

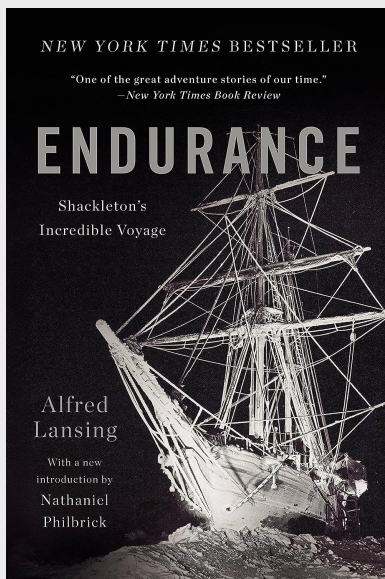
ACTS TO REVELATION

Drive Thru History | The World of the First Christians

This Week

Acts 12:25-13:13

More Resources



In the Book of Acts we're going to sometimes find the first disciples sailing the unpredictable Mediterranean Sea. This week's voyage to Cyprus is routine but get ready for some nail-biting voyages on the Mediterranean later in Acts. My favorite seagoing adventure is the true story of **ERNEST SHACKLETON** and the crew of *Endurance*. To hear an overview of what is probably one of the greatest adventure stories of the 20th century, click [HERE](#) to view a brief documentary about Shackleton's Antarctic adventure.



Paul's First Missionary Journey: The Island of Cyprus

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Which part of this week's reading caught your attention the most? What insights did you glean? What questions do you have? Is God speaking to you about a situation in your own life through these Scriptures? What are you learning about God?

THE ANTIOCH CHURCH

R. Kent Hughes writes, "Antioch was most famous for its worship of Daphne, whose temple stood five miles outside town in a laurel grove. Apollo's famous pursuit of Daphne there was reenacted night and day by the men of the city and by the priestesses, who were in fact ritual prostitutes. Throughout the (Roman) world "the morals of Daphne" was a euphemism for depravity. (The Roman poet) Juvenal aimed one of his sharpest barbs at his own decadent Rome when he said the Orontes (the river on which Antioch was built) had flowed into the Tiber (the river on which Rome was built), flooding the city with wickedness (Satirae 3.62). Interestingly, it was in this city, with all its sensuality and immorality, that "the disciples were first called Christians."¹ It was in Antioch that God planted and grew His church.

- What did you discover about the church in Antioch from reading the passage and watching the video? Who was a part of it? What do you think their life together was like? What do you think God was up to in and through that church?
- What did you learn about the surrounding community in which God planted and grew this church? What were the risks and opportunities for

¹ Hughes, R. Kent. Acts: The Church Afire (Preaching the Word) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.

Even More Resources

To hear about the rediscovery of Shackleton's sunken ship, *Endurance*, click [HERE](#) to view a PBS report.

You might also like to read Alfred Lansing's remarkable account of Shackleton's incredible voyage. His book, entitled *Endurance*, is a page-turner. The story is so amazing that you just might find it hard to believe its all true. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.



IF YOU WANT TO WATCH EPISODES of Drive Thru History: Acts to Revelation, you can view them online at TubiTV.com. Just click [HERE](#) to access their website.

Small Group Prayer Requests

To help you pray for one another during the week, please take notes on the requests that are shared. Please remember that everything people talk about in your group is confidential.

Week 6 Prep

Read Acts 13:13-14:28

the group of Christ-followers?

- In what ways might our church grow to be more like the Antioch Church?

- Throughout this course our guide, Dave Stotts, will point out how archeology gives us evidence that confirms the reliability of the Biblical accounts. What role does this kind of evidence play or not play in your growth as a disciple and in your ability to talk with others about the Bible?

PAUL, BARNABAS AND JOHN MARK HEAD TO CYPRUS

Serving Christ is not easy. We forget sometimes that we are living our lives on a spiritual battlefield. There are real dangers. Casualties can happen. The trip to Cyprus was a homecoming for Barnabas. It turned out to be an experience that included spiritual warfare and the salvation of a leading official on the island of Cyprus. The message of Jesus is spreading.

- What do we already know about these three followers of Jesus (Paul, Barnabas and John Mark)? Dig around in the previous chapters of the Book of Acts and paint a picture of these three men.

- What do we learn about some of the difficulties we might encounter when we share the gospel of Jesus in our world based on their visit to Cyprus?

- At this point, John Mark, the person who would eventually write the Gospel According to Mark, is a young man, possibly still in his teens. What do you imagine this experience was like for him?

- What risks might God be calling you to take to share the good news of the gospel with others?

- What might need to change in your life to be "all in" for Jesus?

- What prayer request would you like to share?

Notes from the Video and Discussion

What insights, questions, challenges, encouragements are you taking with you? Record your thoughts and any action steps you intend to take in the space below.