

# Island Hopping

## The Island of Cyprus

### Lesson 1

**Scripture:** Acts 13:1-13 (v 4) - “. . .from thence they sailed to Cyprus. . .”

**Memory Verse:** Acts 13:2 - “. . . Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”

**INTRODUCTION:** Imagine how exciting it would be to get aboard a big ship and take a cruise to see a beautiful island. An *island* is “a piece of land that is completely surrounded by water.” Islands are known for their sandy beaches, swaying palm trees, rocky cliffs, mountains or volcanos, and their beautiful views of the water around them. Every year thousands of people take their vacations by boarding cruise ships and traveling from one island to another relaxing and enjoying the wonder of God’s creation. Cruising from one island port to another has many times been called **Island Hopping**.

Some of the most amazing stories in the Bible took place on an island. One such story took place in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea on an island named *Cyprus*. The island of Cyprus is located 124 miles northwest of Israel and 174 miles to the southwest of Greece. The highest point of Cyprus is Mount Olympus which is 6,404 feet high. The middle of the island is mountainous so most of the people of Cyprus live along the flat land of the island near the ocean. The average temperature each year in Cyprus is around 75 degrees in the daytime and 57 degrees at night.

**NOTE:** The Bible records the story about a man from Cyprus whose name was Barnabas:

- 1) Barnabas means “*son of consolation*”. He was the kind of man who would hug people and reassure them by saying things like, “*there, there, it’s going to be all right*”. (Consoling)
- 2) Barnabas was a Jewish man who had been raised in Cyprus but had a sister named Mary who lived at Jerusalem in Israel. It was probably during a visit to see his sister that he heard about Jesus and got saved. (Acts 12:12; Colossians 4:10)
- 3) The first time Barnabas is mentioned in the Bible, he had sold his land, which was probably located in Cyprus, and gave all the money he made from the sell of it to the church at Jerusalem. (Acts 4:36-37)

- 4) The church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch, Syria to organize a new church there. Barnabas needed help so he went and got Saul of Tarsus called *Paul* to come to help him teach the new church at Antioch.

### **Barnabas and Paul boarded a ship and cruised to the Island of Cyprus:**

## **I THE ORDERS OF THE LORD**

Acts 13:1-5 (v 4) - “. . .they sailed to Cyprus. . .”

The Holy Ghost called Barnabas and Paul to leave the church at Antioch and go as missionaries for “*the work whereunto I have called them*” (v 2) . Notice that they were already busy for the Lord. God will not use lazy people. He calls upon those who are already busy for him to do even more for him. They also took Barnabas’ nephew, John Mark, with them as they sailed to Cyprus (v 5). John Mark had probably never been on a ship before. Imagine how sea-sick he must have been as he went Island Hopping with Barnabas and Paul to tell others about Jesus.

## **II THE OPPOSITION FROM THE DEVIL**

Acts 13:6-13 (v 10) - “. . .*thou child of the devil. . .*”

Barnabas and Paul were traveling from town to town on the Island of Cyprus telling people about the Lord Jesus and how to be saved. When people are being saved, that is when the devil starts to fight. A false prophet named “*Bar-Jesus*” (*son of the saviour*) tried to keep Sergius Paulus, the governor of Cyprus from hearing about Jesus. God used Paul to perform a miracle by rebuking this false prophet and announcing that he would be blind, “*not seeing the sun for a season*” (v 11) which is about a year. Immediately the false prophet that tried to keep others from getting saved was made blind and “*went about seeking some to lead him by the hand*” (v 11). When the “*deputy*” (v 12) or governor saw this great miracle, he “*believed*” and trusted Jesus as his own personal Saviour. (v 12)

\*Do YOU know the Lord Jesus as your own personal Saviour?

\*Have YOU been like the false prophet trying to keep others from being saved?

\*Will you be like the governor and accept Jesus as your own Saviour today?