

NOON BIBLE STUDY: ACTS 14

ACTS 14:1-4 - 1ST MISSIONARY JOURNEY — (PART 2)

V. 1 - "THEY" - PAUL & BARNABAS. MANY BELIEVED (JEWS & GREEKS) FROM SYNAGOGUE

- ICONIUM WAS 90 MILES BY ROAD SOUTHEAST FROM PISIDIAN ANTIOCH.
- IN PISIDIAN ANTIOCH AND NOW IN ICONIUM WE SEE A CONFLICT WITH THE DISCIPLES (WHO ARE PREACHING THE GOSPEL) AND "THE JEWS" WHO "CONTRADICT" (ACTS 13:45) AND "STIRRED UP THE MINDS...AND EMBITTERED GENTILES" (14:2) AGAINST THE DISCIPLES.
- THIS HISTORICAL POINT WILL HELP US HAVE A FOUNDATION AND CONTEXT TO THE HEART AND THEME OF PAUL'S LETTER TO GALATIAN CHURCHES AND JERUSALEM COUNCIL IN ACTS 15.

V. 3 - BOLDNESS, TESTIFYING, SIGNS AND WONDERS

V. 4 - PEOPLE OF CITY WERE DIVIDED BETWEEN JEWS & APOSTLES.



ACTS 14:5-7 - TROUBLE ON HORIZON

V.6 - CITIES OF LYCAONIA: LYSTRA → DERBE → SURROUNDING REGION

- LYSTRA WAS 20 MILES SOUTHWEST OF ICONIUM AND DERBE ANOTHER 58 MILES SOUTHEAST. BOTH WERE IN THE DISTRICT OF LYCAONIA WITHIN THE GALATIAN PROVINCE. (ESV STUDY BIBLE, ACTS 14:6)

ACTS 14:8-18 — LYSTRA

- NO INDICATION THAT THERE WAS A SYNAGOGUE IN LYSTRA. PAUL & BARNABAS WOULD HAVE MADE A DIRECT APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF LYSTRA.

V. 8-10 - LAME MAN HEALED

V. 11-13 - RESPONSE OF GREEK-MINDED CROWD (CP. JEWISH REACTION TO HEALING - EX: MATTHEW 9:8; 15:31; MARK 2:11-12, LUKE 5:25-26; 7:16; 13:13, 17:15, 18:43, ETC.)

V. 11 - THE PEOPLE SPOKE IN THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE (AS OPPOSED TO COMMON GREEK) AND SO PAUL & BARNABAS PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON AT FIRST.

THERE WAS A LOCAL MYTH THAT ZEUS & HERMES HAD ONCE VISITED THE REGION:

"THE CROWD'S RESPONSE TO THE MIRACLE SHOWS BOTH TOTAL EXCITEMENT AND TOTAL LACK OF COMPREHENSION. THEY CRY OUT IN LYCAONIAN, THEIR LANGUAGE, THAT THE GODS ZEUS AND HERMES HAVE COME IN HUMAN FORM. THEY REPEATEDLY ADDRESS PAUL AND BARNABAS WITH DIVINE HOMAGE. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING, FOR OVID THE ROMAN POET RELATES A LEGEND OF A PREVIOUS VISITATION BY ZEUS AND HERMES TO THE PHRYGIAN REGION. THEY CAME IN HUMAN FORM AND INQUIRED AT ONE THOUSAND HOMES, BUT NONE SHOWED THEM HOSPITALITY. ONLY A POOR ELDERLY COUPLE, BAUCIS AND PHILEMON, TOOK THEM IN. THE PAIR WERE REWARDED BY BEING SPARED WHEN THE GODS FLOODED THE VALLEY AND DESTROYED ITS INHABITANTS. THE COUPLE'S SHACK WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A MARBLE-PILLARED, GOLD-ROOFED TEMPLE, AND THEY BECAME ITS PRIESTS." (IVP NT COMMENTARY ACTS 14)

V. 14-18 - PAUL'S RESPONSE: PREACHING

ACTS 14:19-20 - PAUL STONED. PAUL REVIVED

V. 19 - JEWS FROM ANTIOCH (PISIDIAN) AND ICONIUM "WON OVER THE CROWDS" (CP. GALATIAN LETTER CONCERNS). THEY STONED PAUL AND DRAGGED HIM OUT OF THE CITY!

V. 20 - "DISCIPLES" - PROBABLY THOSE WHO HAD BEEN MADE THROUGH THIS PREACHING AND OTHER LOCAL CITIES (AS OPPOSED TO JERUSALEM DISCIPLES). SEE ACTS 16:1-2 (TIMOTHY). THEN PAUL GOES BACK INTO THE CITY!

ACTS 14:21-23 - PAUL AND BARNABAS RETURN TO CITIES THEY HAD FIRST PREACHED IN AND FINISH THE WORK IN THIS REGION.

DISCIPLES MADE → STRENGTHEN SOULS/ENCOURAGE → ELDERS APPOINTED (PRAYER AND FASTING) → LEFT TO BE LED BY THE LORD.

ACTS 14:24-28 - FINAL STEPS OF 1ST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

PASSED THROUGH PISIDIA → PAMPHYLIA → PERGA → ATTALIA → TO ANTIOCH (SYRIA) WHERE PAUL/BARNABAS 1ST COMMISSIONED.

V. 27-28 - DEBRIEFING & TELLING OF ALL GOD HAD DONE AND "HOW HE HAD OPENED A DOOR OF FAITH TO GENTILES"

C. 46-47 - 1ST MISSIONARY JOURNEY (ACTS 13-14) (GALATIANS WRITTEN)

C. 48 OR 49 - JERUSALEM COUNCIL (ACTS 15) C. 48/49-51 - 2ND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (ACTS 16-18:22)

ACTS 15:1-6 - JERUSALEM COUNCIL CONVENED

- COUNCIL CALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SORTING OUT WHETHER OR NOT GENTILE BELIEVERS NEEDED TO FIRST BECOME JEWISH (VIA CIRCUMCISION) TO BE BELIEVERS IN MESSIAH JESUS (AND "BE SAVED" PER 15:1). ALSO TO ADDRESS THE RISING THREAT OF OPPOSING MESSAGES HIGHLIGHTED IN ACTS 15:1. WE CAN SEE THE ROOTS OF THIS CONFLICT IN THE BEHAVIOR OF THE JEWS IN GALATIAN REGION DURING THE 1ST MISSIONARY JOURNEY.