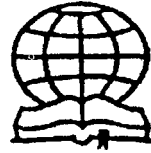


# Christadelphian Bible Mission

## The Acts of the Apostles



### Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 14

#### Questions - Acts Chapter 14

Paul and Barnabas had now reached Iconium on their first missionary journey. Here they went straight away to the synagogue to preach to the Jews.

14.1 What did the unbelieving Jews do?

14.2 Why did Paul and Barnabas move on to Lystra?

Paul healed the lame man and then the people of Lystra thought he and Barnabas must be gods, and not just men.

14.3 What did they want to do to please these "gods"?

14.4 How did Paul describe the true God to these idol-worshippers?

Soon after this the people stoned Paul. This shows how easily people can be led into evil. We must take care that we do not listen to people of evil purpose, and join with the crowd. We remember how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus into the city and shouted "Hosanna" and yet within a week they were shouting "Crucify him".

14.5 With God's help, what did Paul do after he had been stoned?

Notice the courage of Paul and Barnabas. They went back through those places where their enemies lived so that they could help and encourage the believers there.

14.6 What did they do when they returned to Antioch at the end of their first missionary journey?

(The word "rehearsed" (King James Version) in verse 27 means they "told" or "described").

### Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 15

Verse 5 shows that some of the Pharisees wanted all believers to:

- i) be circumcised,
- ii) keep the Law of Moses.

(Look back at the notes with chapter 6 to remind yourself about the Law of Moses).

#### Questions - Acts Chapter 15

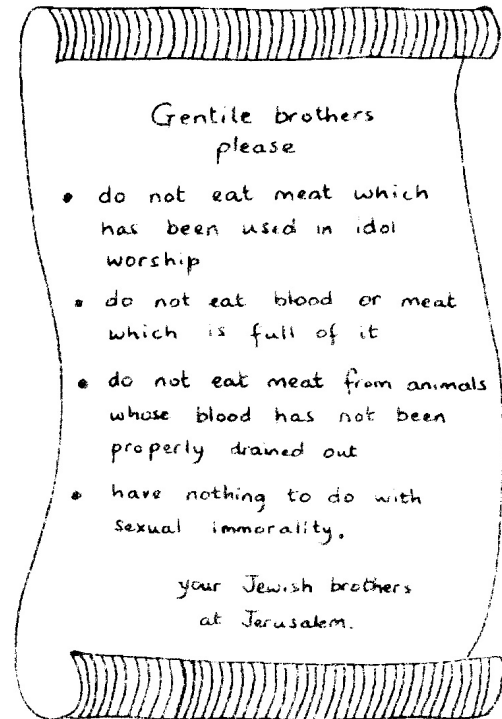
15.1 Who was the first person told to be circumcised? (Read Genesis 17:9-27).

## 15.2 What was to happen to anyone not circumcised? (Genesis 17:14)

As well as being the sign of the covenant God made to their father Abraham (Genesis 17:10) and his descendants, it also taught that the Jews were not to be proud of their literal, fleshly descent from Abraham. As the Lord Jesus said "The flesh profiteth nothing". The Jews were so proud of being children of Abraham that they despised all non-Jews (Gentiles), which was very wrong.

It is interesting that circumcision was to be done on the eighth day. This is when the baby's blood is best for clotting, and therefore healing.

The result of their discussion at Jerusalem was that they decided the Law of Moses did not have to be kept. Peter said that even the Jews couldn't keep the Law (verse 10) so why should Gentile believers be forced to observe it. In fact, the Gentiles did not need the Law because they could be saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (verse 11). "Grace" means 'free gift' and is totally undeserved. So we cannot EARN our salvation, but it is GIVEN by God, even though no one deserves it.



15.3 Write out verse 11.

15.4 What did Paul and Barnabas tell the people?

15.5 Which verses list the 4 things the Gentiles should keep from the Law of Moses?

15.6 What does verse 18 show?

15.7 What did Paul and Barnabas quarrel about?

15.8 Verse 40 is the start of Paul's 2nd missionary journey. Who went with him?

## Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 16

### Questions - Acts Chapter 16

16.1 In chapter 15 the Apostles and elders of the early church decided circumcision was not necessary for salvation, so why did Paul circumcise Timothy?

Notice from verses 6-8 Paul was clearly shown where he should preach. See map.

16.2 What was Paul told in a vision?

Notice in verse 8 it says "they ....." and in verse 10 it says "we ....." . It is thought that at this point Luke joined Paul, and Luke is the one who was writing by inspiration this book of the Bible.

16.3 Who was Lydia?

16.4 What did she do?

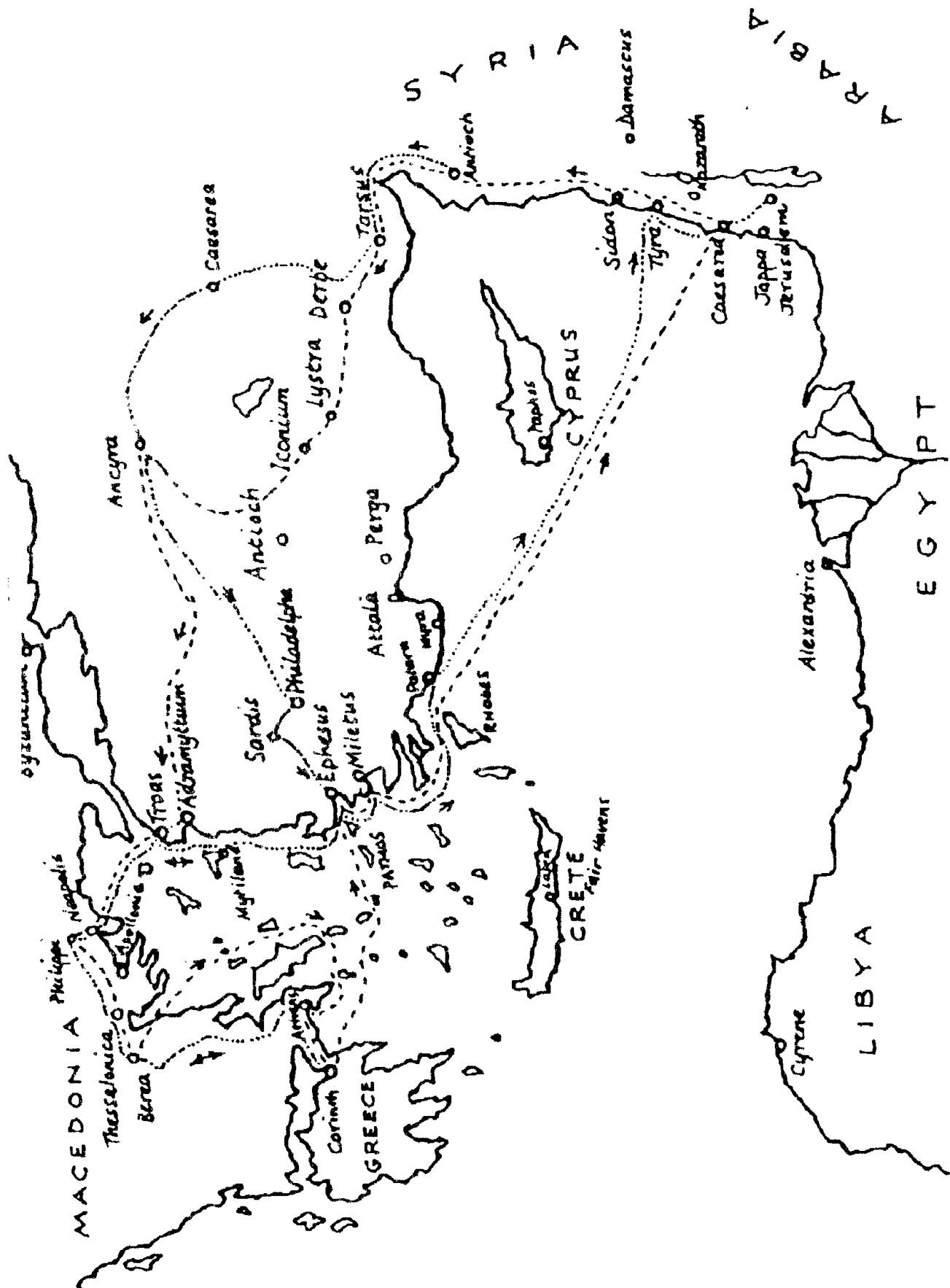
16.5 Why were Paul and Silas brought to the magistrates?

16.6 What did Paul and Silas do while in prison?

16.7 Why did the jailor want to kill himself?

16.8 What did the jailor have to do to be saved?

16.9 What did Paul and Silas do before the jailor had even washed their wounds? (verse 32).



## POINTS TO NOTE

1. If a Roman guard let his prisoner escape, he would be put to death; so the jailor thought it would be better to kill himself than let the cruel Romans do it. Paul saved him from this.
2. Paul could have said he was a Roman citizen earlier and escaped the flogging and imprisonment, but he wasn't one to stand up for his rights. But later he wanted to help the new believers so he let the people of Philippi know that he had been wrongly treated (uncondemned, verse 37). He had not broken the law (as had been said in verse 21). This might help the believers in Philippi, to save them from being accused and persecuted in the same way.
3. Both Lydia and the jailor and his family were instructed by Paul first before baptism (verses 14 and 32). It is important to understand the things concerning Jesus and the Kingdom of God before being baptised.
4. Lydia and the jailor were both hospitable. They looked after Paul and Silas (and Luke and Timothy) who were now their brothers in Christ.

## Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 17

In Thessalonica Paul used the Old Testament Scriptures to show the people that Jesus Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead (verse 3).

What does the Old Testament say about the death of Jesus?

### Questions - Acts Chapter 17

Psalm 22:1; 22:7-8; 31:5; 22:18; Isaiah 53:4-5; Isaiah 50:6; Isaiah 53:7; Psalm 69:21.

17.1 Look up these passages and make a list of what the scriptures prophesied about the death of Jesus.

### BUT WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO SUFFER?

- A. Look at Hebrews 4:15. Jesus had to be tempted to see if he would sin. He could only be said to be "without sin" when he had overcome every temptation, and the final temptation would have been to avoid crucifixion. Jesus died a sinless man, having obeyed his Father in all things.
- B. Hebrews 2:17-18 shows us that because Jesus has suffered and been tempted, he understands us when we are suffering and are tempted, and can help us.

Paul had been staying at Jason's house, so the Jews went to look for him there.

17.2 What did these Jews say that Paul and his friends had been doing?

17.3 Why were the Jews at Berea "more noble" than those of Thessalonica?

17.4 Why did Paul leave Berea?

At Athens, Paul found a lot of idolatry. The people of Athens wanted to make sure that they had an altar to every god. In case they had missed out a god they had set up a spare altar "to the unknown god". Paul used this to tell them about the true God, Whom they obviously did not know about.

Read verses 24-31.

- 17.5 List the things Paul said about the true God in verses 24 and 25.
- 17.6 From whom do all nations come?
- 17.7 What, according to verse 27, should men do when they know about God?
- 17.8 What does verse 29 mean?
- 17.9 What has God commanded all men everywhere? (This includes you and me).
- 17.10 Verse 31- God will judge the world (see also Romans 2:16)
  - (a) Does this judgement take place when a person dies? If not, when?
  - (b) What word is used to describe HOW the world will be judged?
  - (c) Who will be the judge?
  - (d) What did God do for the man who will be judge (to prove he was without sin and could therefore make righteous judgements)?

#### NOTE

- 1. God knew in advance when nations would rise and fall and where they would live. He not only knew these things but planned them (see verse 26; Deuteronomy 32:8 and Daniel 4:17).
- 2. The Lord Jesus Christ is again described as a man in verse 31. He had to be a man so that he could be tempted and die. But now he is greater than the angels (Hebrews 1:4).

## Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 18

### Questions - Acts Chapter 18

#### PAUL AT CORINTH

- 18.1 What was Paul's trade (his job)?
- 18.2 Paul went to the synagogue each sabbath to teach the Jews the truth about Jesus.
  - (a) Did they accept Paul's teaching?
  - (b) What did Paul say about these Jews?
- 18.3 What did Crispus and the Corinthians do before they were baptised?
- 18.4 When Paul left Corinth he went to Ephesus but wouldn't stay there long. Why not?  
He then went back to Caesarea (verse 22) and probably then went to Jerusalem. Then he started (verse 23) on his third missionary journey.
- 18.5 Why did Aquila and Priscilla need to help Apollos?
- 18.6 Apollos was a good speaker ("eloquent") but he also had another important qualification. What was it?

#### POINTS TO NOTE

1. In spite of Matthew 10:9,10 and 1 Timothy 5:18, Paul did not want to be a burden to the believers so he continued with his own work while he preached.
2. Paul and Apollos showed the Jews that "Jesus was Christ" (see v 5 and 28). Jesus means 'Saviour' and Christ means 'Anointed one' (that is, anointed to be King). This means Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the future King.

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