

~BARNABAS (510)
(Bar'na-bas) [Son of Comfort]

- This prominent figure of **First-Century** Christianity is first introduced to us in the Scriptures by Luke in;
- In fact, there was not one in need among them, for all those who were possessors of fields or houses would sell them and bring the values of the things sold (**Acts of Apostles 4:34**)
- And they would deposit them at the feet of the apostles. In turn distribution would be made to each one, just as he would have the need. (**Acts of Apostles 4:35**)
- So Joseph, who was surnamed **Barnabas** by the apostles, which means, when translated, Son of Comfort, a Levite, a native of Cyprus. (**Acts of Apostles 4:36**)
- There we learn that this devout man was a Levite and a native of the island of Cyprus, but at the time of his being introduced, he was in Jerusalem. Of the many believers who shortly after Pentecost sold their fields and houses and gave the price to the apostles for the advancement of the Christian work, this man was one mentioned by name.
- His given name was **Joseph**, but the apostles surnamed him **Barnabas**, meaning **Son of Comfort**. This practice of giving surnames in keeping with one's **characteristics** was not uncommon.
- He was a **very warmhearted and generous person**, one who did not hesitate to **offer both himself and his material possessions willingly for the advancement of the Kingdom interests**. He gladly came to the aid of his brothers
- So **Barnabas** came to his aid and led him to the apostles, and he told them in detail how on the road he had seen the Lord and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 9:27**)
- And in the presence of newly interested persons he rejoiced and began to encourage them all to continue in the Lord with hearty purpose. **Barnabas** was a good man and **full of Holy Spirit and of faith**

- When he arrived and saw the undeserved kindness of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all to continue in the Lord with hearty purpose. (**Acts of Apostles 11:23**)
- For he was **a good man and full of Holy Spirit and of faith**. And a considerable crowd was added to the Lord. (**Acts of Apostles 11:24**)
- A prophet and teacher in Antioch.
- Now in Antioch there were **prophets and teachers** in the local congregation, **Barnabas** as well as Symeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who was educated with Herod the district ruler, and Saul. (**Acts of Apostles 13:1**)
- The apostles referred to **Barnabas** as among their loved ones who had delivered up their souls for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We have come to a unanimous accord and have favored choosing men to send to you together with **our loved ones**, **Barnabas** and Paul. (**Acts of Apostles 15:25**)
- Men that have delivered up their souls for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (**Acts of Apostles 15:26**)
- Although he was not one of the 12 apostles, he was properly called an apostle;
- However, when the **apostles Barnabas** and Paul heard of it, they ripped their outer garments and leaped out into the crowd, crying out (**Acts of Apostles 14:14**)
- For, indeed, he was one **sent out by the Holy Spirit**.
- Accordingly these men, **sent out by the Holy Spirit**, went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed away to Cyprus. (**Acts of Apostles 13:4**)
- So after the synagogue assembly was dissolved, many of the Jews and of the proselytes who worshiped God followed Paul and **Barnabas**, who in speaking to them began urging them to continue in the undeserved kindness of God. (**Acts of Apostles 13:43**)

- The close association that **Barnabas** had with Paul, and that extended over the years, had its beginning about three years after Paul's conversion when he wanted to get in touch with the Jerusalem congregation. How **Barnabas** first got to meet Paul is not revealed. But it was **Barnabas** who had the privilege of introducing Paul to Peter and to the disciple James.

- On arriving in Jerusalem he made efforts to join himself to the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, because they did not believe he was a disciple. ([Acts of Apostles 9:26](#))

- So **Barnabas** came to his aid and led him to the apostles, and he told them in detail how on the road he had seen the Lord and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. ([Acts of Apostles 9:27](#))

- Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. ([Galatians 1:18](#))

- But I saw no one else of the apostles, only James the brother of the Lord. ([Galatians 1:19](#))

- In the meantime a great deal of interest in Christianity had been aroused in Antioch of Syria by certain Greek-speaking Jews from Cyprus and Cyrene. As a result, the older men at Jerusalem sent **Barnabas** down to Antioch to encourage and build up these new believers further. The choice of **Barnabas** for this work was a good one, since he was a Greek-speaking Cypriot.

- When a considerable crowd was added to the Lord in Antioch, **Barnabas** hastened over to Tarsus and persuaded Paul to come and help out in the ministry. About that time divine warning of a coming famine caused the brothers in Antioch to gather many provisions that, in due time, were sent to the Jerusalem congregation by the hands of **Barnabas** and Paul.

- The account about them got to the ears of the congregation that was in Jerusalem, and they sent out **Barnabas** as far as Antioch. ([Acts of Apostles 11:22](#))

- When he arrived and saw the undeserved kindness of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all to continue in the Lord with hearty purpose. ([Acts of Apostles 11:23](#))

- For he was a good man and full of Holy Spirit and of faith. And a considerable crowd was added to the Lord. (**Acts of Apostles 11:24**)
- Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. (**Acts of Apostles 11:27**)
- One of them named Agabus rose and proceeded to indicate through the spirit that a great famine was about to come upon the entire inhabited earth, which, for that matter, did take place in the time of Claudius. (**Acts of Apostles 11:28**)
- So those of the disciples determined, each of them according as anyone could afford it, to send a relief ministration to the brothers dwelling in Judea. (**Acts of Apostles 11:29**)
- And this they did, dispatching it to the older men by the hand of **Barnabas** and Saul. (**Acts of Apostles 11:30**)
- As for **Barnabas** and Saul, after having fully carried out the relief ministration in Jerusalem, they returned and took along with them John, the one surnamed Mark. (**Acts of Apostles 12:25**)
- This relief work accomplished, the two were back in Antioch by about **47 C.E.**, and from there left on a missionary assignment under the direction of the Holy Spirit. This took **Barnabas** and Paul first to Cyprus, where they were instrumental in bringing God's truth to the proconsul Sergius Paulus. From there they traveled through the interior of Asia Minor.
- At times they were severely persecuted by mobs. Once, when they cured a lame man in Lystra, they had no sooner succeeded in restraining the crowds from sacrificing to them, thinking that **Barnabas** was the god Zeus and Paul, the one taking the lead in speaking, was Hermes, or Mercury, than the Jews persuaded the crowds, and they stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city.
- Now in Antioch there were prophets and teachers in the local congregation, **Barnabas** as well as Symeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who was educated with Herod the district ruler, and Saul. (**Acts of Apostles 13:1**)
- As they were publicly ministering to Yehowah and fasting, the

Holy Spirit said; Of all persons set **Barnabas** and Saul apart for me for the work to which I have called them. (**Acts of Apostles 13:2**)

- Then they fasted and prayed and laid their hands upon them and let them go. (**Acts of Apostles 13:3**)
- Accordingly these men, sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed away to Cyprus. (**Acts of Apostles 13:4**)
- And when they got to be in Salamis they began publishing the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They had John also as an attendant. (**Acts of Apostles 13:5**)
- When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they met up with a certain man, a sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 13:6**)
- And he was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. Calling **Barnabas** and Saul to him, this man earnestly sought to hear the word of God. (**Acts of Apostles 13:7**)
- But Elymas the sorcerer, that, in fact, is the way his name is translated, began opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. (**Acts of Apostles 13:8**)
- Saul, who is also Paul, becoming filled with Holy Spirit, looked at him intently (**Acts of Apostles 13:9**)
- And said, O man full of every sort of fraud and every sort of villainy, you son of the Devil, you enemy of everything righteous, will you not quit distorting the right ways of Yehowah? (**Acts of Apostles 13:10**)
- Well, then, look! Yehowah's hand is upon you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sunlight for a period of time. Instantly a thick mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went around seeking men to lead him by the hand. (**Acts of Apostles 13:11**)
- Then the proconsul, upon seeing what had happened, became a believer, as he was astounded at the teaching of Yehowah. (**Acts of Apostles 13:12**)

- Now in Iconium they entered together into the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in such a manner that a great multitude of both Jews and Greeks became believers. ([Acts of Apostles 14:1](#))
- But the Jews that did not believe stirred up and wrongly influenced the souls of people of the nations against the brothers. ([Acts of Apostles 14:2](#))
- Therefore they spent considerable time speaking with boldness by the authority of Yehowah, who bore witness to the word of his undeserved kindness by granting signs and portents to occur through their hands. ([Acts of Apostles 14:3](#))
- However, the multitude of the city was split, and some were for the Jews but others for the apostles. ([Acts of Apostles 14:4](#))
- Now when a violent attempt took place on the part of both people of the nations and Jews with their rulers, to treat them insolently and pelt them with stones. ([Acts of Apostles 14:5](#))
- They, on being informed of it, fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe and the country round about. ([Acts of Apostles 14:6](#))
- And there they went on declaring the Good News. ([Acts of Apostles 14:7](#))
- Now in Lystra there was sitting a certain man disabled in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, and he had never walked at all. ([Acts of Apostles 14:8](#))
- This man was listening to Paul speak, who, on looking at him intently and seeing he had faith to be made well. ([Acts of Apostles 14:9](#))
- Said with a loud voice; Stand up erect on your feet. And he leaped up and began walking. ([Acts of Apostles 14:10](#))
- And the crowds, seeing what Paul had done, raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian tongue; The gods have become like human's and have come down to us! ([Acts of Apostles 14:11](#))
- And they went calling **Barnabas** Zeus, but Paul Hermes, since he was the one taking the lead in speaking. ([Acts of Apostles 14:12](#))

- And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was before the city, brought bulls and garlands to the gates and was desiring to offer sacrifices with the crowds. ([Acts of Apostles 14:13](#))
- However, when the apostles **Barnabas** and Paul heard of it, they ripped their outer garments and leaped out into the crowd, crying out ([Acts of Apostles 14:14](#))
- And saying; Men, why are you doing these things? We also are human's having the same infirmities as you do, and are declaring the Good News to you, for you to turn from these vain things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all the things in them. ([Acts of Apostles 14:15](#))
- In the past generations he permitted all the nations to go on in their ways. ([Acts of Apostles 14:16](#))
- Although, indeed, he did not leave himself without witness in that he did good, giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts to the full with food and good cheer. ([Acts of Apostles 14:17](#))
- And yet by saying these things they scarcely restrained the crowds from sacrificing to them. ([Acts of Apostles 14:18](#))
- But Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and persuaded the crowds, and they stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, imagining he was dead. ([Acts of Apostles 14:19](#))
- However, when the disciples surrounded him, he rose up and entered into the city. And on the next day he left with **Barnabas** for Derbe. ([Acts of Apostles 14:20](#))
- In about **49 C.E.**, **Barnabas** and Paul took the burning question of circumcision of non-Jews up to the older men in Jerusalem, and with that settled, they were soon back in Antioch preparing for their next missionary tour.
- But when there had occurred no little dissension and disputing by Paul and **Barnabas** with them, they arranged for Paul and **Barnabas** and some others of them to go up to the apostles and older men in Jerusalem regarding this dispute. ([Acts of Apostles 15:2](#))

- Accordingly, after being conducted partway by the congregation, these men continued on their way through both Phoenicia and Samaria, relating in detail the conversion of people of the nations, and they were causing great joy to all the brothers. **(Acts of Apostles 15:3)**
- On arriving in Jerusalem they were kindly received by the congregation and the apostles and the older men, and they recounted the many things God had done by means of them. **(Acts of Apostles 15:4)**
- Yet, some of those of the sect of the Pharisees that had believed rose up from their seats and said; It is necessary to circumcise them and charge them to observe the Law of Moses. **(Acts of Apostles 15:5)**
- And the apostles and the older men gathered together to see about this affair. **(Acts of Apostles 15:6)**
- Now when much disputing had taken place, Peter rose and said to them, Men, brothers, you well know that from early days God made the choice among you that through my mouth people of the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. **(Acts of Apostles 15:7)**
- And God, who knows the heart, bore witness by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us also. **(Acts of Apostles 15:8)**
- And he made no distinction at all between us and them, but purified their hearts by faith. **(Acts of Apostles 15:9)**
- Now, therefore, why are you making a test of God by imposing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our forefathers nor we were capable of bearing? **(Acts of Apostles 15:10)**
- On the contrary, we trust to get saved through the undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus in the same way as those people also. **(Acts of Apostles 15:11)**
- At that the entire multitude became silent, and they began to listen to **Barnabas** and Paul relate the many signs and portents that God did through them among the nations. **(Acts of Apostles 15:12)**

- After they quit speaking, James answered, saying; Men, brothers, hear me. ([Acts of Apostles 15:13](#))
- Symeon has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name. ([Acts of Apostles 15:14](#))
- And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written. ([Acts of Apostles 15:15](#))
- After these things I shall return and rebuild the booth of David that is fallen down, and I shall rebuild its ruins and erect it again. ([Acts of Apostles 15:16](#))
- In order, that those who remain of the men may earnestly seek Yehowah, together with people of all the nations, people who are called by my name, says Yehowah, who is doing these things. ([Acts of Apostles 15:17](#))
- Known from of old. ([Acts of Apostles 15:18](#))
- Hence my decision is not to trouble those from the nations who are turning to God. ([Acts of Apostles 15:19](#))
- But to write them to abstain from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. ([Acts of Apostles 15:20](#))
- For from ancient times Moses has had in city after city those who preach him, because he is read aloud in the synagogues on every Sabbath. ([Acts of Apostles 15:21](#))
- Then the apostles and the older men together with the whole congregation favored sending chosen men from among them to Antioch along with Paul and **Barnabas**, namely, Judas who was called **Barsabbas** and Silas, leading men among the brothers. ([Acts of Apostles 15:22](#))
- And by their hand they wrote. The apostles and the older men, brothers, to those brothers in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the nations, greetings! ([Acts of Apostles 15:23](#))
- Since we have heard that some from among us have caused you trouble with speeches, trying to subvert your souls, although we

did not give them any instructions. ([Acts of Apostles 15:24](#))

- We have come to a unanimous accord and have favored choosing men to send to you together with our loved ones, **Barnabas** and Paul. ([Acts of Apostles 15:25](#))
- Men that have delivered up their souls for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ([Acts of Apostles 15:26](#))
- We are therefore dispatching Judas and Silas, that they also may report the same things by word. ([Acts of Apostles 15:27](#))
- For the Holy Spirit and we ourselves have favored adding no further burden to you, except these necessary things. ([Acts of Apostles 15:28](#))
- To keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication. If you carefully keep yourselves from these things, you will prosper. Good health to you! ([Acts of Apostles 15:29](#))
- Accordingly, when these men were let go, they went down to Antioch, and they gathered the multitude together and handed them the letter. ([Acts of Apostles 15:30](#))
- After reading it, they rejoiced over the encouragement. ([Acts of Apostles 15:31](#))
- And Judas and Silas, since they themselves were also prophets, encouraged the brothers with many a discourse and strengthened them. ([Acts of Apostles 15:32](#))
- So, when they had passed some time, they were let go in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them out. ([Acts of Apostles 15:33](#))
- However, Paul and **Barnabas** continued spending time in Antioch teaching and declaring, with many others also, the Good News of the word of Yehowah. ([Acts of Apostles 15:35](#))
- Now after some days Paul said to **Barnabas**; Above all things, let us return and visit the brothers in every one of the cities in which we published the word of Yehowah to see how they are. ([Acts of Apostles 15:36](#))

- However, because they could come to no agreement over taking John Mark along, they each departed for separate territories. **Barnabas** took his cousin Mark to Cyprus, and Paul took Silas through the districts of Syria and Cilicia.

- For his part, **Barnabas** was determined to take along also John, who was called Mark. (**Acts of Apostles 15:37**)

- But Paul did not think it proper to be taking this one along with them, seeing that he had departed from them from Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. (**Acts of Apostles 15:38**)

- At this there occurred a sharp burst of anger, so that they separated from each other, and **Barnabas** took Mark along and sailed away to Cyprus. (**Acts of Apostles 15:39**)

- Paul selected Silas and went off after he had been entrusted by the brothers to the undeserved kindness of Yehowah. (**Acts of Apostles 15:40**)

- But he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the congregations. (**Acts of Apostles 15:41**)

- Thus ends the record made of **Barnabas** in the Scriptures, except for brief mention of him in some of Paul's letters.

- Or is it only **Barnabas** and I that do not have authority to refrain from secular work? (**1 Corinthians 9:6**)

- Then after fourteen years I again went up to Jerusalem with **Barnabas**, taking also Titus along with me. (**Galatians 2:1**)

- Yes, when they came to know the undeserved kindness that was given me, James and Cephas and John, the ones who seemed to be pillars, gave me and **Barnabas** the right hand of sharing together, that we should go to the nations, but they to those who are circumcised. (**Galatians 2:9**)

- The rest of the Jews also joined him in putting on this pretense, so that even **Barnabas** was led along with them in their pretense. (**Galatians 2:13**)

- **Aristarchus my fellow captive sends you his greetings, and so does Mark the cousin of **Barnabas**, concerning whom you received commands to welcome him if ever he comes to you. (Colossians 4:10)**