

# The Book of Acts

## Chapter 14

Growth of the New Testament Church

# Quiz

2

- Where did foreign missions begin?
  - Antioch of Syria
- Who chose the first two missionaries?
  - The Holy Spirit
- What island did Paul and Barnabas first visit?
  - Cyprus
- Who tried to hinder their ministry in Paphos?
  - Elymas (Barjesus)

# Quiz

3

- From what port did John Mark desert Paul and Barnabas?
  - Perga
- At what city in the region of Pisidia did Paul first preach?
  - Antioch
- What was the response to that first sermon?
  - Some Jews rejected, many Jews and proselytes believed
- Who in Antioch stirred up trouble against the missionaries?
  - Unbelieving Jews



# Ministry in Iconium, v.1-4



4

- They first preached in the synagogue
  - A great multitude of Jews and Greeks (i.e., Greek speakers) believed.
- Unbelieving Jews stirred up Gentiles against the brethren, v.2
  - Evidently they opposed the “great multitude”
  - Therefore, Paul stayed a long time testifying and ministering, v.3
- This resulted in a divided city, v.4
  - Unbelieving Jews opposed
  - Believers sided with the apostles.

# Assaulted and went to Lystra and Derbe, v.5-7

5

- An assault (i.e., a violent, hostile movement) arose.
  - Unbelieving Jews and Gentiles joined the opposition
  - They planned to stone Paul and Barnabas
- Hearing of this, they fled to Lystra, v.6
- They then preached the Gospel in Lystra, v.7
  - Nothing is here said about a synagogue.
  - Later we learn that Lystra was the home town of Timothy (Acts 16:1).





# Crippled man healed in Lystra, v.8-10

6

- They met a crippled man who had never walked.
  - His feet were impotent or powerless.
  - He had been crippled from birth.
  - Try to picture what that might have been like. Terrible!
- This man heard Paul speak and had faith in God, v.9
- Paul LOUDLY told the man to stand up, v.10
  - The man leaped or sprang up
  - The man walked, having never learned

# Nearly worshipped in Lystra, v.11-13

7

- The superstitious people conclude that Paul and Barnabas are gods in human form
  - They thought Barnabas was god Jupiter or (Gk: Zeus)
  - They called Paul (the leader) god Mercurius (Gk: Hermes)
- The priest of Jupiter prepared to make sacrifices to these gods
  - He brought oxen to be killed and garlands
  - Pool states, “**Garlands; these were usually in the form of crowns put upon the oxen which they intended to sacrifice; and, by this sign, showed that they were dedicated to Jupiter.**”



# Lystra sermon on God's character, v.14-18

8

- When Paul and Barnabas learned what was happening, they tore their clothes and cried out to stop the sacrifice.
- Paul explained that they were just men like all men.
  - He urged them to turn from vanities (emptiness) to the living God.
    - God made heaven, earth, the sea and all things therein
    - God in times past allowed all nations to walk in their own ways
    - Yet, God gave to all the witness of nature through which he provides man's needs
- With difficulty, Paul persuaded them not to do sacrifice, v.18



# Worship turned to stoning, v.19-20

9

- Troublemakers from Antioch and Iconium came and persuaded the people against the missionaries.
  - They had been ready to worship the missionaries
  - Now they turned and stoned Paul and assumed that he was dead.
- Believers stood around Paul and he rose up
  - Did he die and raise to life again? Was this when he went to heaven? (2 Cor 12:2)
  - If he did not die, rising up after a stoning was still a miracle
  - The next day they walked to Derbe. Amazing!



# Preached in Derbe then returned, v.21-23

10

- Paul and Barnabas preached the Gospel and taught many in Derbe
  - The word **taught** is the same word used in **Mt 28:19**, “**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...**” It means either to make disciples or to teach disciples. In this case it may have been both.
- They then retraced their steps through Lystra, Iconium and Antioch confirming (strengthening) and exhorting believers.
- They ordained elders in every church
  - Ordain = to vote by stretching out the hand



In Acts 20:17, 28-30, elders and overseers (bishops) are the same.  
In Titus 1:5-9, elders and bishops are the same.  
1 Peter 5:1-3, elders are to shepherd (pastor) and oversee (act as a bishop). Compare Ephesians 4:11 where the pastor/teacher is mentioned (noun for of the word shepherd in 1 Peter 5).

The terms elder, bishop and pastor are used interchangeably for the same office. They are different names for the same person.

## Elders, Bishops, Pastors

11

# Retracing their steps back home, v.24-26

12

- They went south from the region of Pisidia to the region of Pamphylia. This region is VERY mountainous. It would have been exhausting to walk this distance.
- This time it says they preached in Perga.
- Attalia was the actual port where they sailed to Antioch in Syria, v.26





# Mission report to home church, v.26-28

13

- They reported to their home church, v.27
  - The church gathered together
  - They rehearsed or reported on all that God had done
  - They told of the open door of faith to the Gentiles
- They stayed home for a long time, v.28



# Applications for us today

14

- In some places great multitudes were saved and in other places nothing is mentioned of salvation decisions.
  - The same is true today. Hearts seem to be more open in PNG and in other 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries than they are here.
  - We must reach them before they too harden to the Gospel.
- The people of Lystra turned from homage to hostility.
  - We must be prepared for the same.
- Paul's ministry was more than just evangelism. It was edification.
  - When a person makes a profession of salvation in our church, all of us need to do what we can to help build that person up spiritually. Befriend him. Encourage him.
- Paul reported to his home church.
  - When our missionaries come to report, learn all that you can from them.
  - Take a personal interest in them.
  - Give to help them in any way you can.
  - Pray daily for them. Write to them.