

Analysis of the First Missionary Journey (Acts 13:1 to 14:28)

1. It was part of a larger mission to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).
2. Date: sometime between AD 44 and AD 50 (McGarvey).
3. The tour “probably occupied nearly four years” (McGarvey). At Iconium “stayed ... a long time” (14:3).
4. Principal missionaries: Paul and Barnabas; assisted by John Mark for the first part of the trip (13:5, 13).
5. Covered about 1,225 miles, some sailing (13:4; 14:26).
6. Cities included: Salamis & Paphos, Cyprus; Perga, Pamphylia; Antioch of Pisidia; Iconium; Lystra; Derbe; and Attalia.
7. Planted congregations in strategically located cities.
8. Pattern: to the Jews first; then, to the Gentiles/Greeks (see, also, Romans 1:16; 2:9, 10).
9. Spoke in at least three synagogues: Salamis (13:5); Antioch of Pisidia (13:14-15); and Iconium (14:1).
10. Multitudes heard the gospel. Some people accepted the word of the Lord; others rejected it—just like today.
11. Even adversity, including threats and stoning, did not stop them from preaching or going back to cities where they were earlier rejected.
12. At least two miracles were performed (13:11; 14:8).
13. Revisited many of the cities, strengthening the disciples and “exhorting them to continue in the faith” (14:22).
14. Elders (plurality) appointed in “every church” (14:23).
15. They “completed” (14:26) their mission for which they had been called and sent (13:3).
16. Upon returning, they called the supporting congregation (Antioch of Syria) together and gave a report of “what God had done with them” (14:27).

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Learning Guide

Acts 14:8-28

First Missionary Journey—Part 4 of 4

Lystra

And in Lystra a **certain man without strength in his feet** was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. 9 This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, 10 said with a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet!” And he leaped and walked. 11 Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” 12 And **Barnabas they called Zeus**, and **Paul, Hermes**, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes.

14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out 15 and saying, “**Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you**, and preach to you that **you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them**, 16 who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.” 18 And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.

Not all people know how to be (or remain) humble in times of success or when in positions of power. Paul and Barnabas did not accept credit for what they did nor praise of men; instead, they gave glory to God.

19 Then Jews from Antioch [c. 100 mi.] and Iconium [c. 25 mi.] came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they **stoned Paul** and dragged him out of the city, **supposing him to be dead**. 20 However, when the **disciples gathered around him**, he rose up and went into the city.

Derbe

And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe 21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and **made many disciples**,

Derbe, Lystra, and Timothy

It is possible that Timothy—who later became an outstanding evangelist—was among the “many disciples” mentioned above, but not named in this record. Perhaps his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois may have been also. Evidence:

On the second missionary journey, Timothy was already a disciple. When Paul “...came to **Derbe and Lystra ... a certain disciple was there, named Timothy**, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. 2 He was **well spoken of by the brethren** who were at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him” (Acts 16:1-3).

Paul said of Timothy, “**my beloved and faithful son in the Lord**,” (1 Corinthians 4:17).

Paul knew about Timothy’s spiritual heritage. Paul wrote: “**when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you**, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also” (2 Timothy 1:5).

Years after the first journey, Paul stated that Timothy was familiar with what had happened to him at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra. Paul wrote to Timothy, “...**you have carefully followed my doctrine**, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, **afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra— what persecutions I endured**. ... 14 But you must continue in

the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that **from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:10-15).

Strengthening the Converts

Lystra > Iconium > Antioch of Pisidia > Perga > Attalia > Antioch of Syria

they **returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch**, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” 23 So when they had **appointed elders in every church**, and **prayed with fasting**, they **commended** them to the Lord in whom they had believed. 24 And after they had passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. 25 Now when they had preached the word in **Perga**, they went down to **Attalia**.

- Elders appointed in *every* church.
- *Plurality* of elders in each congregation.
- Elders appointed very soon.
- Very likely elders were selected from men who had a strong religious background in Jewish religion prior to conversion.
- Appointed: prayer, fasting, and commendation to the Lord.

Back to Antioch of Syria

26 From there they sailed to **Antioch** [c. 300 miles], where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed.

27 Now when they had come and **gathered the church together**, they **reported** all that **God had done with them**, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 So they **stayed there a long time with the disciples**.