

Proselyte

(Greek: *prosēlytos*; Hebrew: *geireem*. This word is often used in the *Septuagint* as the rendering, of the Hebrew: *geir*, a sojourner, translated a stranger" (Exo. 12:48; 20:10; 22:21, etc.). The word from meaning "one who comes to," means, also, one "who comes over" from one faith to another. The law was liberal to strangers *ggeireem*, ordaining that they should be treated with forbearance and kindness (Exo. 22:21; 23:9; Lev. 19:33,34). "The stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself, for ye were strangers," etc. The stranger or sojourner was ordered to be welcomed to the Passover Feast upon his observance of certain regulations (Exo. 12:43,45). The word in the sense of convert appears in the history and the writings of the prophets in Isa. 56:3-8, "the sons of the stranger that join themselves to the Lord. The conquests of Alexander, the wars between Egypt and Syria, the struggle under Maccabees, and the occupation by Rome, brought the Jews into wide notice, and gave opportunities for proselytism. Such proselytes attended the Jewish worship and made pilgrimages to the feasts at Jerusalem (Acts 2:10). The admission into Judaism of a convert was by circumcision. Converts to Judaism were classed:

1. As love-proselytes.
2. Man-for-woman or woman-for-man proselytes; where the husband followed the wife's religion or the reverse.
3. Esther-proselytes, where conformity was assumed to escape danger (Esth. 8:17).
4. King's-table-proselytes, converts for the hope of court, favor--as under David and Solomon.
5. Lion-proselytes, converts in the fear of a divine judgment--as the Samaritans (2 Kings 17:26). Proselytes became numerous during and immediately after Christ's period; many were converted in parts remote from Jerusalem (Acts 2:10; 8:27). (Smith's Bible Dictionary, italics added)

Mark 6:10-11 "Also He said to them, 'In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place. 11 And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, **shake off the dust under your feet** as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!' " See also Matthew 10:11-14.

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Learning Guide

Acts 13:43 to 14:7

First Missionary Journey—Part 3

Antioch in Pisidia (continued)

42 So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles **begged that these words might be preached to them** the next Sabbath. 43 Now when the **congregation** [*sunagoge*, συναγωγή... *sun*, "together," *ago*, "to bring," Vine] had broken up, many of the Jews and devout **proselytes** followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, **persuaded** them to continue in the grace of God.

44 On the next Sabbath **almost the whole city** came together **to hear the word of God**. 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with **envy**; and **contradicting** and **blaspheming**, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. 46 Then Paul and Barnabas **grew bold** and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but **since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles**. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us:

'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,
That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

49 And the **word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region**. 50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up **persecution** against Paul and Barnabas, and **expelled them** from their region. 51 But they **shook off the dust from their feet against them**, [see page 4] and came to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Historical Narrative Structure

Passage _____ Date _____

Setting

- Time
- Place

Characters

Problem(s)

Events

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Resolution

At Iconium

1 Now it happened in Iconium that they **went together** to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that **a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed**. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren. 3 Therefore they stayed there a long time, **speaking boldly in the Lord**, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. 4 But the **multitude of the city was divided**: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles. 5 And when a **violent attempt** was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to **abuse and stone them**, 6 they became **aware** of it and **fled to Lystra and Derbe**, cities of Lycaonia, and to the **surrounding region**. 7 And they were **preaching the gospel** there.

Passage: Acts 14:1-7		
I Observe...	I Wonder...	Reminds Me...