

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 14:1-7 | LESSON SUMMARY

### Unbelief

**ACTS 14:1**, "Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed."  
(ESV)

- Iconium: located in modern-day Turkey
- Greek and notably resistant to Roman influence
  - Relatively backward
  - This is important as we establish how the people would have understood Paul and Barnabas' message
    - Meaning is filtered through existing lens

**ACTS 14:2**, "But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers."  
(ESV)

- It is clear there is almost immediate division
  - Their message creates controversy wherever they go
- The next verse begins with "so"
  - Transitional expressions like this are not accidental
  - In Greek "οὖν" = therefore



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ACTS 14:3, "So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord..." (ESV)

- The point of staying longer was because the unbelieving Jews had created confusion and "poisoned their minds"
  - **κακῶω** = oppress, afflict, harm
  - Paul and Barnabas want to make sure before they continue that their message is clearly understood

### Plot to Kill

ACTS 14:5, "When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them..." (ESV)

- There may have existed considerable division, but here the Gentiles agree on one thing: Paul and Barnabas have got to go



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**ACTS 14:6**, "they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country..." (ESV)

- We are not told how they learn of the plot
- They remain in the same district of Pisidia
  - This means that likely word was spreading of them
- Lystra = probably home of Timothy, however, he was known in Iconium as well

**ACTS 14:7**, "...they continued to preach the gospel..."

- Paul and Barnabas give no indication of stopping

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Zondervan, Acts: Archeological Study Bible, John B. Miller, Convinced That God Had Called Us, C. Hemer, The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History

