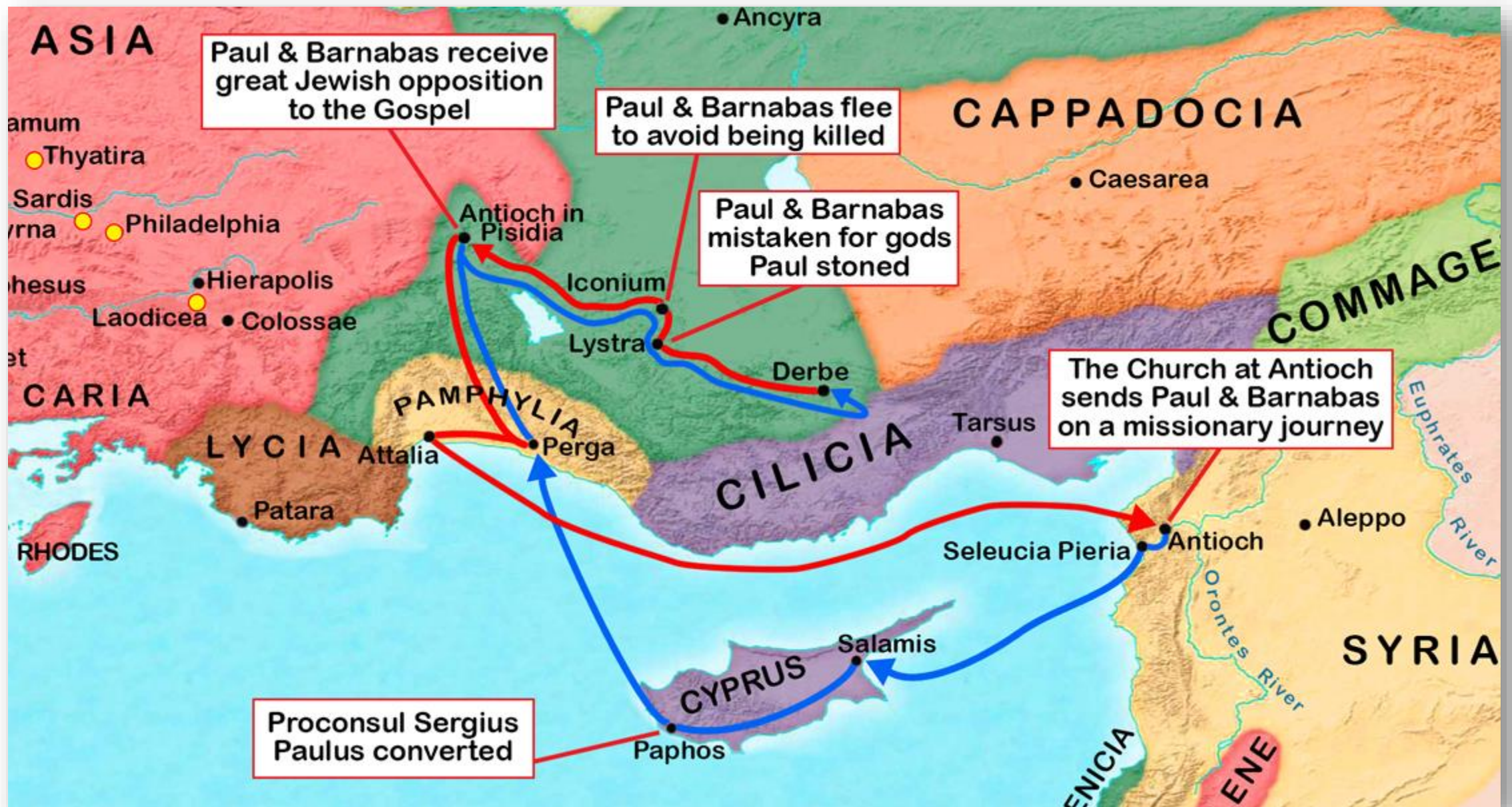


14. The conference at Jerusalem (Acts 15)







And after they had passed through **Pisidia**, they came to **Pamphylia**.
Now when they had preached the word in **Perga**,
they went down to **Attalia**.

From there they sailed to **Antioch**.

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.

So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

(Acts 14:24-28)

Overview...

The possible sequence of events...

- Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch (Acts 14:28)
- Peter comes to Antioch (Galatians 2:11)
- Certain men came from James in Jerusalem (Galatians 2:12, Acts 15:1)
- Paul challenges Peter' publicly (Galatians 2:11-14)
- Paul hears that Jews have deceived the Galatians.
- Paul writes the letter to the Galatian churches
- Paul and Barnabas go to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders (Acts 15:2)
- The apostles write to the churches about Gentiles and the Law (Acts 15:22-29)

Contend earnestly for the faith... (Jude 1:3)

WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM?

Many Jews in Jerusalem (including some Pharisees) who had come to believe that Jesus was the Christ, still held onto the various outward customs of the Law of Moses. They believed that for Gentiles to be saved, they had to, in essence, become Jewish and follow these customs while they were also trusting in Christ Jesus.

They therefore believed salvation to be possible only through faith in Christ PLUS obedience to the Law.

WHAT WAS PAUL'S ANSWER?

The Law **exposes our sin**, but it cannot save us.

Salvation is only possible through faith in the Lord Jesus, His death and resurrection.



PAUL STANDS FIRM



WHAT HAPPENED?

Now when Peter had come to Antioch,
I opposed him to his face, because he was to be blamed;

WHAT DID HE DO?

for before certain men came from James,
he would eat with the Gentiles;
but when they came, **he withdrew and separated himself**,
fearing those who were of the circumcision.

Jews were not supposed
to eat with Gentiles

HOW DID IT AFFECT OTHERS?

And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him,
so that **even Barnabas** was carried away with their **hypocrisy**.

They followed
Peter's example

(Galatians 2:11-13)

PAUL CHALLENGES PETER

“If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

(Galatians 2:14)

...We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through **faith in Jesus Christ**, so we [Jews] also have **believed in Christ Jesus**, in order to be justified **by faith in Christ** and **not by works of the law**, because by works of the law **no one** will be justified.

(Galatians 2:15-16)



If righteousness comes through the law, **then Christ died in vain.**

(Galatians 2:21)

WHAT (probably) HAPPENS NEXT?

Peter leaves Antioch...

News arrives in Antioch that the believers in **Galatia** have been told that **they must come under the Law of Moses!**

They have also been told that **Paul is not a proper apostle**, and that the apostles in Jerusalem sent these “teachers” to correct Paul’s teaching – they said he had **left things out!**

Paul is VERY angry and upset – false shepherds (!!#!#!!) have led these new believers into bondage to the Law!

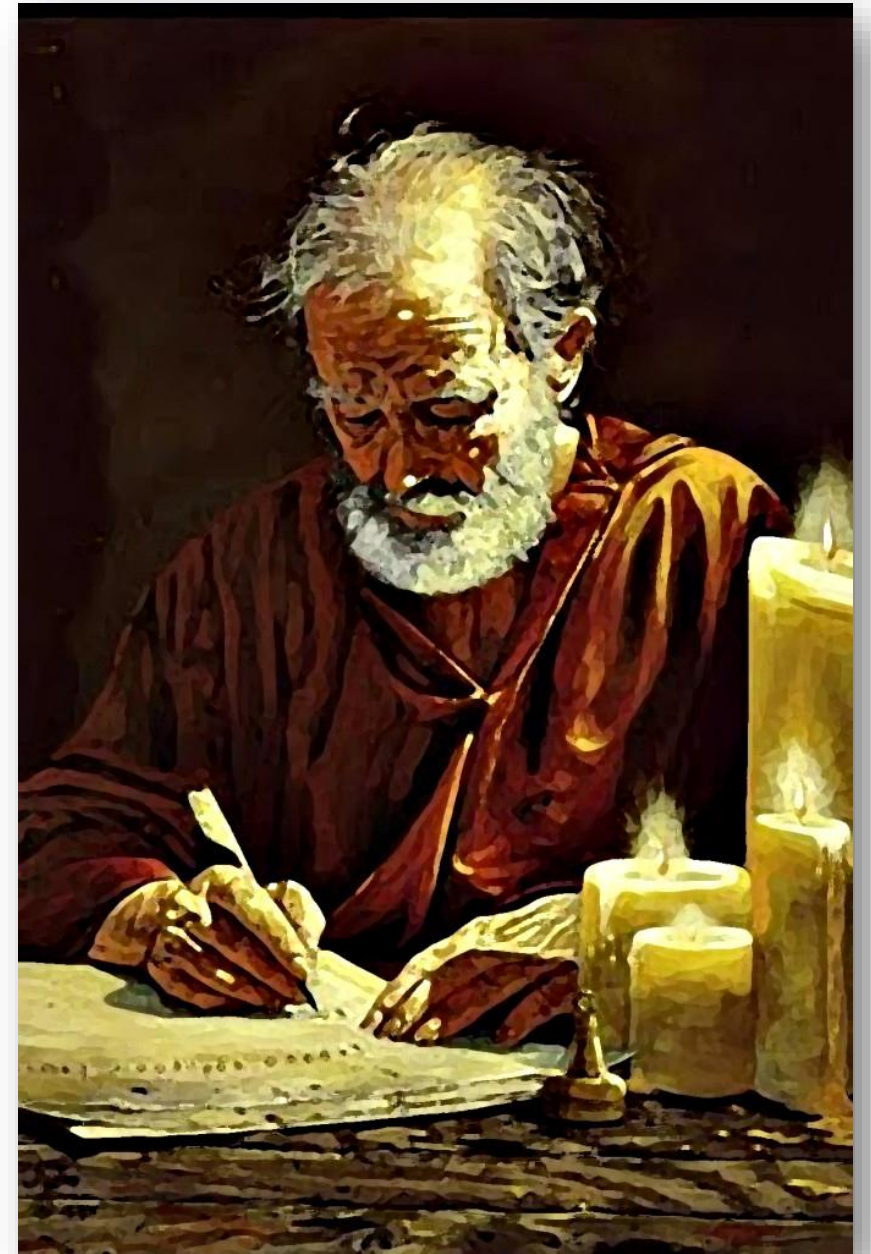
He decides to write to them!



Paul,

an apostle

*(not from men nor through man,
but through Jesus Christ and God the Father
who raised Him from the dead),
and all the brethren who are with me,
To the churches of Galatia ...*



Galatians 1:1-2



Galatians 1:6-9

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to *a different gospel* — not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, *let him be accursed.*

As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, *let him be accursed.*

You foolish Galatians!

More from Galatians

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you...

Galatians 1:11-12

Galatians 3:28

Galatians 4:19

More from Galatians

Stand fast therefore in the liberty
by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled
again with a yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:1

I say then: *Walk in the Spirit*, and you shall not fulfill
the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
Against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

More from Galatians

See with what large letters I have written
to you with my own hand!

Galatians 6:11

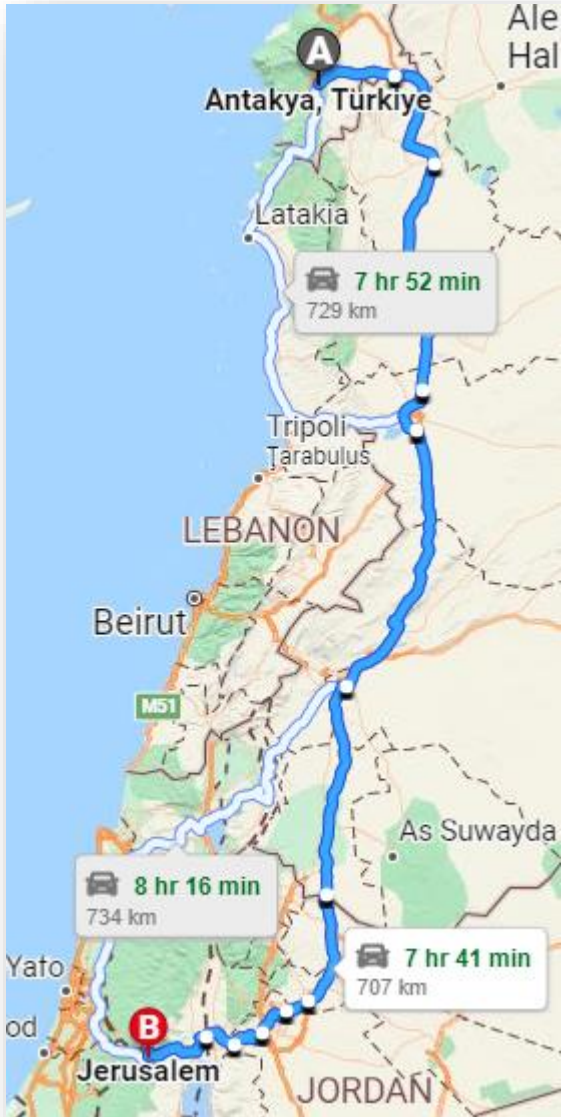
But far be it from me to boast
except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by which the world has been crucified to me,
and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14-15

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be with your spirit. Amen.

Galatians 6:18

Continuing disagreement...



...they determined that **Paul** and **Barnabas** and certain others of them should go up to **Jerusalem**, to the apostles and elders, about this question.

(Acts 15:2)

So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through **Phoenicia** and **Samaria**, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused **great joy** to all the brethren.

(Acts 15:3)



And when they had come to **Jerusalem**, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them.

(Acts 15:4)



Pharisees
(Acts 15:5)

It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.

(Acts 15:6)

**And after there had been much debate,
Peter stood up and said...**



God ... made no distinction
between us and them,
purifying their hearts by **faith**...

Peter

(See Acts 15:7-11)

We believe that through the **grace**
of the Lord Jesus Christ
we shall be saved
in the same manner as they.

*The Lord "was bearing witness
to the word of His grace,
granting signs and wonders to
be done by their hands."*

(Acts 14:3)

Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to **Barnabas** and **Paul** declaring
how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them **among the Gentiles.**

(Acts 15:12)

After they finished speaking, James replied,
“Men and brethren, listen to me...”



Acts 15:16-17
quoting
Amos 9:11-12

*After this I will return
and will rebuild **the tabernacle of David**,
which has fallen down;
I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up;
So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD,
Even **all the Gentiles** who are called by My name,
Says the LORD who does all these things.*

The Letter (see Acts 15:23-29)

The apostles, the elders, and the brethren,
To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:
Greetings.

Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law"—to whom we gave no such commandment—

it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth.

For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality.

If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.

Farewell.

The necessary things...

For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than **these necessary things**: that you abstain:-

- From things offered to idols,
- From blood,
- From things strangled, and
- From sexual immorality.

Leviticus
17:13-14

The things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.
(1 Corinthians 10:20-21)

So when they were sent off,
they came to Antioch...

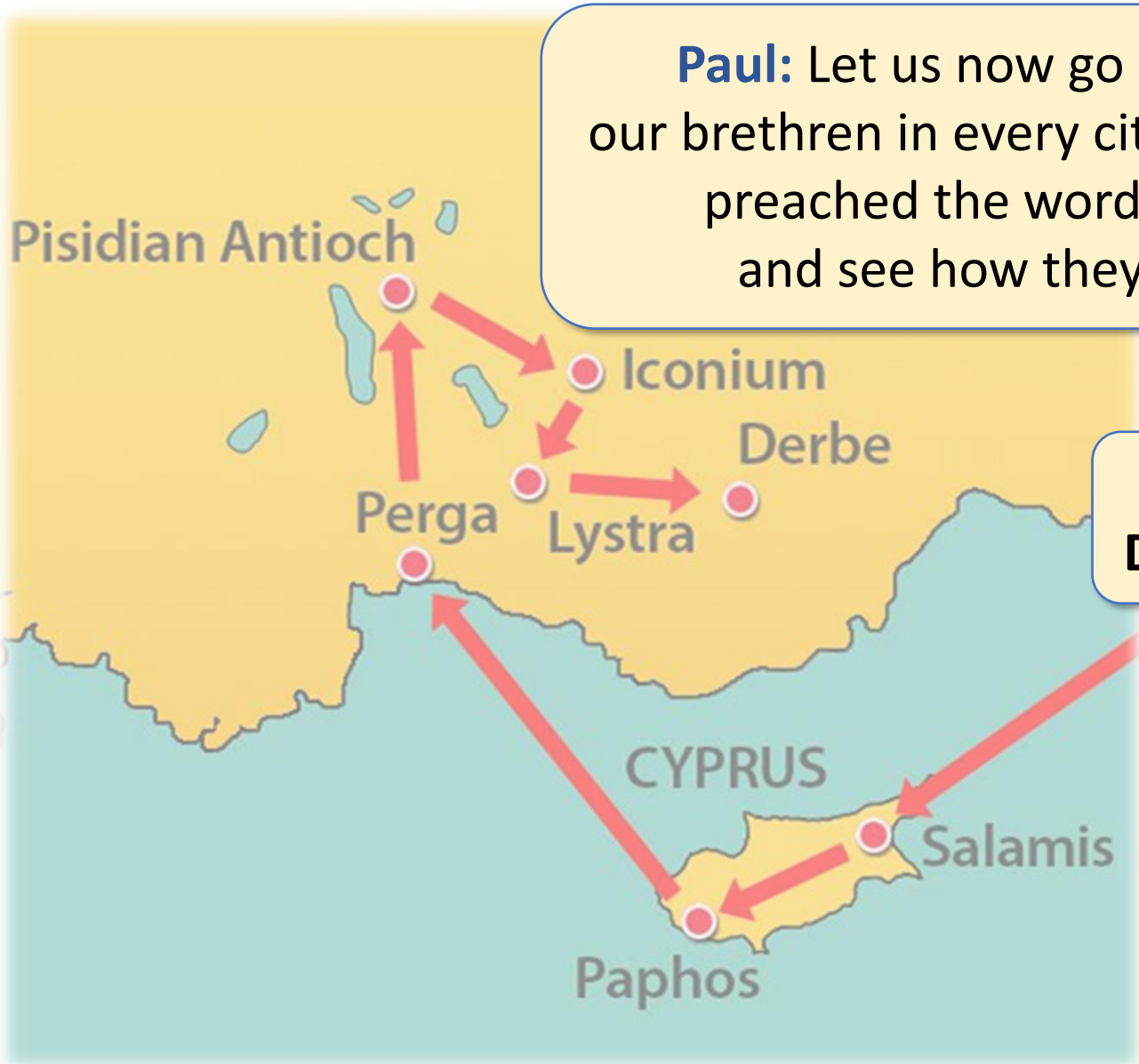


- The letter is delivered and received with joy
- **Judas** and **Silas** encourage the believers “with many words”
- They return to Jerusalem

Paul and **Barnabas** remained in **Antioch**,
teaching and preaching the word of the Lord,
with many others also.

(Acts 15:35)

Paul and Barnabas disagree...



Paul: Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.

Barnabas: Yes, and we can take **Mark** with us...

Paul: No! Definitely not!

And there arose a **sharp disagreement**, so that **they separated** from each other.
(Acts 15:39)

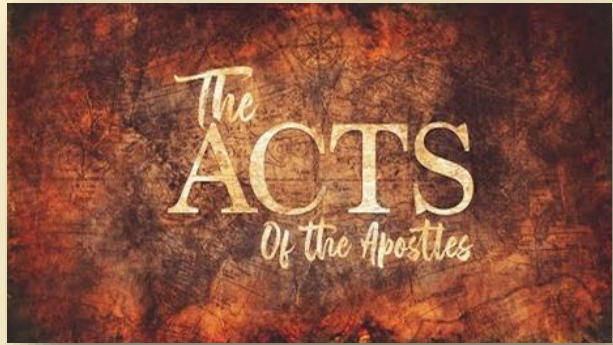
Barnabas took **Mark** with him and sailed away to **Cyprus**...

The second journey begins...

...but **Paul** chose **Silas** and departed,
being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.
And he went through **Syria** and **Cilicia**,
strengthening the churches.

(Acts 15:40-41)





Next: **The second journey continues...**