

## Part I: Beginning of Paul's First Missionary Journey

***“As Peter Confronted Simon Magnus,  
So, Paul Confronted Barjesus Elymas,  
In The Name of The Lord Jesus Christ!”***

**Acts 13:4-8**

So, being sent out by the **Holy Spirit**, **They** (**Barnabas**, **Saul**, & **John Mark**) went down to **Seleucia**, and from there they sailed to (the **Island** of) **Cyprus**. And when they arrived in **Salamis**, they **Preached the Word of God** (**Gospel Message**) in the **Synagogues of the Jews**. They also had **John** (**Mark**) as their **Assistant**. Now when **They** (**Barnabas** & **Saul**) had gone through the **Island** (**Cyprus**) to (the **City** of) **Paphos**, they found a certain **Sorcerer**, a **False Prophet**, a **Jew** whose name was **Bar – Jesus** (*‘a son who comes in the name of Jesus’*), who was with the **Proconsul**, (**Lucius**) **Sergius Paulus**, an **Intelligent Man**. This **Man** called for **Barnabas** and **Saul** and sought to **Hear the Word of God** (**Rhema**). But **Elymas / Hetoimas / Halomah** the **Sorcerer** (for so his name is also translated) **\*[But also whose names mean: ‘to be grieved and tormented till you waste away into eternity’ or ‘a skilled and crafty charlatan who interprets dreams / visions for evil gain’ ]\*** withstood **Them** (**Barnabas** & **Saul**), seeking to turn the **Proconsul** away from the **Faith** (**Christian**). **Acts 13:4-8 (NKJV)**

**Q: “In What Year Did Barnabas & Saul/Paul Set Out  
On What Is Referred To Today As Paul’s First Missionary Journey?”**

**A: Fall 47 A.D.**

So, being sent out by the **Holy Spirit**, **They** (**Barnabas**, **Saul**, & **John Mark**) went down to **Seleucia**, and from there they sailed to (the **Island** of) **Cyprus**. And when they arrived in **Salamis**, they **Preached the Word of God** (**Gospel Message**) in the **Synagogues of the Jews**. They also had **John** (**Mark**) as their **Assistant**. **Acts 13:4-5**

**Here We Encounter, Paul’s Familiar Rule Of Conduct When Entering Any New Area  
To Begin Preaching The Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!**

**1<sup>st</sup> Preach The Gospel in the Synagogues of the Jews**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Preach The Gospel To Everyone Else**

**Let’s Take A Look At The Geography Of Where Paul & Barnabas  
First Sailed To & Began To Preach the Gospel of the Good News!**

**From **Antioch** By **Land** To **Seleucia** Within Asia Minor (17 Miles)  
Then By **Sea** From **Seleucia** To **Salamis** On The Island Of Cyprus (126 Miles)  
Then Again By **Land** From **Salamis** To **Paphos** On The Island Of Cyprus (112 Miles)**

**See Map On Next Page**



Now when **They** (**Barnabas & Saul**) had gone through the **Island (Cyprus)** to (the **City** of) **Paphos**, they found a certain **Sorcerer**, a **False Prophet**, a **Jew** whose name was **Bar – Jesus** ('a son who comes in the name of Jesus'), who was with the **Proconsul**, (**Lucius**) **Sergius Paulus**, an **Intelligent Man**. This **Man** called for **Barnabas** and **Saul** and sought to **Hear the Word of God (Rhema)**. Acts 13:6-7

**Q: "Who Is The Proconsul, Sergius Paulus?"**

**A:** He Is The Roman Magistrate & Governing Authority Over Cyprus

Assigned By Caesar & The Roman Senate From Early 44 A.D. – Early 48 A.D.

**A:** Attested To By At Least 4 Archeological Findings & Inscriptions Since 1887

**A:** According To Scripture He Is Well Schooled, Intelligent, & Curious To Hear The Full Gospel Told To Him

**Proconsul**, (**Lucius**) **Sergius Paulus**, an **Intelligent Man**. This **Man** called for **Barnabas** and **Saul** and sought to **Hear the Word of God (Rhema)**. Acts 13:7

**A:** First Convert To The Faith In Cyprus

Then the **Proconsul** **Believed**, when **he** saw what had been done, being astonished at the **Teaching of the Lord (Gospel Message)**. Acts 13:12

**Saint Jerome 4<sup>th</sup> Century Citation**

Writing in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century, Saint Jerome speculated that **Saul of Tarsus** had been **renamed Paul (Paulus)** because **he had converted Sergius Paulus** to Christianity.

*“For as **Scipio** assumed the name of **Africanus** for himself when Africa was subjugated, ... so also **Saulus (Saul)**, who was Sent by God to Preach to the Nations, brought back from the initial spoils of the Church, the **Proconsul Lucius Sergius Paulus**, as a trophy of his victory, and so raised a standard, that he was then called **Paulus (Paul)** thereafter.”*

*Jerome of Stridon (Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus)*

**Q: “Who Is This Jewish Sorcerer and False Prophet, named, Bar – Jesus?”**

**A: “Bar suma Jesus” which means: “a son who comes in the name of Jesus” who was like Jesus of Nazareth in his supposed ability to perform ‘Signs & Wonders’.**

**Recall - Simon Magnus**

But there was a certain man called **Simon Magnus**, who previously practiced **sorcery** in the city and astonished the **People of Samaria**, claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, **“This man has the great power of God.”** And they heeded him because he had **astonished them with his sorceries** for a long time.

*Acts 8:9-11*

But **Elymas / Hetoimas / Halomah** the **Sorcerer** (for so his name is also translated) \***[But also whose names mean: ‘to be grieved and tormented till you waste away into eternity’ or ‘a skilled and crafty charlatan who interprets dreams / visions for evil gain’ ]\*** withstood **Them (Barnabas & Saul)**, seeking to turn the **Proconsul** away from the **Faith (Christian)**. *Acts 13:8*

**Other Names / Aliases**

**“Elymas”** which means: **“to be grieved and tormented till you waste away into eternity”**

**“Hetoimas” or “Halomah”** a variant of the name **“Elymas”** which means:

**“a skilled and crafty charlatan who interprets dreams / visions for evil gain”**

Further His Full Name **“Barjesus Elymas Hetoimas Halomah”** Means:

**“A son who comes in the name of Jesus, but is in fact grieved and tormented, while he wastes away into eternity, being a skilled and crafty charlatan, who interprets dreams & visions for his own personal gain, and for evil purposes.”**

**Conclusion**

Thus, one can conclude that **“Barjesus Elymas / Hetoimas / Halomah”** is indeed a sorcerer / false prophet serving the Evil One in Direct Opposition to the Holy One!

The Roman writer Pliny the Elder also makes reference to a **“Sergius Paulus”** whom he used as a source along with others in Book #2 and Book #18 of his work on **“Natural History”** in 77 A.D. It is also interesting to note that Pliny mentions that the Island of Cyprus was overrun with those who practiced sorcery, just like Elymas here, who the Bible says tried to deceive Sergius Paulus, but was unsuccessful in his attempts.

**“There existed different groups of magicians from the Time of Moses such as **Jannes & Jambres**, of whom the Jews had spoken of. And in fact, many thousands yearly following after Zoroastrian Ways, especially during recent times on the Island of Cyprus. One Such was **Elymas**, who even tried to deceive the **Roman Proconsul**, but was thwarted in his attempts.”** *Pliny The Elder*

**Let Us Now Look At The Bible & Perform A Short Critical Historical Study**

**To Further Look Into The Past To Find Other Major Examples Of**

**False Prophets, Interpreters of Dreams & Visions, Divination, & Sorcery**

**Three Key Concepts Surround Such Evil People:**

**1) Deceitfulness, 2) Craftiness, & 3) Perversion & Curse**

**Let’s Look First To **Jannes & Jambres – Priests & Magi of Egypt****

Paul writes to Timothy, **“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded ...**

... down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as **Jannes & Jambres resisted** Moses, so do **These** also **resist** the **Truth**: men of **corrupt minds, disapproved** concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their **folly will be manifest to all**, as theirs also was.” 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1-9

#### Let's Look Next To The False Prophet Balaam

Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to Bless Israel, **he did not go as at other times, to seek to use sorcery**, but he set his face toward the wilderness. And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and **the Spirit of God came upon him**. **Then he took up his oracle and said**: “**The Utterance of Balaam the Son of Beor, the Utterance of the man whose eyes are opened, the Utterance of him who hears the Words of God, who sees the Vision of the Almighty, who falls down, with eyes wide open (divinely inspired to see, to understand, & to interpret)**.” Numbers 24:1-4 (NKJV)

#### More On Balaam In The Bible

Numbers 31:8 & 16, Joshua 13:22, Revelation 2:14, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:15, & Jude 1:11

Going Deeper Into What The Bible Tells Us About Balaam In Numbers Chapters 22-24

**“Balaam Ben Beor of Pethor” (“Balaam Ben Beor the Pathorah”)**

**“Pathorah”** which means in Aramaic: **“an interpreter of divine dreams & visions”**

#### Notice

Similarity & Differences To Joseph Son of Jacob In The Bible

**“Pathor helmiia”** which means in Hebrew: **“an interpreter of divine dreams & visions for God”**

Which is very similar to the epithet given to Jacob's 11<sup>th</sup> Son – Joseph In The Book of Genesis:

**“Josef Pathor Helmaiiah”**

Now Let's Look At **False Prophets** In **Jeremiah 23:9-40**

**NOTE: 1) Deceitfulness** – v 21-27, **2) Craftiness** – v 28-32, & **3) Perversion & Curse** – v 33-40

The Lord said to Jeremiah, *“My heart is broken because of the false prophets, and my bones tremble. I stagger like a drunkard, like someone overcome by wine, because of the holy words the Lord has spoken against them. For the land is full of adultery, and it lies under a curse. The land itself is in mourning, its wilderness pastures are dried up. For they all do evil and abuse what power they have. Even the priests and prophets are ungodly, wicked men. I have seen their despicable acts right here in My own Temple,”* says the Lord. *“Therefore, the paths they take will become slippery. They will be chased through the dark, and there they will fall. For I will bring disaster upon them at the time fixed for their punishment. I, the Lord, have spoken! I saw that the prophets of Samaria were terribly evil, for they prophesied in the name of Baal and led My people of Israel into sin. But now I see that the prophets of Jerusalem are even worse! They commit adultery and love dishonesty. They encourage those who are doing evil so that no one turns away from their sins. These prophets are as wicked as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah once were. Therefore, this is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says concerning the prophets: “I will feed them with bitterness and give them poison to drink. For it is because of Jerusalem's prophets that wickedness has filled this land.”* **1)** This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says to His People: *“Do not listen to these prophets when they prophesy to you, filling you with futile hopes. They are making up everything they say. They do not speak for the Lord! They keep saying to those who despise My Word, ‘Don't worry! The Lord says you will have peace!’ And to those who stubbornly follow their own desires, they say, ‘No harm will come your way!’ Have any of these prophets been in the Lord's Presence to hear what He is really saying? Has even one of them cared enough to listen? Look! The Lord's anger bursts out like a storm, a whirlwind that swirls down on the heads of the wicked. The anger of the Lord will not diminish until it has finished all He has planned. In the days to come you will understand all this very clearly. I have not sent these prophets, yet they run around claiming to speak for Me. I have given them no message,*

... yet they go on prophesying. If they had stood before Me and listened to Me, they would have spoken My Words, and they would have turned My People from their evil ways and deeds. Am I a God who is only close at hand? says the Lord. No, I AM far away at the same time. Can anyone hide from Me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?”, says the Lord. “I have heard these prophets say, ‘Listen to the dream I had from God last night.’ And then they proceed to tell lies in My Name. How long will this go on? If they are prophets, they are prophets of deceit, inventing everything they say. By telling these false dreams, they are trying to get My People to Forget Me, just as their ancestors did by worshiping the idols of Baal. Let these false prophets tell their dreams, but let My True Messengers Faithfully Proclaim My Every Word.”<sup>1 2)</sup> “There is a difference between straw and grain! Does not My Word burn like fire?” says the Lord. “Is It not like a mighty hammer that smashes a rock to pieces? Therefore,” says the Lord, “I AM against these prophets who steal messages from each other and claim they are from Me. I AM against these smooth-tongued prophets who say, ‘This prophecy is from the Lord!’ I AM against these false prophets. Their Imaginary Dreams are Flagrant Lies that lead My People into Sin. I did not send or appoint them, and they have No Message at all for My People.”<sup>1, the Lord have spoken!</sup><sup>2 3)</sup> “Suppose one of the people or one of the prophets or priests asks you, ‘What prophecy has the Lord burdened you with now?’ You must reply, ‘You are the burden! The Lord says He will abandon you!’ If any prophet, priest, or anyone else says, ‘I have a prophecy from the Lord,’ I will punish that person along with his entire family. You should keep asking each other, ‘What is the Lord’s answer?’ or ‘What is the Lord saying?’ But stop using this phrase, ‘prophecy from the Lord.’ For people are using it to give authority to their own ideas, turning upside down the Words of our God, the Living God, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. This is what you should say to the prophets: ‘What is the Lord’s Answer?’ or ‘What is the Lord Saying?’ But suppose they respond, ‘This is a prophecy from the Lord!’ Then you should say, ‘This is what the Lord says: Because you have used this phrase, ‘prophecy from the Lord,’ even though I warned you not to use it, I will forget you completely. I will expel you from My Presence, along with this city that I gave to you and your ancestors. And I will make you an object of ridicule, and your name will be infamous throughout the ages, and it shall never be forgotten.’<sup>3</sup>

Jeremiah 23:9-40

Now Let’s Go Deeper Into What The Bible Tells Us About  
 A False Diviner & Interpreter Shemaiah In Jeremiah 29:24-32  
 “Shemaiah the Nehelamite” (Shemaiah Hannah Lami)

“hannah lami” which means in ancient Hebrew:

“an interpreter / diviner of dreams and visions without God’s approval or anointing”

Let’s Look At False Diviners & Interpreters of Dreams & Visions In Jeremiah 29:24-32

**NOTE: 1) Deceitfulness** – v 24-25, **2) Craftiness** – v 26-27, & **3) Perversion & Curse** – v 30-32

The Lord said to Jeremiah, **1)** “You shall also speak to Shemaiah the Nehelamite, saying, Thus speaks the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, saying: You have sent letters in your name to all the people who are at Jerusalem, to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, <sup>1</sup> saying, **2)** ‘The Lord has made you priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, so that there should be officers in the House of the Lord over every man who is demented and considers himself a prophet, that you should put him in prison and in the stocks. Now therefore, why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth who makes himself a prophet to you? For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, ‘This captivity is long; build houses and dwell in them, and plant gardens and eat their fruit.’<sup>2</sup> Now Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet. Then the Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying: **3)** “Send to all those in captivity, saying, Thus says the Lord concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite:

***Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, and I have not sent him, and he has caused you to trust in a lie, therefore thus says the Lord: Behold, I will punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his family: he shall not have anyone to dwell among this people, nor shall he see the good that I will do for My People, says the Lord, because he has taught Rebellion Against the Lord!"***<sup>3</sup>

**Jeremiah 29:24-32**

**Let Us As God's Called, Redeemed, & Sanctified People,  
Be Ever On The Spiritual Alert, Using All Of Our Senses & Reasoning,  
And The Divine Infilling, Counseling, & Teaching of God's Holy Spirit.  
To Detect, Decipher, & Call Out, The Enemies of God & His People,  
Calling On The Name of the Lord To Change Them,  
Stop Them, Or Remove Them From Our Midst!**

### **Bibliography**

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