

Acts 4:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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,

Analysis

Barnabas's introduction - 'Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus' - establishes his character and credentials. The name change from Joses to Barnabas (Greek 'huios parakleseos,' son of encouragement/consolation) indicates his dominant characteristic. As a Levite, he descended from Israel's priestly tribe. Cyprus origin shows diaspora background, preparing him for later Gentile mission.

Historical Context

Levites traditionally owned no land (Numbers 18:20), but diaspora Levites like Barnabas acquired property in foreign lands. Cyprus housed significant Jewish population from Persian-era exile. Barnabas later partnered with Paul (Acts 13:2), his encouraging nature complementing Paul's intensity.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does a name like 'son of consolation' shape identity and ministry calling?
2. What role do 'Barnabases' - encouragers - play in sustaining church health and mission?

Interlinear Text

Ἰωσῆς δὲ τῷ ἐπικληθεὶς Βαρναβᾶς ὑπὸ τῷ ἀποστόλων
Joses And who was surnamed Barnabas by who the apostles
G2500 G1161 G3588 G1941 G921 G5259 G3588 G652

ὃ ἐστὶν μεθερμηνευόμενον υἱὸς παρακλήσεως
(which is being interpreted The son of consolation
G3739 G2076 G3177 G5207 G3874

Λευίτης Κύπριος τῷ γένει
a Levite of Cyprus who and of the country
G3019 G2953 G3588 G1085

Additional Cross-References

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.

Galatians 2:13 (Parallel theme): And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

Galatians 2:1 (Parallel theme): Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

Acts 15:39 (Parallel theme): And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

Acts 21:16 (Parallel theme): There went with us also certain of the disciples of Caesarea, and brought with them one Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple, with whom we should lodge.

Acts 15:37 (Parallel theme): And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

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

Mark 3:17 (Parallel theme): And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:

1 Corinthians 9:6 (Parallel theme): Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?

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