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**Study of Acts:
Chapters 14-15**

We're glad you're here!

Paul and Barnabas at Iconium (14:1-6)

- **As was their custom, Paul and Barnabas first preached in the Jewish synagogue. "A great company believed, both of Jews and Greeks." (14:1)**
- **Some Jews stirred up opposition among Jews and Gentiles, and even plotted to stone Paul and Barnabas. So they fled to Lystra. (14:2-6)**

Paul and Barnabas in Lystra (14:7-13)

- **Here Paul heals a man crippled from birth after observing this man's faith. (14:8-10)**
- **So amazed were the crowd that they believed that Paul and Barnabas were gods. Barnabas, they called Zeus; Paul they called Hermes. The priest of Zeus then brought oxen and garlands to offer sacrifice to them. (14:11-13)**

The reaction of Paul and Barnabas (14:14-18)

- **Paul and Barnabas tore their garments, and declared they were merely men. (14:14,15)**
- **They then proclaimed the good news about the living God who made the heaven and the earth. They stated that God had allowed the nations "to walk in their own ways." Yet God had shown his witness to them by sending "rains and fruitful seasons to all nations." (14:16-18)**



Persecution occurs (14:19,20)

- **Jews come from Antioch and Iconium to incite the people against Paul and Barnabas. (14:19)**
- **Paul is stoned, dragged outside of the city, and left for dead. However, Paul recovers. (14:20)**



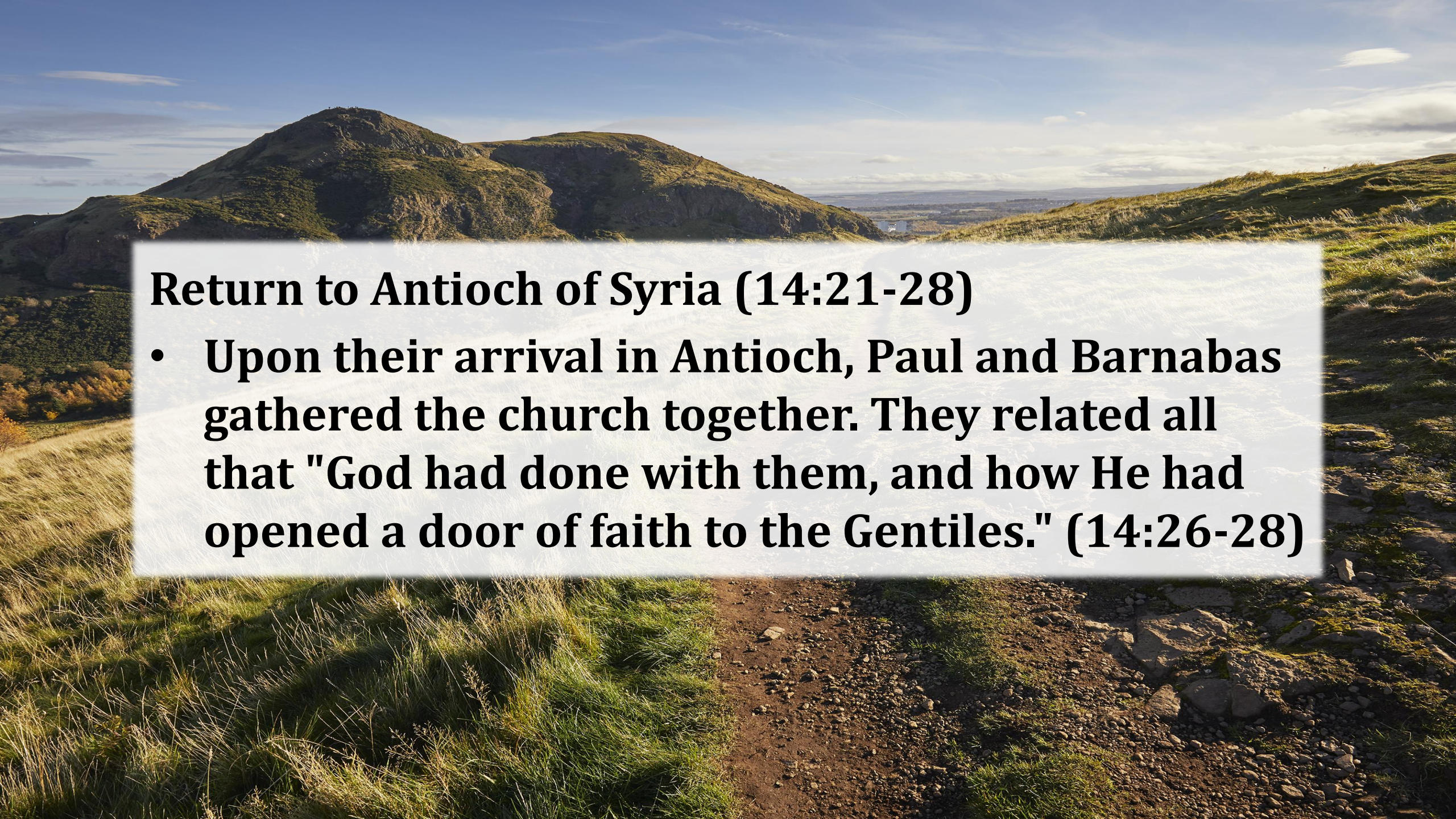
Persecution occurs (14:19,20)

- **Paul mentions this stoning when he enumerates the many persecutions he had experienced. (2 Corinthians 11:24-26)**
- **Paul and Barnabas depart to Derbe where they preach the gospel and make many disciples. (14:21)**



Return to Antioch of Syria (14:21-28)

- **Paul and Barnabas revisit Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia in order to strengthen the disciples and exhort them to continue in the faith despite tribulation. (14:21,22)**
- **They also appoint elders in these churches after prayer and fasting. (14:23)**



Return to Antioch of Syria (14:21-28)

- **Upon their arrival in Antioch, Paul and Barnabas gathered the church together. They related all that "God had done with them, and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles." (14:26-28)**

The controversy over Jewish customs (15:1-5)

- **Some men from Judea came to the Antioch church asserting, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." (15:1)**
- **Paul and Barnabas strongly disagreed with this contention. Therefore, it was decided to send Paul and Barnabas and others to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem to address this issue. (15:2)**

The controversy over Jewish customs (15:1-5)

- As they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they visited churches and joyfully related the conversion of the Gentiles. (15:3)**
- Paul and Barnabas were welcomed by the Jerusalem church, and they related the positive results of their missionary journey. (15:4)**
- Yet there were believers in the Jerusalem church who strongly believed that Christians must keep the law of Moses. (15:5)**



The council in Jerusalem (15:6-12)

- **After the initial debate, Peter arose to address the council. He recounted the way in which God had led him to realize that Gentiles were to receive and obey the gospel. (15:6-9)**

The council in Jerusalem (15:6-12)

- **Peter stated that the commands of the law were a yoke that none could completely obey. Rather we are "saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus." (15:10,11)**
- **Next Paul and Barnabas related the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. (15:12)**

The conclusion of the council (15:13-34)

- **James, the brother of Jesus, then spoke. He referred to Peter's testimony of the acceptance of the Gentiles. He then referred to the Old Testament prophecies that indicated that the Gentiles were to be called by God's name. (15:15-18)**
- **James made it clear that Gentile Christian should not be required to keep the law. Rather he recommended that a letter be composed that the Gentile Christians should "abstain from the pollutions of idols and from unchastity and from what is strangled and from blood." (15:19,20)**

The conclusion of the council (15:13-34)

- **The council accepted James' recommendation and composed a letter addressed to the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia with this wording. They chose Silas and Judas from the Jerusalem church to accompany Paul and Barnabas as the letter is delivered. (15:22-29)**
- **The church at Antioch received the letter with joy at the exhortation, and soon the representatives from Jerusalem returned to the Jerusalem church with the good news. (15:30-34)**

The beginning of the second missionary journey (15:36-41)

- Paul suggests to Barnabas that they visit the churches which they had established on the first missionary journey. (15:36)**
- Barnabas agrees to Paul's suggestion; however, he wants to take Mark with them. (15:37)**
- Paul disagrees, since Mark had left them on the earlier mission trip. They finally decide to separate. Barnabas takes Mark with him to Cyprus, and Paul takes Silas with him as they begin this journey by visiting churches in Syria and Cilicia. (15:38-41)**

