

# DUNAMIS

Power Hour

for the love of the Word

----- journey through the Bible -----



# The Era Of Evangelism

**Acts 11;19 – 15;35**

# Points Tonight.....

- Persecution of the church continues
- Evangelical strategy used by the Apostles
- First missionary trips
- Jews and Gentiles
- Dilemma in the church



## PERSECUTION IN THE CHURCH CONTINUES .....

- Acts 1: 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.
- Persecution hits the church, People scattered : Phoenicia, Cyprus, Antioch
- And the Mediterranean area influenced by believers
- Acts 12 : Herod persecutes the church
- Herod dies a violent death
- Peter imprisoned : released by an angel
- James put to death
- Peter stoned and left for dead
- Dissention amongst the people
- Act 14:2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren
- Acts 14:22b.. We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God



## EVANGELICAL STRATEGY USED BY THE APOSTLES .....

First went to cities and lands where the gospel had not been preached

Apostles first went to the Synagogue's; Preached the word to the Jews. Operated as a team  
Then they include the Gentiles; "God Fearers" who were in the synagogue at a later stage

Cyprus : Act 13:5 And when they arrived in Salamis they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews.

Antioch : Act 13:14b. And went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day ..; Iconium : Act 14:1

This pattern stayed consistent in all of Pauls journeys as he believed that the Jews should first hear the gospel

However more gentiles responded to the word and eventually a whole city responded

Act 13:42-44 V 44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God



The pattern changes :

Lystra : Acts 14:8-28 Very few Jews in the town, Miracle takes place and a cripple man was healed.  
The whole town responds and esteems them as “ gods “

They spend weeks or months with them establishing their faith and the church

Apostles retrace steps and affirm what they had taught to the people and set leaders in place as guided by the Holy Spirit

Can be called church planting

Note: whole Roman world reached in a single generation



# FIRST MISSIONARY TRIPS....



## JEWS AND GENTILES .....

Jews were the first to receive the Word of God { GOSPEL }

Started in Jerusalem and then spread out ( already showed this in the pattern of evangelism )

Gentiles now included :

Act 13:46 .. It was necessary that the Word of God should be spoken to you first, but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles

Act 14:27 Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles

As the church grew mainly with Gentiles the apostles struggled with their integration and how to relate with people who were significantly different to them





## DILEMA IN THE CHURCH

Acts 15:5 And some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying “ it is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”

Here they are talking of the gentiles !

Debate amongst the apostles and leaders : Known as the Council of Jerusalem

Some wanted the Gentiles to follow the law of circumcision of the flesh to show that they were Jews. There is opposition not to Yoke them unnecessarily

Solution reached : Gentiles should not :

- Abstain from idol worship
- Abstain from illicit sex ( cultural thing )
- Give up unbutchered meat
- Abstain from shedding blood

Eph 2:14-18 Read



# QUESTIONS



power in action

Next weeks topic

THE GENTILE CHURCH

ACTS 16-19



power in action