

Part I
“The Ministry Of The Disciples & Barnabas
Yield First Fruits In Antioch!”

Acts 11:19-24

Now **Those (Disciples) Who** were scattered after the **Persecution (Diaspora of the Christians)** that arose over **Stephen** traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and **Antioch**, **Preaching the Word to no one but the Jews only**. But some of **Them (Disciples)** were **Men (Hellenist Jewish Born)** from Cyprus and Cyrene, **Who**, when **They** had come to **Antioch**, spoke to the **Hellenists (Unbelievers In Christ)**, **Preaching the Lord Jesus**. And the **Hand of the Lord** was with **Them**, and a **“Great Number” Believed and Turned to the Lord**. Then **News (Good News)** of these things came to the ears of the **Church in Jerusalem (Whole Church)**, and **They (Church Council Elders of Jerusalem)** sent out **Barnabas** to go as far as **Antioch**. When **Barnabas** came (to **Antioch**) and had seen the **Grace of God**, he was **Glad**, and **Encouraged Them All (New Hellenist Disciples)**, that with **Purpose of Heart** they should continue (in Relationship) with the **Lord**. For **Barnabas** was a **Good Man, Full of the Holy Spirit and of Faith**. And a **“Great Many” People** were added (in **Antioch**) to the **Lord**. **Acts 11:19-24 (NKJV)**

Q: “In What Year Do These Things Take Place?”

A: Early – Mid 46 A.D.

Q: “Who Are These Disciples That Were Scattered & Preached The Word (The Good News of Jesus Christ)?”

A: Let’s Review Who These Individuals Were

& The Persecution That Started After The Death of Stephen

Now **Saul** was consenting to **Stephen’s death**. At that time, a great persecution arose against the Church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all **scattered (diaspora)** throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, **except the apostles**. And devout men carried **Stephen to his burial**, and made great lamentation over him. As for **Saul**, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. Therefore, those who were **scattered (diaspora) went everywhere Preaching the Word**. **Acts 8:1-4**

Q

“Who Exactly At First Was Saul Persecuting & Dragging Off In Chains Both In Jerusalem In This Passage & Later In Damascus In The Next Chapter?”

A

Predominately Gentile Converts To Christianity, But Also Jewish Converts To Christianity, Who Had Fled Jerusalem & Judea To Samaria & Damascus!

... **“And they were all scattered (diaspora) throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.” ... **Acts 8:1****

Q

“What Was The Outcome Of This Persecution & Scattering From Jerusalem & Judea To Samaria & Damascus?”

A

The Word Of God’s Good News Spread More Quickly Than If There Was No Persecution!

“Therefore, those who were scattered (diaspora) went everywhere Preaching the Word.”

Acts 8:4

Q: “Had The Persecution Changed Some Of These Converts Actions?”

A: Yes!

Many Returned To Only Taking Care Of God’s Original Chosen People!

Now **Those (Disciples) Who** were scattered after the **Persecution (Diaspora of the Christians)** that arose over **Stephen** traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and **Antioch**, **Preaching the Word to no one but the Jews only.** Acts 11:19

Q: *“What Had The Persecution Done To The Other Converts Actions?”*

A: It Intensified Their Determination & They Obediently Stayed The Course!

But some of **Them (Disciples)** were **Men (Hellenist Born – Jewish Converts)** from Cyprus and Cyrene, **Who**, when **They** had come to **Antioch**, spoke to the **Hellenists (Unbelievers In Christ)**, **Preaching the Lord Jesus.** Acts 11:20

Q: *“How Did The Lord Respond To Their Courage, Obedience, & Fervor For Him & His Mission?”*

A: He Rewarded Them By Bringing A **“Great Number”** By Faith To Himself! And the **Hand of the Lord** was with **Them**,

and a **“Great Number”** **Believed and Turned to the Lord!** ... Acts 11:21

Q: *“How Did The Church Council In Jerusalem Respond To The Reports Of The Growth Among The Gentiles In Antioch?”*

A: They Sent Out The Faithful Barnabas To Investigate These Matters!

Then **News (Good News)** of these things came to the ears of the **Church in Jerusalem (Whole Church)**, and **They (Church Council Elders of Jerusalem)** sent out **Barnabas** to go as far as **Antioch.** Acts 11:22

Q: *“Why Did The Jerusalem Church Council Of Elders Choose & Send Barnabas?”*

A: Because Of His Past & Present Actions, & His Character & Faith In The Church!

Barnabas' Past Actions

And **Joses**, who was also Named by the Apostles, **Barnabas**, Which is Translated, **‘Son of Encouragement’**, who was a Levite of the Country of Cyprus, who also having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. Acts 4:36-37

Barnabas' Past Actions

And when **Saul** had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the Disciples (Followers); but **They were all afraid of him and did not believe that he was a Disciple (Follower)**. But **Barnabas (The ‘Son of Encouragement’)** took him and brought him to the Apostles. And **He (Barnabas)** declared to **Them (Apostles)** how **He (Saul) had seen the Lord** on the Road (to Damascus), and that **He (Lord) Had Spoken (Rhema) to Him (Saul)**, and how **He (Saul) had preached boldly** at Damascus in the **‘Name of Jesus’ [And of Saul's Escape from the City of Damascus with the help of the Disciples/Followers there]**. Acts 9:26-27

Barnabas' Present Actions

For **Barnabas** was a **Good Man, Full of the Holy Spirit** and of **Faith!** ... Acts 11:24a

Q: *“What Did Barnabas See When He Arrived In Antioch?”*

A: That God Had Poured Out His Mercy, Forgiveness & Grace Upon The New Disciples Of His Son, Jesus Christ!

When **Barnabas** came (to **Antioch**) and had seen the **Grace of God**, he was Glad, ... Acts 11:23a

Q: *“How Did Barnabas Respond After Seeing God's Actions Toward The New Disciples?”*

A: He Encouraged, Instructed, & Spurred Them On In Their New Faith!

And (**Barnabas**) Encouraged **Them All (New Hellenist Disciples)**,

that with **Purpose of Heart** they should continue (in Relationship) with the **Lord** ... Acts 11:23b

Q: *“What Was The Result Of The Work Of The Hellenist Evangelists & The Follow Up Work Of Barnabas In Antioch?”*

A: God Rewarded Them Both Working Side By Side By Bringing A **“Great Many”** **By Faith To Himself!**

And a **“Great Many”** **People** were added (in **Antioch**) to the **Lord!** ... Acts 11:24b

***Let Us Be Found Day By Day To Be Like
Those Early Gentile Evangelists & Barnabas,
Not Counting The Cost, But Preaching The Word
Of The Good News Of The Gospel of Jesus Christ Our Lord,
In Season, & Out Of Season!***

***Let Us Be Found Day By Day To Be Like
Those Early Gentile Evangelists & Barnabas,
Always Observing & Comprehending What God's Holy Spirit Is Doing,
And Joining Him By Encouraging, Instructing,
& Spurring On One Another In The Faith!***