

Acts 14:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

Analysis

They went both together into the synagogue—Paul and Barnabas maintained their pattern of synagogue evangelism, demonstrating continuity between Judaism and Christianity. The phrase **so spake** (Greek *lalēsai houtōs*) emphasizes rhetorical power and Spirit-anointed persuasiveness, not mere eloquence. The result—**a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed**—shows the gospel transcending ethnic barriers. The 'Greeks' (Ἐλλήνων) were God-fearing Gentiles already attached to the synagogue, prepared by monotheism for Messiah's claims.

Historical Context

Iconium (modern Konya, Turkey) was a prosperous Phrygian city on Paul's first missionary journey (circa AD 47-48). Its synagogue had a substantial God-fearing Gentile constituency. This mixed response—Jewish and Greek converts alongside Jewish opposition—typified Paul's ministry pattern throughout Acts.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does 'so spake' challenge you to depend on the Spirit's power rather than human persuasion techniques?
2. What barriers between ethnic or social groups does the gospel break down in your church community?

Interlinear Text

'Εγένετο δὲ ἐν Ἰκονίῳ κατὰ τὸ αὐτοὺς εἰσελθεῖν
it came to pass And in Iconium both G3588 together G846 that they went
G1096 G1161 G1722 G2430 G2596 G3588 G846 G1525

αὐτοὺς εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν τῶν Ἰουδαίων καὶ λαλῆσαι
together into G3588 the synagogue G3588 of the Jews and G2532 G2980
G846 G1519 G4864 G2453 G2532 G2980

οὕτως ὅστε πιστεῦσαι Ἰουδαίων τε καὶ Ἑλλήνων
so that believed of the Jews both and of the Greeks
G3779 G5620 G4100 G2453 G5037 G2532 G1672

πολὺ πλῆθος
a great multitude
G4183 G4128

Additional Cross-References

Acts 18:4 (Parallel theme): And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

Acts 13:51 (Parallel theme): But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

Acts 13:46 (Parallel theme): Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

Acts 14:21 (Parallel theme): And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

Acts 19:8 (Parallel theme): And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

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