

Acts Chapter 14 Handout #9

Chapter 14 continues the narrative of the first missionary journey of the Apostle Paul (Saul) and Barnabas. In chapter 13 Barnabas and Saul had left from Antioch to Seleucia and sailed to Island of Cyprus, first to city of Salamis, preaching in synagogue, then to Paphos, the capital, where they encountered Bar-Jesus (Elymas) then sailed to Perga in the region of Pamphylia where John Mark left and went back to Jerusalem, then to Antioch in Pisidia where we read the first recorded message of Paul on the gospel, then they were run out by the honourable women and chief men and they ended up in Iconium, later to Lystra and Derbe. From Perga to Derbe are part of the Region known as "Galatia", the Roman Province.

v.1-5 - In Iconium they went first, as usual, to the synagogue and spoke and Jews and Greeks believed. But unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles against them. Although miracles happened, the city divided, and a violent attempt was made to stone them.

v.6-10 - The apostles ran to the cities Lystra and Derbe of Lycaonia. They encountered man lame from birth and Paul perceived that he had faith to be healed. Paul said stand upright in a loud voice and man leaped up and walked.

v.11-18 - The people marvel and call the apostles gods, Barnabas, Jupiter (Zeus, Greek) and Saul, Mercury (Hermes) because he did the talking, like the messenger Hermes. There was a legend about Zeus and Hermes visiting an aged Lystrian couple named Philemon and Baucis who were rewarded greatly for their hospitality. The people were speaking in their own language so the apostles did not know what they were talking about. But when they saw the sacrifices they guessed what was happening so they rent their clothes in horror and disapproval, and admonished them to turn from superstition unto the living God.

v. 19, 20 - But Jews came from Iconium and Antioch (of Pisidia) and set the people against them and the people stoned Paul and took him out of the city thinking he was dead but he stood up. He went back to the city and next day departed for Derbe with Barnabas.

v.21-25 - They preached the gospel to that city then backtracked to the other cities confirming the souls and ordaining elders. Pisidia to Pamphylia (city of Perga) then Attalia. Preaching the word.

v.26-28 - They sailed for Antioch (did not go back to Cyprus) and when they arrived they reported everything that had happened, how God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. Then they abode a long time there with the disciples.