

OUR NEW SERIES FOR 2021 See viewers comments below!

PENTECOST & PAUL – part 1

Jewish religious celebrations in Jerusalem today vividly recall the excitement on the day of Pentecost, when the resurrection of Jesus was first publically announced. We journey with Saul (later to become Paul) as he sets off from Jerusalem in his murderous pursuit of the earliest believers in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah and the Son of God. We start to follow his probable route and relive his emotions along the way.

PENTECOST & PAUL – part 2

Saul's momentous journey continues, as does his determination to destroy all the earliest believers in Jesus. But every mile of his journey is rooted in memories of him – almost as if Jesus is dogging his steps, you might say! Jericho, the baptism site, the lake of Galilee, Capernaum – everywhere he passes has its own tales to tell of the man whose followers Saul is seeking to destroy. At Caesarea Philippi Peter had been granted a revelation as to the true identity of Jesus. But would such a revelation be granted to Saul? He's setting off now on the last leg of his journey to Damascus. Little does he know it, but it is to change his life, and world history, for ever!

PENTECOST & PAUL – part 3

Wherever he's gone, Saul just can't escape all the reminders of Jesus. 'Risen from the dead, has he? Well if that tomb's empty, it's because they've taken his body. He's dead – and so will they be, once I get my hands on them!' Suddenly, a great flash of light – blinding, dazzling!

Saul fell to the ground. 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.' So, in an instant, he'd seen the Risen Lord - seen him in all the glory of heaven. That instant, and that revelation, were to change his life – and world history – for ever!

From that moment, he was to become as bold as Peter in proclaiming the message himself. And so, after some years of deep reflection on the stupendous significance, we find him setting off with Barnabas, on their very first missionary journey. And the first port of call was the island of Cyprus itself!

PENTECOST & PAUL – part 4

In Cyprus the Roman proconsul wants to hear Barnabas and Saul preach the word of God. But when his attendant tries to turn him from the faith, Saul (who from now on is called Paul) rebukes him and he becomes blind. When the proconsul saw this, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

Up till now Saul had been following Barnabas as a loyal and devoted friend. But from now on, the old order of their names is never mentioned again. It's no longer, Barnabas and Saul – from now on it's 'Paul and his companions'

So why should Paul have suddenly adopted his Roman name? Well, as the first representative of Jesus before a high official of Rome, he realized that Paul, the Roman citizen and a member of the ruling race, was a more powerful force in the world than Saul the Jew. So it was naturally as Paul that he faced the Roman Empire. One man with his Lord against the might of pagan Rome!

PENTECOST & PAUL – part 5

Paul and Barnabas set sail from Cyprus and make their way to Antioch in Pisidia. This military capital of the Roman province of Galatia was established by Augustus – it was intended to bring Roman law and order to the bandit-infested highlands of southern Galatia.

Here Paul must have felt that he was nearer to Rome than he'd ever been before. He'd preached in Syria, Cilicia and Cyprus – but he hadn't yet done so in a Roman colony. He must have immediately grasped its significance – if trade could radiate from here in all directions, so could the gospel!

Paul's preaching here was so powerful that almost the whole city came to hear him. So great was the response that the Orthodox Jews stirred up persecution against him and Barnabas.

So it was here that Paul was to make one of his most important pronouncements. 'We had to speak the word of God to you first, but since you reject it, we now turn to the Gentiles.'

At that moment Paul and Barnabas gave this remote hill town a position among those places in which the major events of Christianity occurred. It was an announcement that flung wide the door of the faith to the whole world!

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT THE SERIES:

Fantastic – it's really powerful! Grounded on places and reality – makes the Bible events so real!

- MARK HALSEY (Barrister (specializing) in criminal law)

It's excellent! You've created a wonderful resource to help everyone understand and share in the amazing story. We'll be sharing the series with our Bible study group.

- KEN WRIGHT

Your videos are wonderful – as always, very informative and enhanced by the passion you have for the subject! The clips of the land and the people just bring it all to life – bringing the Bible and its legacy together in the present. The events come alive before our eyes!

- PAUL SCOTT (Architect)

A brilliant production! Masterly – and so useful and effective!

- MICHAEL BAUGHEN (former Bishop of Chester)

Extremely informative and immersive! It's wonderful to be given a taste for these special places of biblical history which mean so much to so many. You have such a natural flair for presenting the biblical stories and sharing with us the spiritual meaning and historical foundations. Thoroughly enjoyable and impressive in equal measure.

- MICHAEL ANDREWS (Director of Music, All Souls Church, Langham Place, W1)

You really bring the sites and events of the Bible to life with such enthusiasm - your joy is infectious!

- STEVE NICHOLS (Associate Rector, All Souls Church, Langham Place, W1)