

# 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

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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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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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

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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
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ὃ	ἐστίν	μεθερμηνευόμενον	υἱὸς	παρακλήσεως			
(which	is	being interpreted	The son	of consolation			
G3739	G2076	G3177	G5207	G3874			
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Λευίτης	Κύπριος	τῷ	γένει				
a Levite	of Cyprus	who	and of the country				
G3019	G2953	G3588	G1085				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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?