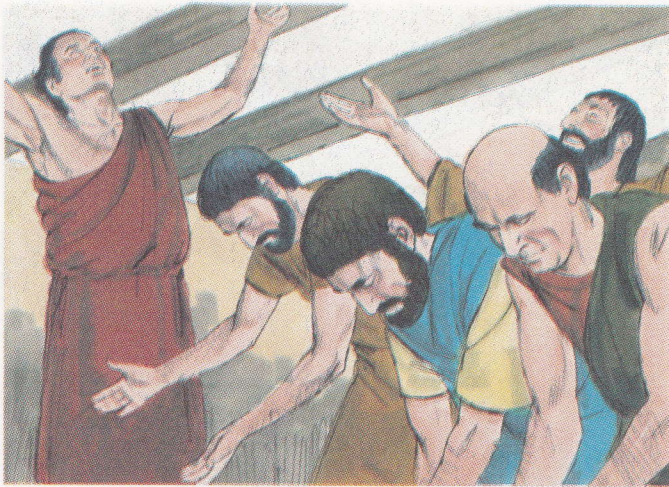


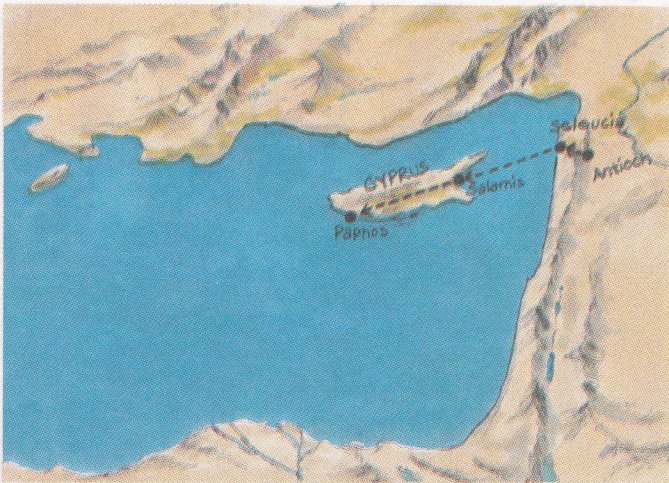
The First Journey Begins



1 One day as the prophets and teachers at Antioch worshiped and fasted, the Holy Spirit said: "I have a mission for Barnabas and Saul. Appoint them to do this work."



2 So the leaders of the church prayed and fasted. Then they sent Barnabas and Saul (now called Paul) to preach God's word in various places. John Mark went with them.



3 First they sailed to the island of Cyprus, where they preached in the Jewish synagogue at Salamis. Then they went to the other side of the island to the town of Paphos.



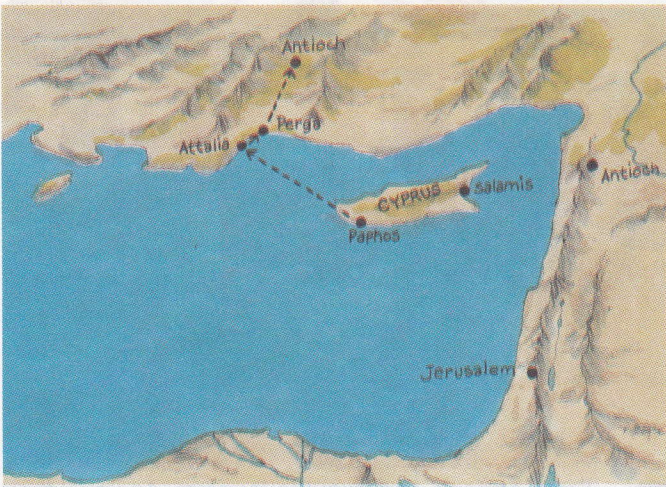
4 At Paphos, Sergius Paulus, the governor of Cyprus, wanted to hear them preach. But a Jewish magician named Elymas tried to keep the governor from believing their message.



5 Finally Paul looked straight at Elymas and said: "You are an enemy of all that is right. You turn the Lord's truth into lies. Because of that, the Lord will make you blind."

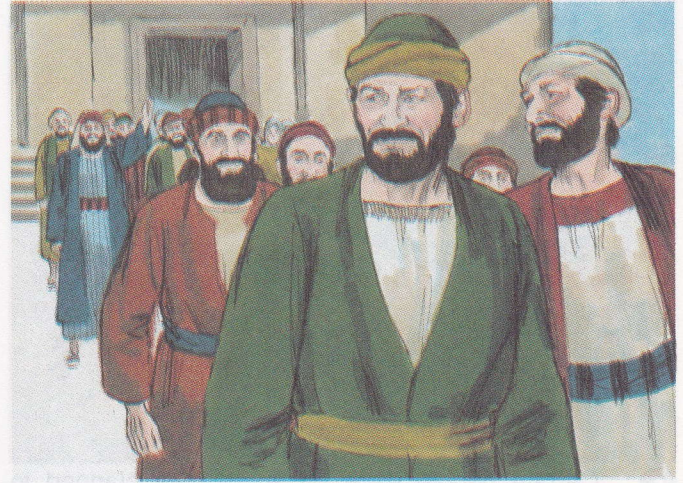


6 At once a dark mist covered Elymas's eyes. He was blind! He felt around, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the governor saw this, he believed.



7 Then the missionaries sailed to Perga, where John Mark left them to go back to Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabas went on to Antioch of Pisidia, where Paul was invited to speak to the Jews.

8 First Paul talked about how God had helped Israel in the past. Then he said, "God has made a man named Jesus the Savior of Israel. Yet the people in Jerusalem had him killed."



9 "But God raised Jesus from the dead, and he appeared to many of his disciples. It is through this Jesus that we have forgiveness—everyone who believes in him."

10 As Paul and Barnabas left the synagogue, the people invited them to come back the next week and tell them more. Some even followed after Paul to talk further.



11 The next Sabbath, nearly everyone in the town came to hear them. The Jewish leaders were jealous when they saw the big crowds. So they argued with Paul and insulted him.

12 These Jews persuaded the leaders of the city to run Paul and Barnabas out of town. But God's word continued to spread, and the new believers were filled with joy.