

Sermon Handout

A Light for the Gentiles

Acts 13:44-52

I. The Second Sabbath in Pisidian Antioch

- a. The warning prophecy of Habakkuk applied vv. 40-41
Hab 1:5 (LXX) *cf.* Is 28:21-23
- b. The congregation's request v. 42
 - i. This was new light on well-known information
 - ii. They had a hunger for good teaching
- c. The large gathering the following week v. 44
 - i. Word of mouth in the city
bringing the neighbors (mainly Gentiles)
 - ii. Preaching about Jesus ("the word of the Lord")
See v. 48 and *cf.* v. 49; *contra* v. 46

II. A Light to the Gentiles vv. 46-48a, 50-51

- a. To the Jew first v. 46a
 - i. God's appointed order: Rom 1:16; Lk 24:47; Acts 1:8
 - ii. Effective in both judgment & mercy Rom 2:9-10
 - iii. Israel is God's servant Is 42:1; 49:1-3 (fulfilled in Jesus)
- b. "We turn to the Gentiles" v. 46b-47 (*see* 28:25-28)
 - i. God's light through his servant Israel Is 49:6
 - ii. Jesus, the true light Jn 1:4-5, 9; Lk 2:25-32; Is 9:1-2; Mt 4:13ff
 - iii. Paul's initial calling Acts 26:16-18
- c. The reaction of the Gentiles
 - i. Rejoicing, giving God glory v. 48a
 - ii. A church established 14:21-23
- d. The reaction of the Jewish leaders vv. 50-51
 - i. Drove Paul & Barnabas out of the city
 - ii. Dust off the feet *cf.* Mt 10:14

III. Appointed to Eternal Life v. 48b

- a. God's decree determines all of history Acts 15:18; 2:23; Eph 1:4
- b. Enrolled in the Book of Life (implicit in v. 48)
Background: Ex 32:32 *cf.* Rev 3:5; 20:12; 21:27 *cf.* Is 4:3
- c. To be in the Book is to be secure in Jesus Jn 6:38-40