

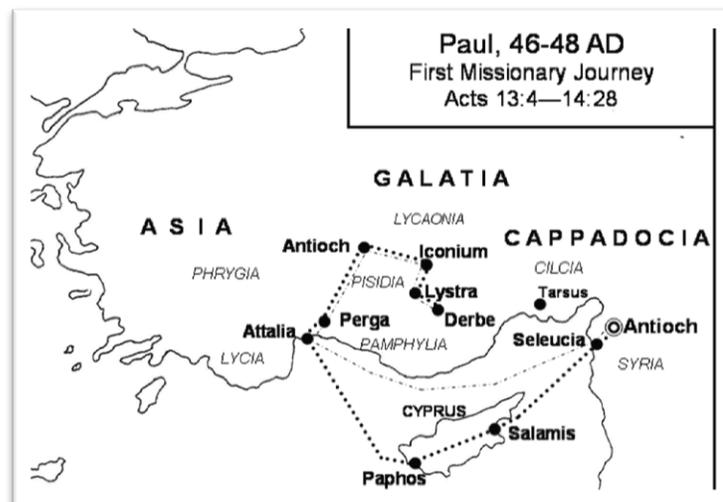
Acts 14:1-27 – Iconium, Lystra and Derbe; Return to Antioch in Syria

Iconium	Lystra	Derbe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synagogue - Many Believed - Some “refused” - Stirred up Gentiles; Poisoned Jewish thinking - Paul spent time teaching - Lord miraculous signs - City divided between <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apostles, and 2. Jews - Plan to stone Paul, Barn. - Paul and Barnabas fled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul speaks - Crippled man healed - Lystra crowd amazed - Lystra thinks apostles gods - Barnabas is Zeus; Paul Hermes - Priest’s brought bull to sacrifice - Paul refuses - Paul refers to general revelation - Jews from Iconium show up - Jews convince Lystra to stone Paul - Paul dragged from the city, left dead - Paul gets up; goes back into city - leave for Derbe next day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preached - Many believed <p>Return to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lystra - Iconium - Antioch near Pisidia <p>And, Preached this Message:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strengthening them - encouraged to remain true to faith - “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.” - Appointed elders in each church with prayer and fasting committed them to the Lord <p>Went back through Pamphylia, preached in Perga, then to the port in Attalia and sailed back to Syria to report to the church of Antioch.</p>

Acts 15: 1-2 – Men from Judea came to Antioch and were teaching, “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them!

IN ANTIOCH, SYRIA: Galatians 2:11-13 – “When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.”

Back in Galatia in Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe Paul writes: “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.” (Galatians 1:6-7) “You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ² I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?” (Galatians 3:1-3)



Iconium is on a major trade route called Via Sebaste that linked Syria to Ephesus. Part of Galatia. Spoke Phrygian dialect into 150 AD according to inscriptions. Iconium was honored by Claudius right before Paul arrived and became a Roman colony in Vespasian's reign (69-79 AD). Agriculture and water was abundant and the city was prosperous and growing. Inscriptions from the first and second century show Christianity took deep roots in Iconium.

14:3 – signs and wonders leads Paul to later write in Galatians 3:3-4, ***“Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh...”⁵ So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?”***

Lycaonian Cities – Lystra and Derbe were incorporated into Galatia in 25 AD. **Lystra** was established by Caesar Augustus in 26 BC and made a Roman colony in 6 AD. Lystra was a day's journey off the *Via Sebaste*. It was not an important city. **Derbe** identified in 1950's with an inscription from a large statue that read: “The Council and People of Claudio-Derbe...” This site has not been excavated, yet.



← From Todd Bolen's bibleplaces.com: “The picture above is one example of this common architectural motif. (Click on the picture for a higher resolution.) This object was found at Cnidus, a city on the western edge of modern Turkey. It is a fragment of a decorative pillar depicting a bull's head on each side. The heads are connected by a garland, and tassels can be seen hanging down on either side of each bull's head. Within the garland are clusters of grapes and possibly some other fruit.”



← From Sarcophagus found in Ephesus and kept in the Ephesus Museum in Selcuk, Turkey

Examples of what the bull looked like when the Priest of Zeus in Lystra “brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates” to sacrifice to Paul.