

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' (Ἑλλήνων) 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

Ἐγένετο	δὲ	ἐν	Ἰκονίῳ	κατὰ	τὸ	αὐτοὺς	εἰσελθεῖν
it came to pass	And	in	Iconium	both	G3588	together	that they went
G1096	G1161	G1722	G2430	G2596		G846	G1525
αὐτοὺς	εἰς	τὴν	συναγωγὴν	τῶν	Ἰουδαίων	καὶ	λαλῆσαι
together	into	G3588	the synagogue	G3588	of the Jews	and	spake
G846	G1519		G4864		G2453	G2532	G2980
οὕτως	ὥστε	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.