

# PAUL AND BARNABAS WORK FOR JESUS

Acts 13:1-52; 14:1-28.

## LESSON 131 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: "We declare unto you glad tidings" (Acts 13:32).

### BIBLE TEXTS

#### Acts 13:1-52;

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.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

4 ¶ So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus:

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.

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, 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?

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.

12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

13 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

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.

15 And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

16 Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

17 The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

18 And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

19 And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

20 And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

24 When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

25 And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose.

26 Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

28 And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.

29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.

30 But God raised him from the dead:

31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.

35 Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

40 Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;

41 Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

42 ¶ And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.

43 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.

44 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

45 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.

46 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.

47 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.

48 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.

49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

## Acts 14:1-28.

1 ¶ And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

3 Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

4 But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.

5 And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them,

6 They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about:

7 And there they preached the gospel.

8 ¶ And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

12 And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.

13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

14 Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,

15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye

should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

18 And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

19 ¶ And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

20 Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

24 And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia.

25 And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia:

26 And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

28 And there they abode long time with the disciples.

## **The Call**

Our lesson today takes us across the sea to a church in the city of Antioch in the land of Syria. Here we find that a long time ago the Christians gathered to worship God. We read that as the people pray, the Holy Ghost tells them that He has work for two certain men of that church. Paul and his friend Barnabas are to go on a very important errand for Jesus.

Many people in faraway lands have never heard the Story of Jesus, and Paul and Barnabas are to go to preach the good news of Christ. Perhaps they are thinking: This will be a long, hard journey, but God has promised to supply all our needs; we must go and teach people about Jesus and show them how to be saved from their sins.

## **Missionaries**

Do you know what a missionary is? He is one who is sent out to work for Jesus. He goes to places where people do not know how to be saved and he teaches them of the love of God. Paul and Barnabas are among the first missionaries for Christ. They also take with them a young man named John Mark, from Jerusalem.

## **The Journey Begun**

Shall we try to imagine that we are with the three men as they say good-bye to friends in the church and begin their journey? Let us go with them down the mountains and toward the seashore. There are no trains or busses, so we must walk to Seleucia, a distance of sixteen miles.

Here we take a boat and sail to the island of Cyprus, which is the birthplace of Barnabas. We have learned much of Paul, but for a moment let us see what we may learn of our newly-found friend, Barnabas. The Bible tells us “he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith” (Acts 11:24). He was brave and strong and, like Paul, would risk his life to win souls for Jesus. (See Acts 15:26.) Surely he will make a good helper for Paul. We follow as the missionaries slowly make their way from one end of this island to the other

## **A Wicked Man**

Now who is this troublemaker we see coming toward us? We learn that his name is Elymas, and he does not like to hear Paul and Barnabas talk about Jesus. He is trying to hinder a very good man from believing on Jesus. But Paul has the Spirit of God in himself, and knows what is in that wicked man’s heart. He says to Elymas, “Thou child of the devil. . . the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind.” At once, this man becomes blind and tries to find someone to lead him by the hand. It is a terrible thing to hinder one who is seeking God, and surely Elymas was punished for his wickedness.

## **Glad Tidings**

But we must be on our way. We again board a ship and sail to Pamphylia. Here we say good-bye to our friend, John Mark, who returns to Jerusalem. We then go to the city of Antioch

— not the Antioch from where we started, but another city by the same name. We make our way through rugged mountain passes where there are many dangers. Robbers may be hiding along the trail, but God’s angels are watching over us, and nothing can harm us.

Now it is the Sabbath Day, the day the Jews go to their church, called a synagogue. We go to this church and sit among the Jews who are gathered for a meeting. Listen! Someone is reading from the Book of the Law — the Old Testament. When he stops reading, we see a man coming toward us. What do you suppose he says? The rulers of the church wish to know whether Paul and Barnabas have anything to say. How happy Paul is now! This is his opportunity to preach about Jesus. We watch him as he stands and waves his hand, perhaps to silence the people. He tells them about the love of God the Father; he tells of the birth of Jesus, and of His death and resurrection. Then he says to the Jews, “We declare unto you glad tidings.”

This is our memory verse, and it means, “We bring you good news.” What is the good news? It is the news that through Jesus Christ these people may be saved. Paul tells them not to turn away from Jesus, but to come to Him and be saved. The “glad tidings” have never before reached this land.

### **The Gentiles**

When Paul ends his sermon, we see all the Jews leave the church. But the Gentiles — those who are not Jews — gather about Paul and ask him to preach to them the next Sabbath. So the following Sabbath almost the whole city comes to hear the Word of God. This makes the Jews jealous. They are afraid that these preachers are becoming altogether too popular. “How can Paul preach the same Gospel to both the Jews and the Gentiles?” the Jews are probably saying. But Paul and Barnabas tell the Jews that since they did not receive the Gospel, “we turn to the Gentiles.” This is the purpose for which the missionaries have come — to preach salvation to the Gentiles. A great many believe the Story of Jesus and are saved.

Jesus wants all the people to come to Him and be saved. It matters not in what land they are born, or what colour their skin may be. Jesus came to save the lost, and every person born into the world needs to be saved.

### **The End of the Journey**

We follow from place to place as the busy preachers make many people happy. However, not all the people are friendly, and in one city the people throw stones at Paul and try to put an end to his working for Jesus. But Jesus loves Paul and does not let the wicked people kill him. There is more work to be done for Jesus.

After a time we start once more for home. We sail from Attalia to Syria and return to Antioch where the Christians are waiting for us. We listen as Paul and Barnabas tell the people what God has done. A crippled man has been healed on this journey, and a great many people have been led to know and love Jesus. Not only the Jews but also the Gentiles have had an opportunity to learn about the Gospel of Jesus. We read that the door of faith was opened to the Gentiles, which means that they learned to believe on Jesus and be saved. How thankful we are that we, too, have learned about Jesus!

### **For Jesus**

The greatest work that anyone can do is winning souls for Jesus; and we today may be missionaries, too. Although we do not all travel to faraway lands, as Paul and Barnabas did, we may work for Jesus. There are many ways in which children may be a blessing to others. Whatever we do for others because of love, we do for the Saviour Himself. Let us ask Jesus to make us errand-runners for Him.

**“Little feet be careful,  
Where you take me to,  
Anything for Jesus,  
Only let me do.”**

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Tell what happened to Elymas. Acts 13:11.
2. About whom did Paul preach in the synagogue? Acts 13:23.
3. Did the crippled man have faith for healing? Acts 14:9.
4. Was he rewarded for his faith? Acts 14:10.
5. Was God with Paul and Barnabas on their journey? Acts 13:52; 14:27.

## LESSON RESOURCES

### TITLE

# PAUL AND BARNABAS WORK FOR JESUS

Lesson 131

Acts 13:1-52; 14:1-28



MUSIC

# I Have a Saviour

WATCH & PRAY 51

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## SONG

# I Have a Saviour

I have a Saviour who cleansed me from sin

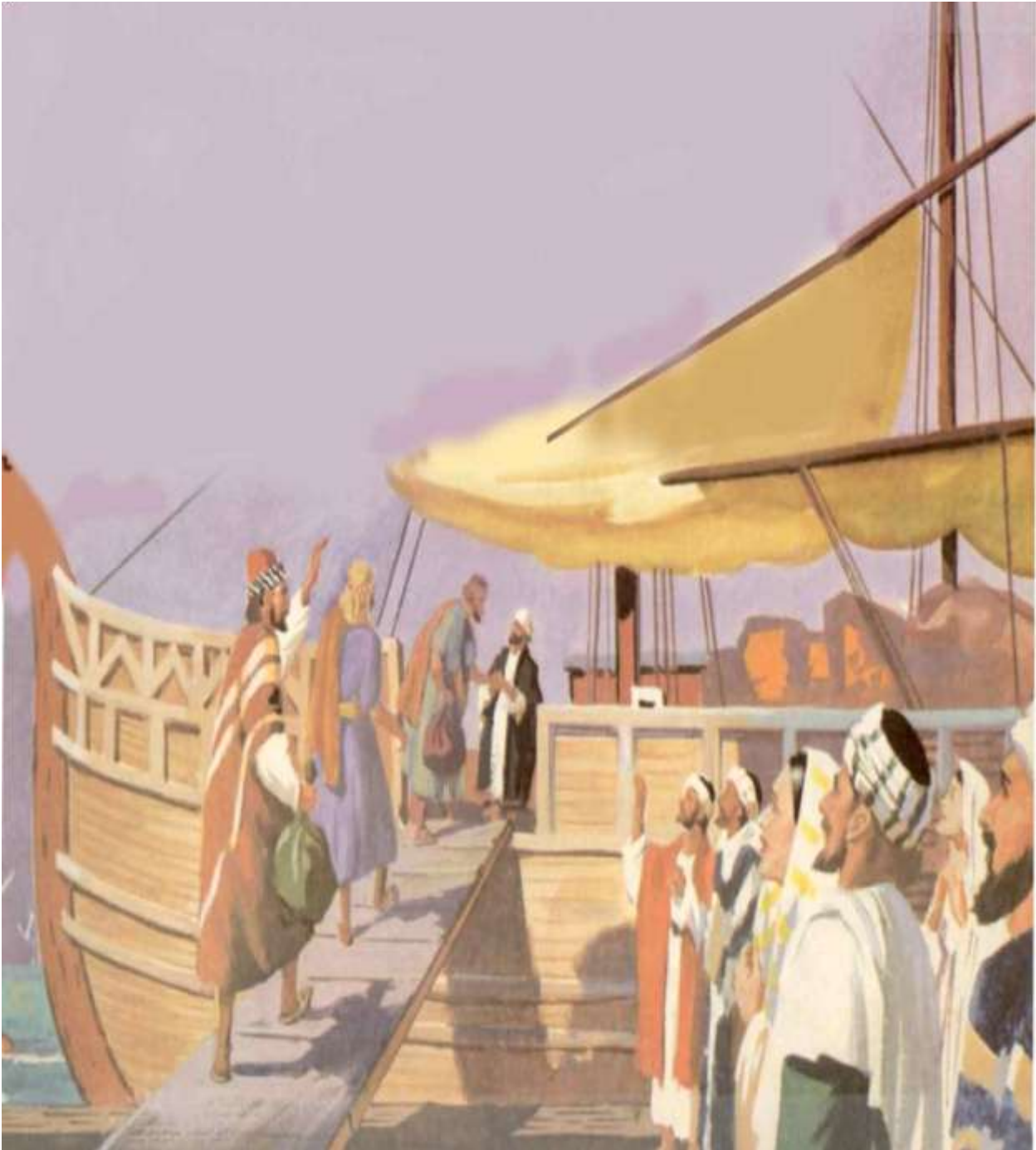
I have a Saviour who's dwelling within

Now I am happy each step of the way,

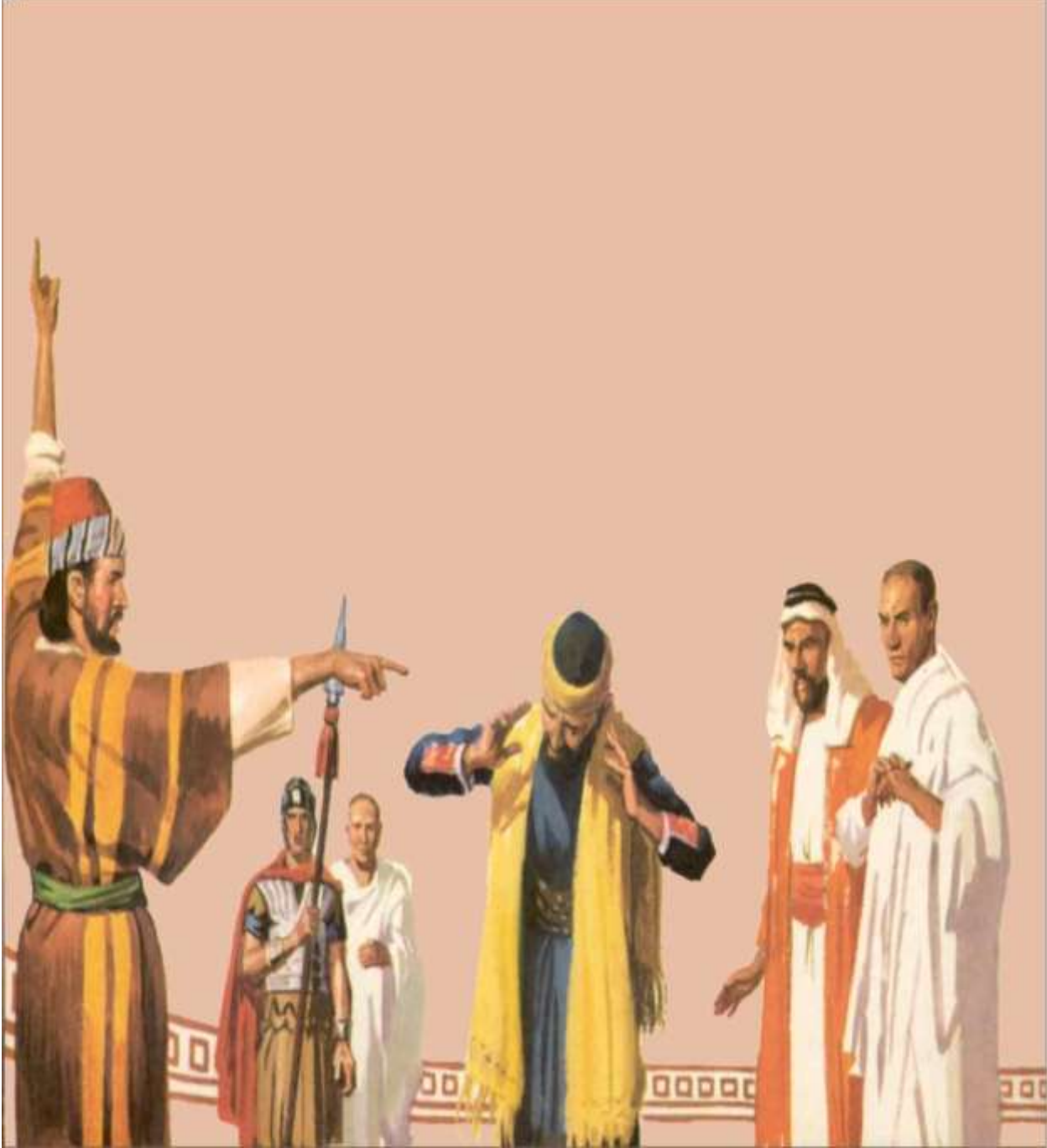
He's in my heart, He's there to stay



**PICTURE 1**



**PICTURE 2**



**PICTURE 3**

