

# A Word of Encouragement for You!

Acts 13:13-43

February 02, 2020

Three reasons to be encouraged from God's dealings with Israel.

1. God was **active** in your past (16-25)
  - Take the long view. How many years? **1,500**
  - Make **God** the subject of your sentences  
God chose, made, led, put up with, destroyed, gave . . .
2. God is ready to rewrite your **future** (26-37)
  - Jesus was innocent, but executed anyway
  - **But God** raised Jesus, **fulfilling** His promises  
Jesus is Savior (23), Son (33), Holy One (35)
  - *We tell you the good news . . . for **us*** (32)  
The Son rules as an equal, not lesser, King (Psalm 2:7)  
He's the rightful heir of Davidic blessings (Isaiah 55:3)  
He's the Holy One who did not decay (Psalm 16:10)
3. God requires your **response** in the present (38-43)
  - *Through this man forgiveness of sins is announced*
  - By Him **freedom** (acquittal; charges dismissed)  
*"everyone who believes"* (also 10:43)
  - Wonder and amazement is **not** evidence of faith
  - *"[they] urged them to continue in the **grace** of God"*

## Life Group Homework

(whenever possible write your answers in the space after each question)

1. What makes it easy (or difficult) for you to see God at work in your recent past? Does it help to take the long view?

Write a sentence describing something that happened last week with God as the subject, the one doing the action.

Last week God \_\_\_\_\_

2. READ 1 Samuel 8:6-7. When Israel asked God for a king, what was Samuel's response? What was God's response?
3. READ 2 Samuel 7:13-16. Could these promises have applied to Solomon, David's son? Why or why not? Then, to whom?
4. READ John 3:18 and 36. Have you ever thought about what it means that God has rewritten your future? What's changed?
5. READ Romans 1:16 and 3:22 and 10:4. Find the phrase *"everyone who believes"* in each verse. Whom do you know who needs to hear of God's forgiveness and freedom?