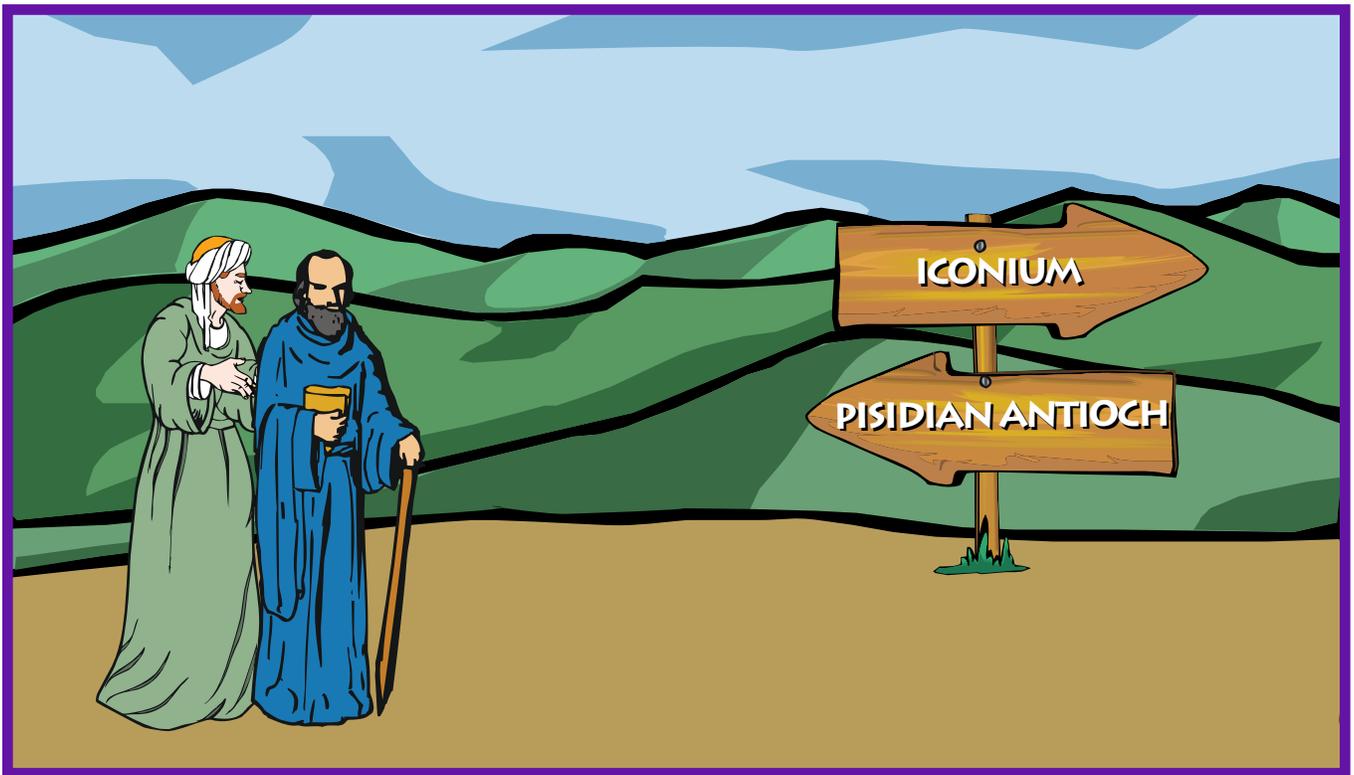


Tour of the Holy Lands - Iconium



Through the big windows of our bus, we get to see some awesome sites along the way - not just when we stop! For instance, here is just one of Turkey's magnificent volcanoes and over there is just a sample of the fields of grazing sheep - look how big they are! Turkey is a beautiful country! As we drive from Pisidian Antioch to Iconium (eye' cone-ee-um) we all appreciate what a beautiful country Turkey is.

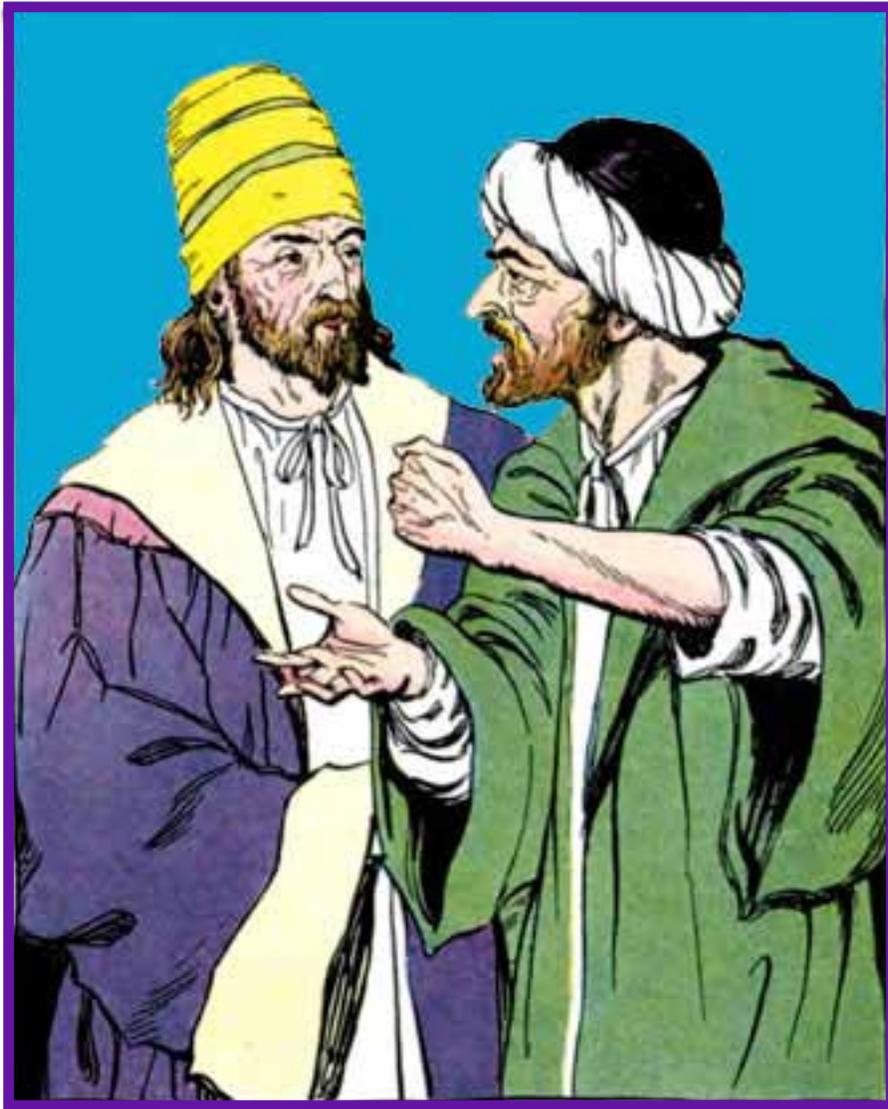




Paul and Barnabas must have enjoyed their journey through the countryside, too. They might also have heard the story of how the ancient city of Iconium got its name. It came from a myth (a story) about two Greek gods. Since all the people had been destroyed after a huge flood, these two gods got together and made new images of the people. They made them out of mud and then breathed life into them. The Greek word for "image" is "EIKON" (ee'kone). This is the origin of our word, "icon." So they called the city "Iconium." Today, its name has been shortened to "Konya" (Kone'ya).



After Paul and Barnabas arrived in Iconium, they preached in the synagogue. At first, both the Jews and the Gentiles loved them. But, there were a few Jews who didn't believe, and they began to tell lies about the missionaries to the Gentiles in order to stir up a mob against them. But, Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. They were not afraid. They even began to heal people in spite of the lies. The healings proved their preaching to be true.



The citizens couldn't agree. Some of them were on the side of the Jews and others were on the side of the apostles. This was the first time in the Bible that the missionaries were called "apostles," meaning those sent out.

Before this time no one was considered an apostle unless he was one of the twelve disciples or one who traveled with Jesus and saw him after his resurrection. Being apostles was a step up from being a disciple because it meant they really understood and could demonstrate Jesus' teachings.



The Jews came up with a cruel plot to end the lives of the apostles by throwing stones at them.

But, that evil plan could not be kept secret. Paul and Barnabas discovered it and fled. Two good things happened. Not only did the missionaries get away, but a new Christian church opened in Iconium. Our heroes left another city grateful to have succeeded in spreading the gospel, as Jesus had instructed them.