

Presentation 6—Acts 11.19-14.28

Antioch, Paul & Barnabas, First Missionary Journey

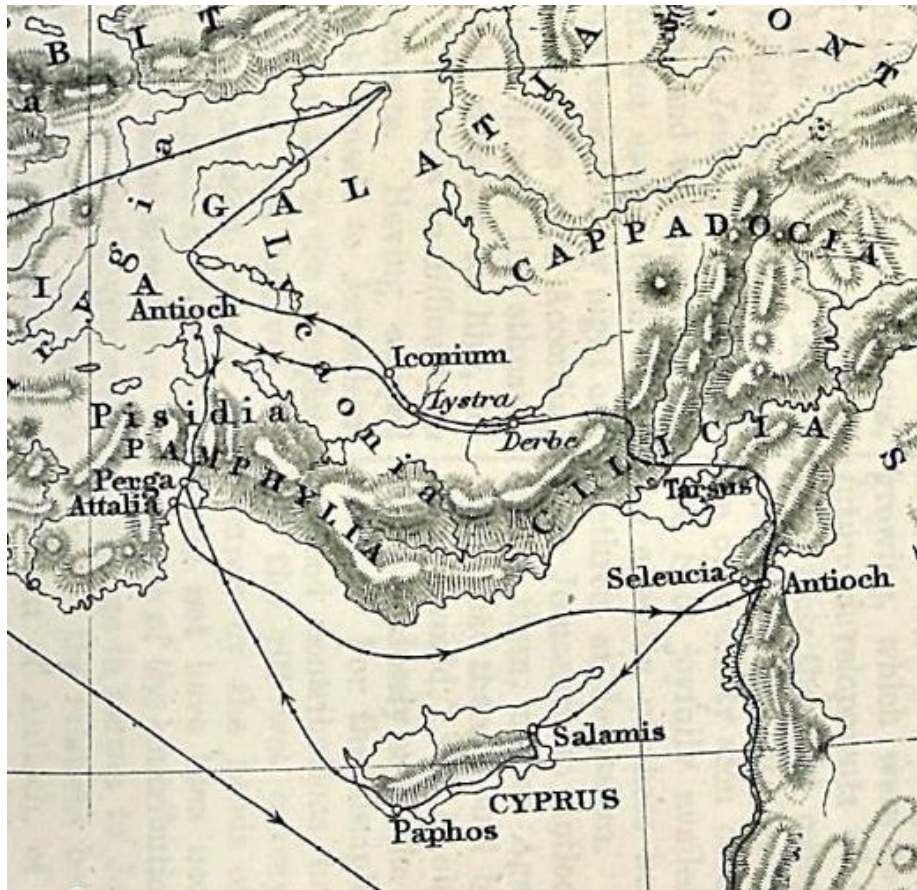


Sarcophagus of St Barnabas, Cyprus
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- Acts 11.19-30—*Antioch*: Luke’s move in Acts to Antioch, the role of Barnabas and his invitation to Paul at Tarsus to join him. ‘Ekklesia’ identified: the ‘gathering’ of the ‘*Christianoï*’ = outsider designation of this gathering of Jesus’ disciples in Antioch. The collection of relief for those in Judea, as a sign of solidarity from the Greek/Gentile followers of Jesus. Geographical expansion continues
 - Acts 12.1-19—*Luke’s Concluding Story of Peter*. Herod kills James and arrests Peter in Jerusalem. Peter’s arrest and release by an angel of God. Peter goes to the house of Mary, mother of John-Mark who will appear later in Acts. Peter’s final appearance in Acts. Herod’s execution of the prison guards concludes the scene.
 - Acts 12.20-25—*Herod’s Death and the Growth of the Jesus movement*. Herod’s death but the ‘Word of God grew and multiplied’(v 24). Barnabas and Saul

return from Jerusalem.

- Acts 13.1-3—*Antioch Jesus household*. Identity of its leadership. Barnabas and Saul appointed for the missionary task.



The Route of the First Missionary Journey of Paul and Barnabas¹

- Acts 13.4-14.28—*The First Missionary Journey*. Barnabas and Saul travel to Cyprus, preaching, then sail on to Asia Minor.
 - v9, first time Saul is called ‘Paul’. Similar pattern of strategy: Preach in the synagogue first then embrace the Gentile world.
 - Pisidian Antioch preaching. Partial success amongst Jews, though there is resistance and aggression.

¹ William Smith, *Concise Dictionary of the Bible* (London: John Murray, imprint of Hodder & Stoughton, 1900), facing p. 693.

- Paul's declaration 13.46 and the definitive turn to the Gentiles.
(Perhaps part of a note illustrating Luke's struggle with the failure of the Jewish attraction to the Gospel and the Jesus movement)
 - Paul and Barnabas move on to Derbe, back to Lystra, Iconium and return to Antioch, after a dramatic interaction in Lystra.
 - 14.27: Paul and Barnabas declare 'all that God had done with them and how God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles'.
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FOR FURTHER REFLECTION & CONVERSATION

- Paul and Barnabas journey to new places to preach the Gospel? Can you name some of the 'new' places that have appeared in your spiritual journey? How might the Church journey in these new times?
- A successful healing in Lystra (Acts 14.8-10) make Paul and Barnabas 'heroes', regarded almost like gods. They act with humility directing the crowd's adulation to God. How might the Church and its leadership act with humility?
- When Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch, they gather the 'ekklesia' and give thanks to God. What is it that you would like to thank God for?

IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT PRESENTATION

- The next session will focus on Acts 15-17. In preparation for this session, spend time with this section of the *Acts of the Apostles*.

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