

August 20, 2023
Acts 13:13-26
“Getting Historical, Finding Common Ground”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Amos 8:11, “Look the days are coming-this is the declaration of the Lord God-when I will send a famine through the land: not a famine of bread or a thirst for water; but of hearing the words of the Lord.” There is no substitute for the teaching of God’s Word.

Paul is going to build a bridge of agreement between Israel’s confession and the confession of the church to demonstrate there is continuity and fulfillment of agreement between the two. Common ground. The Old Testament is filled with prophecy of the coming Messiah. Paul will appeal to them to believe on Jesus.

Paul peaks their interest with his acknowledgement of key events they had no trouble with: the stay in Egypt, 40 years of wandering in the desert, conquest of the land and 7 nations within Canaan Land, and that God overthrew them. He spoke of the times of the Judges, then of king Saul and his monarchy, then to their beloved king David, John the Baptist and his message of repentance and preparation, and finally, on to the Savior, King Jesus.

As Paul gives the people a review of Israel’s history God’s grace and blessing for Israel is stressed. God as Deliverer (out of Egypt). God as Sustainer (in the desert). God destroyed Israel’s enemies (in Canaan land). God raises up a king for the people, a man after His own heart, king David. God’s affirmation of Jesus as Savior. **V 23** represents a giant leap from king David to King Jesus. The Savior. “In one simple, direct statement Paul declares that God made Jesus the Savior.” *R. C. H. Lenski*

Paul spoke on fulfillments of the OT expectations of a coming Messiah in Jesus. Paul’s audience was well grounded in the O.T. he spoke on the: **(1)** anticipated coming of the Messiah **(2)** the rejection, crucifixion of Jesus, and His resurrection from the dead, **(3)** and how this good news was for them and an appeal is made to believe as he concludes his message. Salvation still comes the same way today, by the hearing of the Word.

Application:

Let’s all work diligently to study God’s Word to show ourselves approved, people who are not ashamed of the gospel, and are able to share the good news with others correctly, **II Timothy 2:15**. See **Matthew 28:19-20** to understand how to do this, as we are going. People need the Lord, let’s be His hands and feet to get the whole gospel out to the whole world, **Romans 10**. Discipleship is essential to good spiritual health.