraged them, resulting in a great many people being added to the Lord. [Acts 11:22, 24]
- ✧ Barnabas counseled them to continue with the Lord with purpose of heart (determination). [Acts 11:23]

Barnabas sought for Saul and brought him to Antioch

- ✚ Then **Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul**. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And **the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch**. [Acts 11:25-26]
- ✧ Barnabas saw an area that could use a dynamic man like Saul of Tarsus, so he sought him out and brought him to the Church in Antioch.
- ✧ They continued teaching a great many people in the Church at Antioch for a full year, where the believers were first called "Christian."

Agabus predicted a great famine – pledge to send relief to Jerusalem

- ✚ And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named **Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar**. [Acts 11:27-28]
- ✧ The great famine was predicted when Agabus came from Jerusalem to Antioch with other prophets.
- ✧ The message originated by the Holy Spirit.
- ✧ The famine actually did come in the days of Claudius Caesar.
- ✚ Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul. [Acts 11:29-30]
- ✧ The Disciples determined (pledged) to send relief to the Brethren in Judea, each according to his own ability.
- ✧ The relief was sent to the Elders of the Church by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.
- ✧ This is the same relief of which Paul wrote in his letter for the Corinthians to prepare and have ready for him to take to Jerusalem. [1 Corinthians 16:1-4]