

THE LORD'S HAND—PART TWO

ACTS 11:26b-30

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Antioch was the third largest city in the world and was extremely decadent. It was in this environment that our Lord launched the first Gentile church.

RECEIVED A NEW NAME. The unbelievers were so impressed by the motivation of the disciples of Christ they called them Christ-ones or Christians. James Montgomery Boice, *Acts*, p. 203. This enabled both believing Jews and Gentiles to share a new common name. (Acts 11:26b, fn 11:26[1st], Acts 26:28, 29, I Peter 4:14-17, fn 4:16) *Dr. D.O. Fuller* asked, “If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” *Why is this a matter of life or death?*

PROPHESIED A SEVERE FAMINE. Prophecy was not merely predictive, but also a speaking forth of God’s will, especially of His saving purpose. The prophets spoke under divine influence and inspiration to enlighten and instruct the hearers. Spiros Zodhiates, *Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, pp 1244, 1245. (Acts 11:27, 28, fn 11:27, 28, Acts 21:7-11, fn 21:9, fn 21:10, I Corinthians 12:27-31) *If the prophets spoke through the Spirit, how is it possible for you to lead a group? Explain.*

REVEALED A LOVE THAT CROSSED CULTURE LINES. Each determined to give according to his ability, and the giving reflected God’s grace in his heart. Out of love, the Gentile church provided gifts for the Jewish church. (Acts 11:29, 30, fn 11:28, 29, fn 11:29, II Corinthians 9:6-15, fn 9:7, fn 9:12-15) *How can you know how much to give?*

Pray for one another’s needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?

