

ACTS CHAPTER 14

Acceptance and Opposition (Acts 14:1-28)

In Iconium Paul and Barnabas went into the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks. But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren. Therefore Paul and Barnabas spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands. But the people of the city were divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. And when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews together with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone Paul and Barnabas, they became aware of it and fled. They fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and the surrounding region; and there they continued to preach the gospel.



Map 6

Shows the location of Iconium, Lystra, Derbe and Lycaonia

Now at Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, for he was a cripple from birth and had never walked.

This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, said with a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.”

And he leaped up and began to walk.

When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have become like men and have come down to us.”

They began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, because he was the chief speaker, Hermes. Hermes was considered by them the god of speech. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and garlands to the gates of the city, and wanted to join the people in offering sacrifice. Garlands are festoons of flowers, leaves, or other material, worn for ornament or as an honor.

But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things?”



Map 7: Location of Lycaonia in Anatolia (comprising the majority of nowadays Turkey)

“We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to the living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM. In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”

Even saying these things, with difficulty they prevented the people from offering sacrifice to them. But some Jews came from Pisidian Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe.

After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Pisidian Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they committed them to the Lord in Whom they had come to believe.

Then they went through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia. When they had spoken the word in Perga, the capital of Pamphylia, they went down to Attalia.



Photo 19

City overview of Perga

Attalia was an important seaport 19 kilometers (12 miles) west from Perga. It is nowadays called Antalya and it is Turkey's biggest international sea resort. From Attalia they sailed to Syrian Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished.

When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. God had, as it were, opened the door for the Gentiles to believe. And they spent a long time with the disciples.



Photo 20. Sunset in Antalya

QUESTIONS OF ACTS CHAPTER 14

ALL ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND IN THE TEXT OF CHAPTER 14

1. Who stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren in Iconium?

2. What was the reaction of Paul and Barnabas?

3. Who made an attempt to mistreat and to stone Paul and Barnabas?

4. What had Paul noticed in the crippled man from Lystra who had never walked?

5. What wanted the priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, do?

6. Why did Paul and Barnabas prevent the people from offering sacrifice to them?

7. Who won over the crowds of Lystra and what did they do to Paul?

8. While the disciples stood around him, what did Paul do and where did he go?

9. After preaching the gospel in Derbe, where did Paul and Barnabas go and what did they do there to the disciples?

10. What type of door had God opened to the Gentiles?

ACTS CHAPTER 14 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

Acceptance and Opposition

1In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks. **2**But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren. **3**Therefore they spent a long time *there* speaking boldly *with reliance* upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands. **4**But the people of the city were divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. **5**And when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone them, **6**they became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region; **7**and there they continued to preach the gospel.

8At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. **9**This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, **10**said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and *began* to walk. **11**When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like men and have come down to us." **12**And they *began* calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. **13**The priest of Zeus, whose *temple* was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. **14**But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out **15**and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM. **16**"In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; **17**and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." **18***Even* saying these things, with difficulty they restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

19But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. **20**But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe. **21**After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, **22**strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." **23**When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

24They passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia. **25**When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. **26**From there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished. **27**When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they *began* to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. **28**And they spent a long time with the disciples.

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE(r),

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