

**“MISSION: Persecution, Martyrdom, Resurrection,
Commission, Ordain, Reinforcement & Strengthen!”**

Acts 14:19-23

Then **Jews (Religious Authorities)** from **(Pisidian) Antioch** and **Iconium** came there (to **Lystra**); and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the **city**, supposing him to be dead. However, when the **Disciples** gathered around him (**Paul’s Body**), he rose up and went into the **city** (of **Lystra**). And the next day **Paul** departed with Barnabas to **Derbe**. And when **They (Paul & Barnabas)** had preached the Gospel to the **city** (of **Derbe**) and made many Disciples, **They** returned to Lystra, Iconium, and (Pisidian) Antioch, strengthening the Souls of the Disciples, exhorting Them to continue in the faith, and saying (rhema / prophecy), “*We must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God!*” So, when **They (Paul & Barnabas)** had appointed (commissioned & ordained) Elders in every Church, and prayed with fasting, **They (Paul & Barnabas)** commended Them (Disciples) to the **Lord** in **Whom They had believed** (by faith). **Acts 14:19-23 (NKJV)**

RECALL

Let’s Now Recall The Question We Asked Throughout Acts Chapter 13 Accompanying
The Preaching & Teaching Of The Full Gospel Of The Good News Of Jesus Christ!

Q1

*“What Is The Outcome When The True Followers Of God
Testify & Witness To The Full Gospel Message of the Good News To Others?”*

RECALL

There Are Five Possible Answers To This Question!

A1

Some People Become Curious About The Things Of God & Eternity!

*“So, when the **Jews** went out of the Synagogue, the **Gentiles** begged that these **Words (Gospel)** might be preached to them the next **Sabbath**.” **Acts 13:42***

A2

Some People Become Convicted & Make Decisions of Faith For Jesus Christ

*“Now when the **Congregation** had broken up, many of the **Jews** and **Devout Proselytes (Gentile Converts)** followed **Paul** and **Barnabas**, **Who**, speaking to **Them (New Converts)**, persuaded **Them (New Disciples)** to continue in the Grace of God.” **Acts 13:43***

A3

New Believers Immediately Begin To Testify & Witness To The Gospel That Has Set Them Free
*“On the next **Sabbath**, almost the whole city came together to Hear the Word of God (Full Gospel of Good News).” **Acts 13:44***

A4

Believers Begin To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit & With The Joy Of Their Salvation

*“And the **Disciples** were filled with Joy and with the Holy Spirit.” **Acts 13:54***

A5

Non-Believers Immediately Begin To Persecute God’s People & Bring Action Against The Gospel

*“But when the **Jews (Religious & Secular Authorities)** saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, **They opposed the Things (Truths of the Gospel)** Spoken by Paul.” **Acts 13:45***

Q1

“This Morning As We Look At Today’s Scripture - What Outcomes Do We Observe?”

A5 – Persecution & Martyrdom

Non-Believers Immediately Begin To Persecute God's People & Bring Action Against The Gospel
Then **Jews (Religious Authorities)** from **(Pisidian) Antioch** and **Iconium** came there (to **Lystra**);
and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the **city**,
supposing him to be dead. Acts 14:19

Q2

“Why Did The People Of Lystra Rise Up Against Paul?”

A

1) The Religious Authorities Of The Larger Congregations Of Jews

From Pisidian Antioch & Iconium Stirred Up The People Of Lystra To Take Action Against
The Perceived Heretical Preaching & Teaching Of Paul Concerning The Gospel Of Good News

2) Their Beliefs & Faith In Zeus Were Questioned & Made Useless In Light Of The Gospel

But when the **Apostles Barnabas** and **Paul** heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among
the multitude, crying out and saying, *“Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men
with the same nature as you, and **Preach (the Good News)** to you that you should **turn (repent)**
from these **useless things** to the **Living God, Who made the heaven, the earth, the sea,**
and **everything that is in them,**”* Acts 14:14-16

CQ

“What Actually Happened To Paul When He Was Stoned?”

They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the **city**, supposing him to be dead.

Acts 14:19cd

Q1

“Was He Almost Stoned To Death & Then Revived Later?”

Or

Q2

“Was He Actually Stoned To Death & Then Resurrected Back To Life?”

A

The Language Of This Stoning Has Three Realities:

1) Historical Jewish Law, 2) Miraculous Signs & Wonders, & 3) Paul's Later Accounting

1) Historical Jewish Law

Stoning In Jewish Law Needed At Least Three Witnesses

Of Which One Of Each Of The Following Had To Be Present:

A) Jewish Religious Authority, B) Court Appointed Authority, C) Eyewitness Accuser

Further, Each Group Had To Give Approval & Participate,

& Each Group Had To Examine The Body To Declare The Victim Was Indeed Dead.

This Means **Paul Was Not Almost Dead & Then Revived – He Was In Fact Stoned To Death!**

2) Miraculous Signs & Wonders

The Language Chosen By Luke The Author Of Acts Is Spiritual - Miraculous And Is Explicitly
Used To Invoke The Understanding Of A Divine Sign & Wonder Signifying A Resurrection!

Paul Was Raised From The Dead!

... However, when the **Disciples gathered around him (Paul's Body)**,
he rose up and went into the **city (of Lystra)** ...

Acts 14:20ab

**3) Paul's Later Accounting Affirms The Miracle of Resurrection
Presented In A High Chiasmata Format (High Set of Bookends)**

NOTE 5# Statements Of Qualification

A1 Paul, "To our shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold, I speak foolishly, I am bold also. ¹ Are they Hebrews? So am I. ² Are they Israelites? So am I. ³ Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. ⁴ Are they ministers of Christ? I speak as a fool, I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often ⁵ ...

NOTE 5# Persecution – Followed By 7# More In A 3, 1, 3 Internal High Bookend

B1 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ¹⁻⁵

C1 Three times I was beaten with rods; ¹⁻³

D1 Once I was stoned; ⁴

C2 Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ⁵⁻⁷
In journeys often,

NOTE 8# Perils = 7 & 1

D2 In perils of waters, ¹ in perils of robbers, ² in perils of my own countrymen, ³
in perils of the Gentiles, ⁴ in perils in the city, ⁵ in perils in the wilderness, ⁶
in perils in the sea, ⁷ in perils among false brethren; ⁸

NOTE 5# Persecutions

B2 In weariness and toil, ¹ in sleeplessness ² often, in hunger and thirst, ³
in fastings often, ⁴ in cold and nakedness ⁵

NOTE 5# Statements Of Qualification

A2 Besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. ¹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? ² Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? ³ If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. ⁴ The God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is Blessed Forever, knows that I am not lying. ⁵

2nd Corinthians 11:21-31 (NKJV)

Q

"What Do Paul & Barnabas Immediately Do The Next Day?"

A

They Leave For The Next Town!

... And the next day Paul departed with Barnabas to Derbe ... Acts 14:20c

Q

"What Do Paul & Barnabas Immediately Do Upon Entering A New City?"

A

The Follow Their & Our Divine Mission To Proclaim The Gospel!

NOTE Another Outcome Is Observed After Preaching The Full Gospel Message

A2

Some People Become Convicted & Make Decisions of Faith For Jesus Christ

... And when They (Paul & Barnabas) had preached the Gospel
To the city (of Derbe) and made many Disciples ... Acts 14:21a

Q

"According To Their & Our Divine Mission, What Do Paul & Barnabas Do Next?"

A

They Strengthen & Exhort The New Disciples To Keep The Faith & To Act!

... They (Paul & Barnabas) returned to Lystra, Iconium, and (Pisidian) Antioch, strengthening the Souls of the Disciples, exhorting Them to continue in the faith, and saying (rhema / prophecy), "We must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God!"

Acts 14:21b-22

Q

"According To Their & Our Divine Mission, What Do Paul & Barnabas Do Next?"

A

They Appoint, Commission, & Ordain Elders In Each Church
... So, when **They (Paul & Barnabas)** had appointed
(commissioned / ordained) **Elders in every Church ... Acts 14:23a**

Q

“According To Their & Our Divine Mission, What Do Paul & Barnabas Do Next?”

A

They Pray & Fast & Spend Time With Each Congregation Of Disciples.
Then They Commend & Reinforce The New Disciples To The Hand Of God In Faith
... And prayed with fasting, **They (Paul & Barnabas)** commended Them (Disciples)
to the **Lord** in **Whom They had believed** (by faith) ... **Acts 14:23**

*“Let Us Be Like Paul & Barnabas Today & Tomorrow.
Let Us Always In All Boldness & In The Power Of The Holy Spirit,
Fulfill Our Divine Mission For Which Christ Saved Us & Set Us Free!
Let Us Proclaim The Gospel of The Good News of Grace & Love To All!”
Let Us Endure All Persecution With Patience & Hope,
In Order To Make, Encourage, Strengthen, Commission, Ordain
& Reinforce New Disciples For Our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ!”*