

Logos Class – Acts of the Apostles

On Campus class for Oct 10, 2021

Acts Ch 14 – Paul's 1st Missionary Journey...conclusion

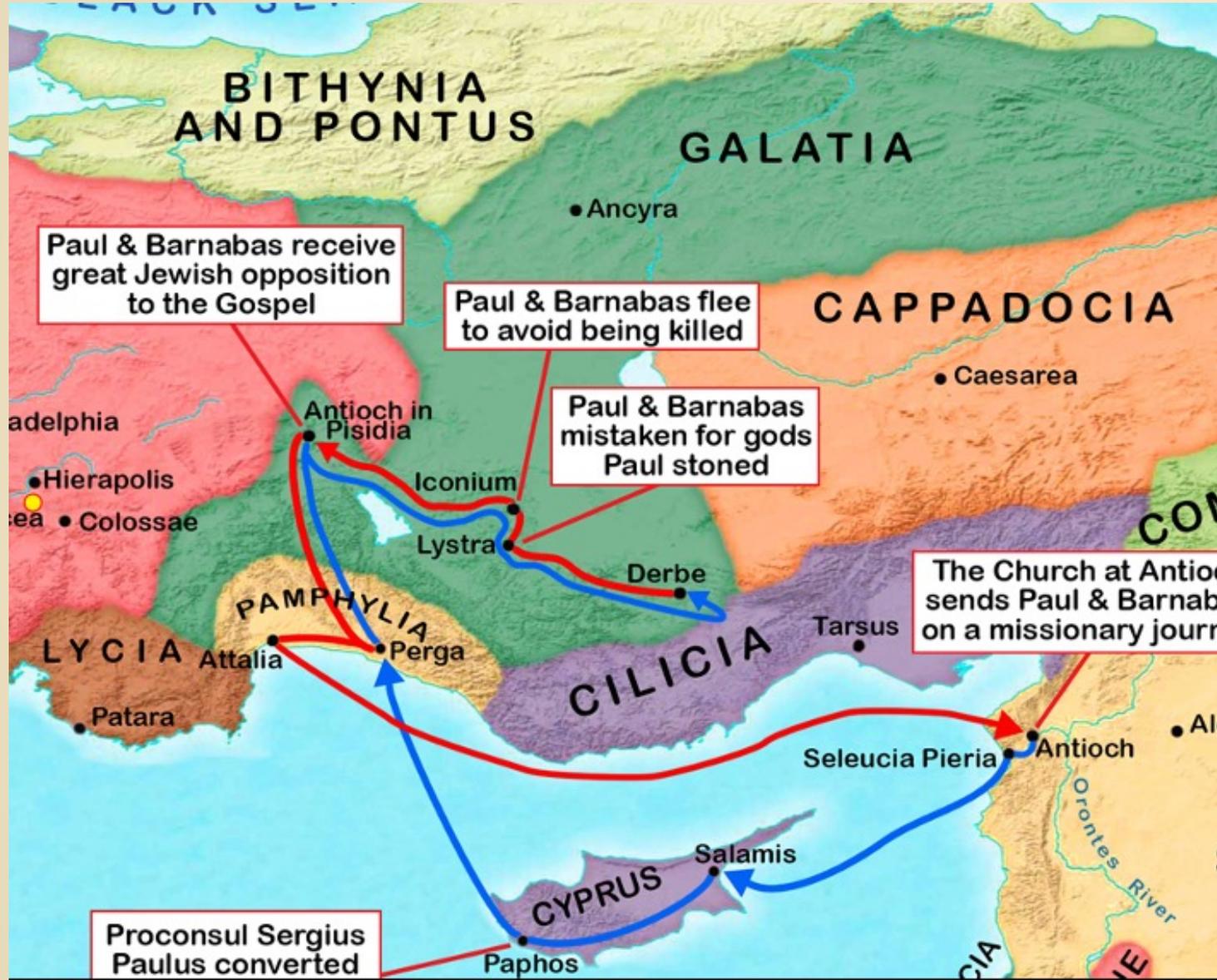
Acts Basic Outline

Six sections, each ending with a summary

- ✓ **Chapters 1-6:7** – Church in Jerusalem and Peter's preaching. Church growing and large number of Priests were coming to the Lord
- ✓ **Chapters 6:8-9:31** – Church spreading and growing in all Roman Palestine, and the martyrdom of Stephen. Churches multiplying in Galilee
- ✓ **Ch 9:32-12:24** – Conversion of Saul to Paul, the extension of the church into Antioch and Peter's reception of Cornelius the Gentile into the church
- ✓ **Ch 12:25-16:5** – The church is spreading in Asia Minor (Turkey) and the spreading of the Gospel in Galatia
- **Ch 16:6-19:20** – The church crossed the Med and spreads to Europe. Paul is starting churches in Ephesus, Philippi, and Corinth
- **Ch 19:21-28:31** – Arrival of Paul in Rome and his imprisonment. Paul boldly proclaims Jesus Christ, and tells of the Kingdom

Kaleigh will be here on Oct 24th to share with us

Map of the first missionary journey of Paul



- In Ch 14, we see the journey from Pisidian Antioch to Derbe
- Then we see the return
- Then we see the reporting back to their home church

Pretty amazing what happens

49 The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

*50 But the Jewish leaders **incited** the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They **stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their region.***

*51 So they **shook the dust off their feet as a warning** to them and went to Iconium.*

*52 And the **disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.***

Acts 14:1-2 *So predictable...a pattern*

14 *At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went **as usual** into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed.*

2 *But the Jews **who refused to believe** stirred up the other Gentiles and **poisoned their minds against the brothers.***

So, what would you do?

Acts 14:3-7

Another way chosen

³ So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

⁴ The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles.

⁵ There was a plot afoot among both Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them.

⁶ But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country,

⁷ where they continued to preach the gospel.

Acts 14:8-12 *While preaching in Lystra*

⁸ *In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked.*

⁹ *He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed*

¹⁰ *and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.*

¹¹ *When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!”*

¹² *Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.*

Acts 14:13-18 *Stopping the mad rush*

*¹³ The **priest of Zeus**, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates **because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.***

*¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, **they tore their clothes** and rushed out into the crowd, shouting:*

*¹⁵ “Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these **worthless things** to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.*

¹⁶ In the past, he let all nations go their own way.

*¹⁷ Yet he has **not left himself without testimony**: He has shown kindness by giving you **rain from heaven and crops in their seasons**; he provides you with plenty of **food and fills your hearts with joy.**”*

¹⁸ Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

What are the lessons here?

There are many lessons here, but here are three

- **First lesson** - *When you are receiving honors, fame, accolades, or anything that is rightfully due God, you must refuse it for yourself.* This is hard for humans, and we see the evidence of this with **celebrity pastors (really celebrities of any kind)**. Honor? Who does it rightfully belong to? It might have been tempting to us to relax and let the “blessing” of worship flow over us, but we have seen the disastrous effect of receiving blessing to ourselves that is rightfully God's. Remember Herod and his demise from being eaten from the inside by worms?
- **Second lesson** – *When or if honors come, we must refocus them on the rightful one.* Paul immediately gives credit to God and then talks about how God has been gracious to them by providing rain and crops even in their unbelief.
- **Third lesson** - *Paul was willing to lose all the fame for himself* and we see that he refocused the message so that it was understood rightfully, and that did not please some of the people in Lystra who had made up their minds according to their own legends and prosperity.

Acts 14:19-20 *Persecution follows them*

Time passes between v18 and 19...

19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.

20 But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

Acts 14:21-25 *Fearlessness and Persistence*

²¹ They preached the gospel in that city (Derbe) and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,

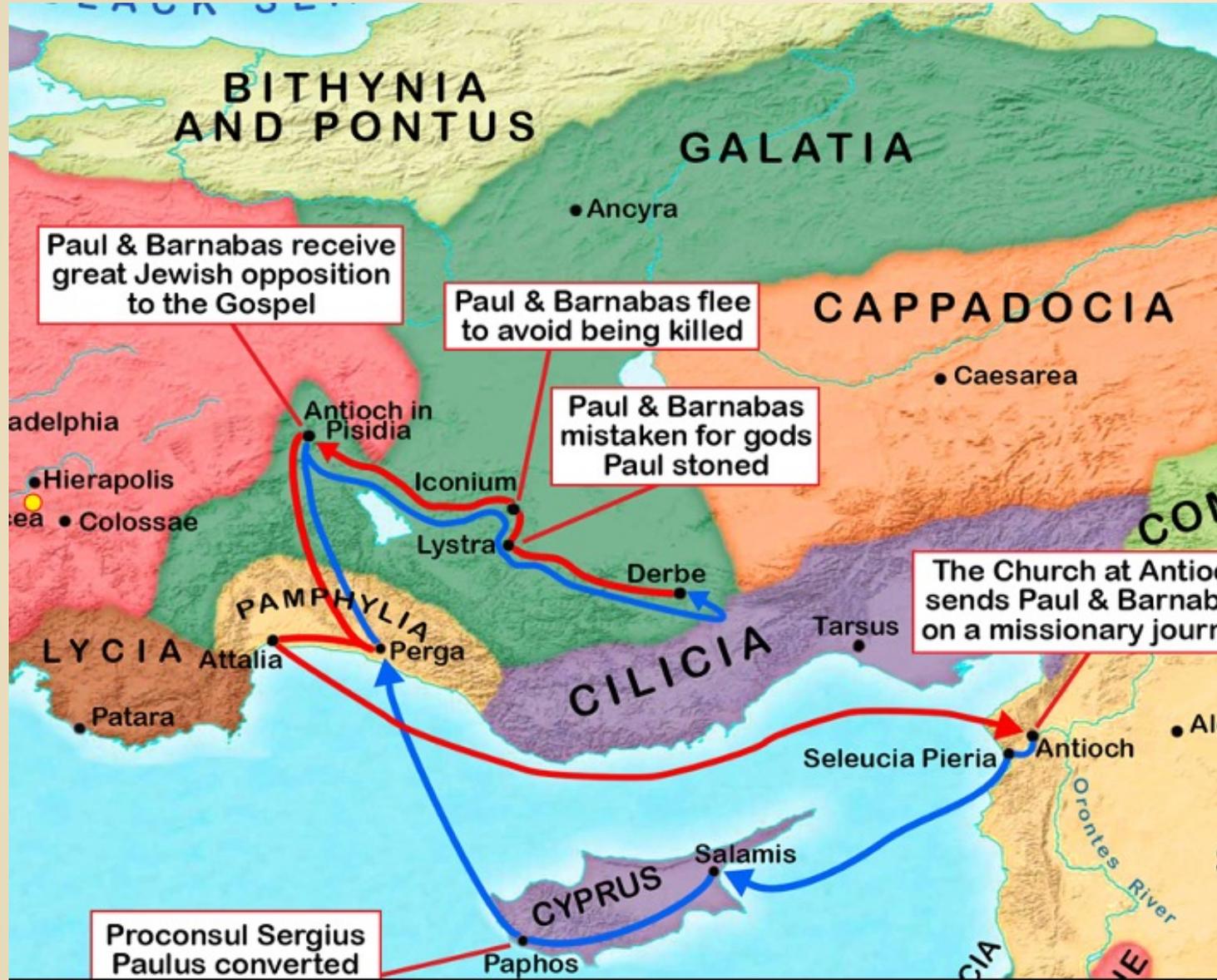
²² strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.

²³ Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

²⁴ After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia,

²⁵ and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

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Acts 14:26-28 *It feels so good to be home*

26 From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that **God** had done through them and how **He** had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

28 And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

Next week

- Pray for our church **as we speak things that some do not want to hear.**
- Pray for our Pastors and guest speakers who will address much needed prophetic topics
- Pray for our church body that they will **take these sermons to heart and do what they must do**
- Pray for our country and its leaders that God will open their minds to His plan
- If you feel the time is near, be bold and urgent to talk with and pray for those that need the Lord
- Pray for our needs as a class and keep in touch with those who have not been in a while.