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THE APOSTLE PAUL – LESSON 11

GENTILE CHURCHES ORGANIZED

Paul's first missionary journey sees him now leaving Lystra where he was stoned, left for dead, then raised up among praying believers. After showing himself for one more day in Lystra to those who stoned him and to give testimony to the newly converted believers, he and Barnabas departed to 30 miles SE to Derbe, still in the Roman province of Pisidia, Asia Minor.

They preached the gospel in Derbe without the resistance and persecution they had encountered in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. They made many disciples for The Way and taught them for a season.

They then retraced their route back to Lystra, Iconium, and Pisidian Antioch. At each city they confirmed the faith of the new believers, preached, taught them, and organized them into a unified church body. With prayer and fasting, elders were chosen and ordained in each city. They continued preaching throughout Pisidia.

Afterwards, they went south to the coastal province of Pamphylia. There they preached the word in the port city of Perga where they had originally landed. Then they went a little westward to the port city of Attalia. From there they caught a ship, and leaving Asia Minor (Turkey), they sailed home to Antioch in Syria.

They now gave a full report to the Syrian Antioch church that had sent them out. This was their "home base." This missionary journey covered a period of 3 to 4 years, presumably about 45 to 48 A.D. (or 48-52 A.D. by some writers).

Barnabas and Paul stayed at Antioch now for a couple of years ministering in the church there. However, this time was not without some dispute with certain believers who came to Antioch from Judea and Jerusalem. We will talk about that tomorrow because it was a very crucial matter for the new gentile churches. It impacted how we believe and practice even today.