

Acts 13:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Certain prophets and teachers (προφῆται καὶ διδάσκαλοι, prophētai kai didaskaloi)—the Antioch church leadership combined the prophetic gift (declaring God's immediate word) with systematic teaching. The five named leaders reflect gospel diversity: Barnabas the Cypriot Levite, Simeon called Niger (Latin 'black,' possibly African), Lucius from Cyrene (North Africa), Manaen (foster-brother of Herod Antipas who beheaded John), and Saul the Pharisee. This multiethnic, socially diverse leadership marks Antioch as the first truly Gentile church, becoming missions headquarters supplanting Jerusalem.

The church that was at Antioch—founded by persecution-scattered believers (Acts 11:19-20), Antioch became Christianity's third great center after Jerusalem and Caesarea. Here believers were first called 'Christians' (11:26), and from here the Spirit launched Paul's missionary journeys.

Historical Context

Written around AD 62-64, Luke documents Antioch (Syria's capital, third largest city in the Roman Empire) as the launchpad for Gentile missions. The church had already sent famine relief to Judea (11:27-30). Manaen's connection to Herod Antipas shows gospel penetration into royal circles.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the ethnic and social diversity of Antioch's leadership challenge your church's approach to leadership selection?
2. What does the combination of prophets and teachers suggest about the balance needed between Spirit-immediacy and doctrinal depth?

Interlinear Text

Ἦσαν δὲ τινες ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ κατὰ τὴν οὖσαν
there were **Now** **certain** **at** **Antioch** **in** ^{G3588} **that was**
G2258 G1161 G5100 G1722 G490 G2596 G5607

ἐκκλησίαν προφῆται καὶ διδάσκαλοι ὃ τε Βαρναβᾶς
the church **prophets** **and** **teachers** ^{G3588} **and** **Barnabas**
G1577 G4396 G2532 G1320 G5037 G921

καὶ Συμεὼν ὁ καλούμενος Νίγερ καὶ Λούκιος ὁ
and **Simeon** ^{G3588} **that was called** **Niger** **and** **Lucius** ^{G3588}
G2532 G4826 G2564 G3526 G2532 G3066

Κυρηναῖος Μαναήν τε Ἡρώδου τοῦ τετράρχου
of Cyrene **Manaen** **and** **with Herod** ^{G3588} **the tetrarch**
G2956 G3127 G5037 G2264 G5076

σύντροφος καὶ Σαῦλος
which had been brought up **and** **Saul**
G4939 G2532 G4569

Additional Cross-References

Acts 4:36 (Parallel theme): And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

Acts 15:35 (Parallel theme): Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

Acts 13:9 (Parallel theme): Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

Galatians 2:9 (Parallel theme): And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

Acts 15:32 (Prophecy): And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.

Ephesians 4:11 (Prophecy): And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Luke 3:1 (Parallel theme): Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

Acts 21:9 (Prophecy): And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

Acts 11:30 (Parallel theme): Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 19:6 (Parallel theme): And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.