

with a harbor, and it was the residence of the Roman governor of the island of Cyprus. Paphos name means "suffering" or "boiling" or "hot," and was famous for being a unrestrained and immoral town who worshipped the Greek god Venus; Venus was also known as the queen of Paphos. A superb temple was built at Paphos in honor of Venus where she was worshipped with all her rites. In stating it another way we see that Satan was having his way at this time at Paphos. The temple and the town of Paphos were later destroyed by an earthquake.

## Opposition at Paphos

Thus we get a good picture of what Barnabas and Saul were about to face here at Paphos, for we next read in ACTS 13:6 that *...they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus:...* . History notes that during this period of time the Jewish magicians (sorcerers) had great influence on the Roman leaders including even the Caesar's. Biblical history records various leaders turning to sorcery's, that is turning to the magicians for counsel and guidance. In GENESIS 41 the Pharaoh of Joseph's day dreamed a troubling dream, and in verse 8 we find: *And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.* Later in that chapter the Lord God gave Joseph the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream, and Joseph was exalted to second in command in Egypt. God had done this for Joseph. The Pharaoh of Moses day was asked nine times of God to "Let my people go." {See EXODUS 5:1; 7:16; 8:1; 8:20; 8:21; 9:1; 9:13; 10:3; and 10:4}. (Nine is the number that has to do with FINALITY and DIVINE COMPLETENESS). Six scriptures record Moses' Pharaoh calling for the magicians (sorcerers) for help. {See EXODUS 7:11; 7:22; 8:7; 8:18; 8:19; and 9:11}. One of the meanings of the number 6 that we learned in our numbers study was that often times the number 6 had to do with Satan, and with Satan's influence over worldly man. We listed in our numbers study in three different sets of six (6+6+6) the various names used in scripture of Satan. As we go through the following scriptures it will become more and more evident that Satan is power hungry, and since he is power hungry we don't find it unusual for him to be the influence behind many of these worldly men of power. Satan himself tempted Jesus with worldly power, and you can read this whole account in LUKE 4:1-13 for yourself, but for now let's look at LUKE 4:6 which reads: *And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.* Do you even think that this is a true statement? Many a power hungry man has fell for this lie of the Devil. Note what the scripture has to say concerning this subject. DANIEL 4:17 *...that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. ...25 (and 32) ...the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.* DANIEL 5:21 *...the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.* While we are in the book of DANIEL note the number six again where we find six scriptures in DANIEL showing both king Nebuchadnezzar and king Belshazzar calling upon magicians (sorcerers) for guidance, {see DANIEL 1:20; 2:2; 2:27; 4:7; 4:9 and 5:11}. Thus we find it rather common in scripture for the leaders to be influenced by the magicians (sorcerers). (If you want to study this subject out further look up the words: magicians, sorcerers, astrologers, soothsayers, stargazers, monthly prognosticators, false prophet(s), observer(s) of times, diviners, dreamers, adversary, enchanter(s), charmer(s), necromancer, witch, wizard, witchcraft(s), eloquent orator and cunning artificer; 18 different names describing Satan's followers. 18 is the number of BONDAGE). Further our passage in ACTS 13:6 points out that this sorcerer was also a false prophet, that is one who, acting the part of a divinely inspired prophet, utters falsehoods under the name of divine prophecies. Eleven times in scripture we find the words false prophet(s). Eleven is the number of INSUFFICIENCY. In MATTHEW 7:15-20 we read Jesus warning statements concerning false prophets: *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth*

good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. The Apostle Paul gave a similar warning unto the elders of the Ephesian church, after he had spent about three years establishing a church there, to beware of false prophets, stating in ACTS 20:29 *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.* Again in MATTHEW 24 Jesus warns his disciples of false prophets a couple of different times stating in verse 11 *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.* And MATTHEW 24:24 states: *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.* In 1 JOHN 4 we read: 1 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.* 2 *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:* 3 *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.* 4 *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.* 5 *They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.* 6 *We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.* This sorcerer, this false prophet that Barnabas and Saul confronted in this wicked town of Paphos was called Bar-Jesus meaning “son of Jesus.” Notice that there is a hyphen between Bar and Jesus. It was common in those days to use the word Bar in front of a name to indicate that a man was the son of a man whose name followed. For example Jesus Himself called Simon Peter, Simon Barjona (meaning son of Jona) in MATTHEW 16:17. In MARK 10:46 we read of “blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus,” again showing that Bar sometimes indicates who a man was the son of. Bar-Jesus name then indicates that Bar-Jesus was the son of a man named Jesus. Even his name reeks a lie. JOHN 8:44 again reads: *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.* This man Bar-Jesus may have been the son of a man named Jesus, but he certainly wasn’t the son of Jesus Christ. His name does explain his devilish mission: to bar Jesus, meaning to oppose, prevent, forbid, obstruct, exclude, to keep out the gospel message of Jesus. In verse 8 we find that Bar-Jesus had another name, which was “Elymas the sorcerer” meaning: wise; learned; a magician. We will discuss more about Bar-Jesus and his mission when we get to the facts in verse 10.

Remember that one of the very important things that the Lord Himself told Saul of Tarsus on that road to Damascus was that He was sending him unto the Gentiles *...To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.* {ACTS 26:18}. We are about to see the beginning of Saul’s ministry unto the Gentiles here in ACTS 13:7-11. In verse 6 we found that Barnabas and Saul had taken their time going through the island of Cyprus preaching the word of God, and in so doing they had become sort of famous, for Sergius Paulus, the deputy (or governor) of the island, had heard of them and requested a private audience with Barnabas and Saul. We read of this request in verse 7. ACTS 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.* We can glean quite a bit of information about Sergius Paulus from this verse, the only place where he is mentioned by name in scripture. We see first of all that he was a “deputy of the country,” the equivalent of one of our governors of a state. There were in the days of the Caesar’s two types of governors of the Roman provinces. The provinces were known as Caesarean or imperial, and into those provinces were sent propretors, which were magistrates that had previously served under Caesar in that capacity in Rome. The other type of governor was those who belonged to the senate and people of Rome, and when they were sent to govern a senatorial province of the people of Rome, they were called proconsuls. A proconsul was the kind of governor that Sergius Paulus was. An inscription found on

two coins dated A.D. 51 and 52 lists Paulus as the proconsul of Cyprus. No doubt this inscription is in reference to the same Sergius Paulus we are talking about. We are told here in verse 7 that Sergius Paulus was “a prudent man.” The word used here for “prudent” is found four times in New Testament scripture, and means intelligent, wise, learned, of a sound understanding, and shows that Sergius Paulus was a man of good sense. One author notes that this word “prudent” may also show the sense of candid, and may have been used of Sergius Paulus because he was a man of large liberal views with a philosophic and inquiring mind, who was willing to obtain knowledge from any source. Hence he had entertained the Jews like Bar-Jesus, and was also willing to listen to the Jews Barnabas and Saul; men whose preaching had aroused his curiosity. PROVERBS 14:15 *The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.* PROVERBS 18:15 *The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.* Hence we gather that Sergius Paulus had an open mind we he requested a private audience with Barnabas and Saul, to hear for himself what kind of preaching this was that was stirring up the people of Cyprus. Down the road a few short years the Apostle Paul would write a little concerning his experiences with the mighty and the noble, and we will see that Sergius Paulus doesn’t fit the “norm” of this group. 1 CORINTHIANS 1:22 *For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;... .* The name Sergius means “earth-born: born a wonder,” and the name Paulus means “little.” It will be more than a little wonder when Sergius Paulus is born again in verse 12!

Having now been given some background information concerning Sergius Paulus let’s again read ACTS 13:7. ACTS 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.* Note that Sergius Paulus was a wise and prudent man who “desired to hear the word of God.” This word “desired” in the Greek is found 14 times in New Testament scripture, (14 is the number of DELIVERANCE or SALVATION), and means to seek earnestly, to enquire for, seek for, search for, seek diligently. Recall in MATTHEW 2 that the wise men from the east diligently sought for two years the young child Jesus, and one of the verses in our Christmas songs states that “wise men still seek Him today.” Ask yourself how many today are desirous to hear the word of God? I think you will find the answer is not many. The Apostle Paul told us in 2 TIMOTHY 3 that in the last days men shall be lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. 2 TIMOTHY 3:1 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;... .* Recently we had more people show up to a Christmas program than we do to hear the word of God on a Sunday morning. The wise and prudent desire to hear the word of God. In LUKE 11:28 we read these words of Jesus: *...blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.* ROMANS 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* HEBREWS 4:12 *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* In HEBREWS 11:3 we find a hint at just how powerful the word of God is: *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.* 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13 *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.* If you want to get to know Jesus better, get to know the word of God, and here’s what you will find ...his name is

called The Word of God. {REVELATION 19:13}. There are 45 scriptures which use the phrase "the word of God;" 45 is the number of PRESERVATION. Sergius Paulus was a wise and prudent man who "desired to hear the word of God." Obviously the word of God that was being spread by Barnabas and Saul on the island of Cyprus had a far reaching effect beyond even the ears of those who were hearing it, for even the ears of the governor was eager to hear it.

Let's look at ACTS 13:8-10 and examine these verses together. ACTS 13:8 *But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. 9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, 10 And said, C 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?* Elymas' name means wise: learned: a magician; and from interpretation it is thought that he may have even been called a doctor. In the least he was respected and a learned man, and his mission was to withstand Barnabas and Saul and to turn away the governor from hearing the word of God. One of the key words in verse 8 is that word "withstood," which means to set one's self against (face to face), to withstand (face to face), to resist (face to face), to oppose (face to face), and to set against. Elymas himself was seeking some sort of popularity, power, and political influence, otherwise why hang out with the governor? Elymas' lively hood depended on his being able to influence the governor. Thus Elymas withstood Barnabas and Saul (face to face) with the intent "to turn away the deputy from the faith." There was more at stake here than just trying to protect his job, for Elymas was about the devil's business, which was far more important to him. Notice that verse 10 gives a full revealing account of just what the business of Elymas was, stating that he was a man ...full of all subtilty and all mischief,... a ...child of the devil,... an ...enemy of all righteousness..., whose mission was ...to pervert the right ways of the Lord. The Greek word translated "pervert" here in verse 10 is the same word translated "turn away" in verse 8. "Pervert" means: to distort, to turn aside, to oppose, plot against the saving purposes and plans of God, to turn aside from the right path, to corrupt. Thus we get a glimpse of the opposition that Satan would use to oppose Paul's gospel even being preached, and this was not just true only here at this Satan infested unrestrained and immoral town of Paphos whose inhabitants actively worshipped the Greek god Venus; this kind of opposition from Satan was encountered everywhere Paul would go.

To further appreciate what was about to take place here at Paphos, we need to note the complete change that has taken place in Saul of Tarsus since he was on that road to Damascus. ACTS 13:9 again in part reads: *Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost...* The first part of this change that the Holy Ghost wants us to see is the name change from Saul to Paul. This is the first scripture where we find Saul of Tarsus called Paul. Paul is called Paul from here on out in scripture, except for the times when he is referred to on the road to Damascus. Saul of Tarsus was probably named in memory of Israel's much desired and asked for first king Saul. The name "Saul" means "asked for" or "desired." 1 SAMUEL 9:2 tells us that king Saul was head and shoulders taller than any of the people. The name Saul was Saul of Tarsus' Hebrew name given him of his Jewish parents. But also to be noted in his day that the Jews had two names, one Hebrew, and one Greek, Latin or Roman name, and Saul of Tarsus Latin name was Paul. Paul means "little." In JOHN 3:30 we read these words of John the Baptist: *He must increase, but I must decrease*, spoken of John the Baptists place compared to Jesus place. The Holy Ghost wants us to note the name change from Saul to Paul, (from the tall "desired" to the "little"), to show us how Paul had this same heart attitude as John the Baptist: *He must increase, but I must decrease*. Paul himself states it like this in 2 CORINTHIANS 12:10 *...for when I am weak, then am I strong*. In EPHESIANS 6:10 the experienced Apostle Paul writes: *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might*. The "power of His might" is manifest through Christians that are filled with the Holy Ghost. ACTS 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:....* . Further in EPHESIANS 6:11 & 12 Paul writes: *11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness {wicked spirits} in*

*high places.* {high: or, heavenly}. It is exactly this kind of spiritual battle that Paul is now facing here at Paphos.

Note in verse 9 this most important point that Paul was (as one translator puts it) "full of the Holy Ghost." The whole book of ACTS is really about some of the things men were able to do because they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and not only were they filled with the Holy Ghost, they were full of the Holy Ghost, and His unlimited heavenly power was manifest through them. Saul of Tarsus first witnessed the power of the Holy Ghost in the life of Stephen. We have noted many times in lessons past how that the whole powerful message of ACTS chapter 7 is left as a record for us because of the fact that Holy Ghost recorded it in the heart of a young man who personally heard Stephen's sermon, and this young man's name was Saul of Tarsus. ACTS chapter 6 notes this of Stephen: in verse 3 we see that Stephen was one of seven men chosen that was *...full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom...*; in verse 5 we see *...Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost...*; and verses 8-10 read: *8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. 9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.* All of the above mentioned facts about Stephen were only possible because he was a yielded vessel "full of the Holy Ghost." We can wonder what Stephen could have accomplished had he not been stoned to death in ACTS 7, but Stephen had finished his course after planting the seeds of the gospel in the heart of Saul of Tarsus. Now back here in ACTS 13:9 we find the same power of the Holy Ghost about to be manifest through Paul because he too now was a yielded vessel "full of the Holy Ghost." In a sense (though not really) Paul now will pick up where Stephen left off! (If you study ACTS 6 you will note in verse 11-14 that they who opposed Stephen set up false witness against him, and here in ACTS 13:6-13 we find one in opposition to Paul and Barnabas named Elymas who himself is a false witness). Paul will only be able to stand against the wiles of the devil here at Paphos because he has put on the whole armour of God, and that most importantly includes being filled of the Holy Ghost.

ACTS 13:10 *And said, C 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?* Let's look at three more of the key words in this verse before we move on. The word "subtilty" comes from a Greek word which also translates into the following English words: craft, deceit, guile and subtilty. The following verses come to mind when thinking about the word "subtilty." GENESIS 3:1 *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ...3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. 14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.* 2 CORINTHIANS 11:3 *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.* REVELATION 12:9 *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* So we see that Satan himself is pictured when we read the word "subtilty." The next key word that we note in ACTS 13:10 is "mischief," which is only found once in the New Testament, and means: unscrupulous, cunning, mischief. The Greek word translated in "mischief" is also in some versions translated "villany," which further carries with it the thought of wickedness, easiness, and laziness, and is a word also used of theft. In JOHN 10:10 we read these words of Jesus: *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* Also in LUKE 9:56 we read: *For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.* In REVELATION 9:11 we read of Apollyon: that is to say, A destroyer, a reference to Satan himself. REVELATION 9:11 *And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.* The third word we will examine in ACTS 13:10 is the word "enemy." Enemy means: hated, odious, hateful,



hostile, hating, and opposing another. Jesus probably best defined the enemy in the following verses: MATTHEW 13:24 *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. 26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this.... . ....36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. 37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil.* Thus in these three words, subtilty, mischief, and enemy, we get different snap shots of Satan, the influence behind Elymas the sorcerer.

ACTS 13:8 *But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. 9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, 10 And said, C 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? How did Paul know that Elymas was full of all subtilty and all mischief, and that Elymas was a child of the devil, who is the enemy of all righteousness? Paul was full of the Holy Ghost, and the Holy Ghost knew who this Elymas was, and what he was about. ACTS 13:1 tells us of five men who were prophets and teachers, and Paul (as we now call him) was one of these prophets. In other words Paul had the gift of prophecy, and he even states ...I have the gift of prophecy... in 1 CORINTHIANS 13:2. This gift of prophecy is a sign and an evidence that Paul was full of the Holy Ghost; (study 1 CORINTHIANS 12-14). The Holy Ghost knew who Elymas was and what Elymas was about, and this information came out from the lips of Paul in the form of a prophecy. Apparently Both Sergius Paulus (the governor) and Elymas the sorcerer listened to the preaching of the word of God for awhile before Elymas "withstood" Barnabas and Paul ...seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. In 2 TIMOTHY 3:8 we read who these sorcerers were that withstood Moses in EXODUS 7:11; 7:22; 8:7; 8:18; 8:19; and 9:11: Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate { a mind void of judgment or, an unapproving mind} concerning the faith. Again later in 2 TIMOTHY Paul warns Timothy of another man who "withstood our words:" 2 TIMOTHY 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: 15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words. {For background information concerning Alexander ("man-defender") the coppersmith study also ACTS 19:33 & 1 TIMOTHY 1:20 along with 2 TIMOTHY 2:17}. These men that withstand the words of the Lord are inspired of Satan, and the Holy Ghost knows who these men are; thus Paul full of the Holy Ghost can prophecy these words to Elymas in front of Sergius Paulus and Barnabas: C 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? If Paul was trying to make "brownie points" with the governor this was not the way to do it, for what Paul had to say was not politically correct. Paul however wasn't trying to gain the governors favor, he was trying to prevent the governor from going to hell. GALATIANS 1:10 *For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.* Note that Paul by the power of the Holy Ghost called Elymas ...*thou child of the devil...*, which literally translates to "son of the devil." These words spoken of Jesus in JOHN 8:44 apply to Elymas: *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.* Brother Copley in his commentary of ACTS 13:10 notes this most important point, of comparing the phrase ...*thou child of the devil...* with the phrase ...*the children of disobedience...* {see EPHESIANS 2:2; 5:6 and COLOSSIANS 3:6}. Essentially we are talking about the same group of people here. The children of disobedience follow ...*according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in...* them, which is the spirit of Satan. {See EPHESIANS 2:2}. ...*Because of these**

things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. {See EPHESIANS 5:6 and COLOSSIANS 3:6}. The ...wrath of God... will never come upon a son of God. JOHN 3:36 tells us: *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.* Further ROMANS 5:8 & 9 tells us: *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.* Brother Copley notes this of the children of disobedience: "for them, there is no salvation. They have grown in their surrender to Satan and become his sons. What a terribly solemn fact is this. All of us who are saved were once "by nature children of wrath;" but not children of the devil; much less sons. Thank God, by the new birth, we became children of God (GALATIANS 3:26); now it is our privilege to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord" (2 PETER 3:18), and thus become sons of God "led by the Spirit of God" (ROMANS 8:14)". {End of quote from Brother Copley}.

Before we move on let's note a couple of points regarding Satan. Satan had a wonderful place in heaven before iniquity was found in him, and we read a little of this in EZEKIEL 28:13 & 14: *Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.* Thus we see the lofty place that once was Satan's. In our Son's of God study we pointed out that this place that once was Satan's will be given to the bride of Christ. No wonder Satan fights against the potential full-overcomers so intensely! EZEKIEL 28:15 and 17 further state this of Satan: *15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. Verse 17 goes on to state: Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness:....* ISAIAH 14:13 and 14 tells us this of Satan's iniquity: *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.* EPHESIANS 2:2 notes that Satan still has power, and is ...the prince of the power of the air... who even tempted Jesus with worldly power, as we saw earlier in LUKE 4:6 which reads: *And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.* Where do we find Satan today? We find that not only is Satan ...the prince of the power of the air... today, but he also is constantly hanging around before the throne of God still not convinced that he has lost his former place in heaven. The following scriptures help point this out. JOB 1:6 *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. 7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. ...* JOB 2:1 *Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. 2 And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.* What is Satan doing hanging around before the throne of God? REVELATION 12:10 indicates that Satan constantly hangs around before the throne of God accusing the brethren before our God day and night. If Satan were an employee there would be none better, for he is always on the job day and night! ZECHARIAH 3:1 further illustrates our point, stating: *And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.* No wonder Peter warns in 1 PETER 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.* JAMES 4:7 states nearly the same thought as Peter did earlier this way: *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* Recall earlier in his life at the crucifixion of Jesus that Peter was warned by Jesus of the intentions of Satan concerning Peter: LUKE 22:31 *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath*

*desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:...* . The question arises then, why does God still allow Satan access before the throne of God? God allows access of Satan before the throne of God so that God can use Satan as a tool to achieve part of the work that needs to be accomplished in the life of a believer. To be a full overcomer requires many obstacles in the life of a believer to overcome. If Satan can be used of God as an instrument of some of these many obstacles then so be it; for this is part of those all things that work together for good to them that love God, and to them who are the called according to his purpose {paraphrasing ROMANS 8:28}. In Peter's case illustrated above Satan was used as an instrument of God (as Brother Hawkins put it) "to separate the flesh from the spirit." You see we believers have a greater power in us than he that is in the world, and God wants the believer to yield to the greater power of the Spirit of God and grow up in Him and become that full overcomer. 1 JOHN 4:1 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.* Amazing then isn't it that Satan himself is used as a tool of God partly as an instrument to bring the full overcomer to occupy the wonderful place in Heaven that Satan himself once held! No wonder then that the Holy Spirit left for us such encouraging scriptures as 1 PETER 4:12 & 13 and ROMANS 8:18. 1 PETER 4:12 *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.* ROMANS 8:18 *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.* Paul many times in our lessons will come up against the wily powers of the devil, and our scripture of ACTS 13 is just one of these times.

We now will comment on verse 11, but first let's read again verses 9-11. ACTS 13:9 *Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, 10 And said, Cfull 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? 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.* Paul full of the Holy Ghost and by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost having now asked Elymas this question: *...wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?* makes an "eye opening" statement: *And now, behold,...* . In other words the Holy Ghost through Paul is making this statement: Elymas I now want you to see something from the hand of the Lord. The phrase "the hand of the Lord" is found 36 times in scripture, and this is the 36th time here in verse 11. 36 is the number that points to an ENEMY. Elymas was an enemy of the truth having yielded his life totally over to the god of this world (Satan). In 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3 & 4 the Apostle Paul makes this statement: 3 *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.* So we see that the mind of Elymas was blinded by Satan, and to illustrate this point to those who were hearing Paul preach here in ACTS 13 the Holy Ghost through Paul said: *And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season.* If you think back on the conversion of Saul of Tarsus (Paul) you will remember that he too was blinded for a season. The difference between Saul of Tarsus' blindness and Elymas' blindness was the condition of their heart. Saul of Tarsus' heart was full of Light; Elymas' heart was full of darkness. When the power of the Holy Ghost came upon believing Paul in ACTS 9:18 *...immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales...* . (The scales that fell from Saul's eyes were given to him of the Lord to protect his eyes from that blinding light that Paul saw in the way on the road to Damascus a few days earlier. In one sense its show us of God's great love and thoughtfulness towards us in every aspect of our lives. Had the Lord not given Saul "scales" to protect his eyes, he may very well have been physically blind the rest of his



life. The scales falling off are also representative of the truth that can only be revealed by the Holy Spirit. Those who haven't been filled with the Holy Ghost have "scales" over their spiritual eyes, which keep them from seeing all the things God would like them to see. That's why being filled with the Holy Ghost is such an eye opening experience. Jesus told his disciples in JOHN 16:12 - 15: *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.* How can you be guided into all the truth without the Holy Ghost? You can't. Further how can you see all the truth without the guidance of the Holy Ghost? You can't. If you haven't received the Holy Ghost since ye believed (see ACTS 19:2 - 6) then there are "scales" over your spiritual eyes.) When the hand of the Lord came upon unbelieving Elymas in ACTS 13:11 *...immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.* The governor Sergius Paulus witnessed this "miracle," his spiritual eyes being opened just as Elymas' physical eyes were being blinded by the hand of the Lord. Recall in ACTS 26:18 that the Lord Himself told Saul of Tarsus on that road to Damascus was that He was sending him unto the Gentiles *...To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.* This is exactly what was taking place here at Paphos with the governor Sergius Paulus; his spiritual eyes were opened, he believed, and he turned from darkness to light having received the word of God and forgiveness of sins. ACTS 13:12 states it like this: *Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.* As for Elymas the child of the devil, the son of Satan, note the condition his taskmaster (Satan) has brought him to: not only spiritual blindness but also physical blindness to the point that he is helpless and needs someone to lead him by the hand, and in such a helpless condition he would be unemployable. In short following the leading of Satan has cost Elymas his sight, his job, and in the end his life has been completely destroyed forever by the destroyer. {See again the bottom of page 118 of these notes the comment and reference to REVELATION 9:11}.

ACTS 13:12 again reads: *Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.* Recall in verse 7 that the governor called for Barnabas and Paul desirous to hear the word of God, and yet in verses 8-11 no scriptures were quoted, but rather there was a demonstration of the Spirit and power of God, which amazingly astonished the governor to the point that he became a believer in Christ. Paul, as his manner was, let the Lord have His way. This is our first example of the preaching of the Apostle Paul, yet there seems to be gaps here in what his message was. Obviously Luke didn't record every word of Paul that was said here before the governor, but later in 1 CORINTHIANS 2 Paul wrote of the way it was when he came unto the Corinthians. 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1 *And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.* Obviously also is the fact that the governor witnessed the power of God in what happened to Elymas the sorcerer. No doubt the governor had questions after this that he asked of Barnabas and Paul, thus he learned some of the doctrine of the Lord and heard that day for the first time in his life the word of God. Sergius Paulus was just the first of many Roman gentiles that got to hear the word of God because of Paul's preaching. A later example of the Roman gentiles who had heard the word of God because of Paul's gospel is found in PHILIPPIANS 4:22, where Paul writes: *All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.*

## Paphos to Perga to Antioch in Pisidia

ACTS 13:13 *Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.* Even though on the surface it doesn't seem like there is anything real important in this verse, or the next verse, there is a lot of good information hidden herein that the Holy Ghost left for us to see. We are not told in scripture of any others in Paul's company on this journey other than Barnabas and John Mark. Thus we can assume that *...when Paul and his company...* are spoken of it simply refers to Barnabas and John Mark. We do know as time went on in later journeys many others joined in the company of Paul. The important thing to see here is that Paul has gone from the last one mentioned in verses 1 & 2 (of ACTS 13) to the main character of focus on this journey. It seems Barnabas has taken Paul as far as he can having now introduced him to those acquaintances of his home country. Obviously the Holy Ghost is now leading the direction that Paul and Barnabas will go next. The sailing distance by ship from Paphos to Perga in Pamphylia is about 200 miles. Pamphylia is a province in Asia Minor, and Perga was one of the most considerable cities in Pamphylia, however Perga was not a maritime city, but rather was situated on the river Cestrus about 7 and 1/2 miles upstream from it's mouth. Perga means: "earthy, much earth, or very earthy." Pamphylia means: "of every tribe, or all sorts, or all tribes." 1 CORINTHIANS 15:47 tells us: *The first man is of the earth, earthy:...*, thus we see that Perga was made up of earthy men and women from all over the world. In Paul's day those at Perga were famous for the worship of the Greek goddess Diana, and on a neighboring mountain of Perga was a splendid temple of Diana, which gave celebrity to the earthy men and women from all over the world. Paul and Barnabas and John did not come to Perga to see the sights, but rather they were following the leading of the Holy Ghost. We do not read of any preaching taking place at Perga here in ACTS 13:13, but later in ACTS 14:25 we find Paul and Barnabas preaching the word in Perga. John Mark was not willing to go on from Perga with Paul and Barnabas, thus he returned by himself to Jerusalem. Perhaps John Mark wasn't at that time willing to follow the leadership of Paul, or possibly other things influenced his departure. We know from ACTS 13:2 that it was Barnabas and Saul (Paul) who were separated unto the work to which the Holy Ghost had called them, and John Mark's name was not included in this calling. We have already commented on John Mark earlier in this study. Paul and Barnabas went forth to the work to which they had been called by the Holy Ghost, which is a major step that each and every full overcomer must take: that is to be faithful to the calling of the Lord in your life.

ACTS 13:14 *But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.* After leaving Perga in Pamphylia Paul and Barnabas came to another town named Antioch. This town named Antioch was the capital of a province of Asia Minor called Pisidia. The journey from Perga to Antioch in Pisidia needs some explanation. It seems that it was to such places as Perga that the Lord had told the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus he was sending him too {see again ACTS 26:16-18}. Perga was full of unbelieving Gentiles, earthy people from every part of the world, so why would Paul leave such a place without first preaching to these people? Keep in mind Paul and Barnabas were following the leading of the Holy Ghost, and the Holy Ghost was leading them to Antioch in Pisidia. Conybeare and Howson in their notes on the Life and Epistles of St. Paul note a custom from this region of Asia Minor that has apparently prevailed for centuries, and this custom is to leave the hot regions near the sea in late spring, and move up to the cooler basin-like hollows on the mountains with their flocks and herds. Thus Perga's population dwindles during the hot summer months, and there would be few people left to preach to during that time. The journey from Perga in Pamphylia to Antioch in Pisidia traverses some of the most rugged terrain that the Apostle Paul would ever face. One commentator notes that the journey from Perga to Antioch would be a long journey, the route laying almost entirely through rugged mountain passes with rivers bursting out of the bases of huge cliffs, or dash down wildly through very narrow ravines, making the journey a most hazardous one. Paul and Barnabas probably continued this hazardous journey up the course of the Cestrus River as far as the inland lake district, and then proceeded slowly