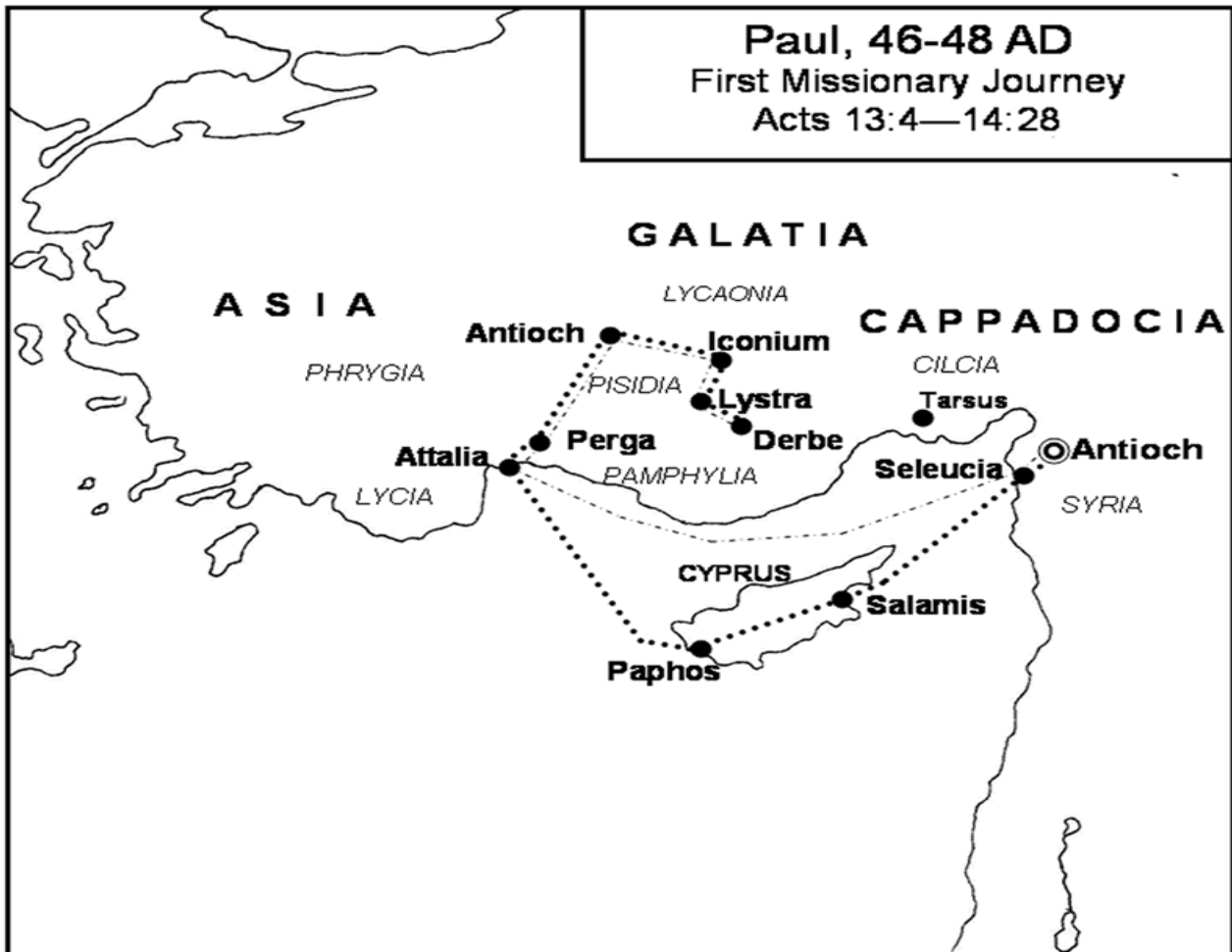


FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY TO THE GENTILES - FULFILLED!
ACTS CH13:1 - CH14:24-28

ILLUSTRATION

Being called “The *Mission* Church Morriston”, we should really be involved in “MISSION!” As a Church, how much do we really know about our “MISSION” to Nepal? How involved can we as a Church be? Mission is always a heart issue, and Mission is needed now, perhaps more than ever! Let's have a look at our website, and the Nepal section, especially the “Rough guide to Nepal” info, even though it relates specifically to a few years ago! **Today we look toward our 10 Sunday countdown!**



Google Images - (Missionary Map Project | Paul's First Missionary Journey)

RETRACED AND REVISITED! v24-25

“Derbe marked the eastern most extremity of the missionary tour, lying as it did on the east border of Galatia. After evangelism there the missionaries retraced their steps, despite the hostile atmosphere which they had left, in order to strengthen and encourage the groups of believers which they had established. In particular, they made sure that some kind of leadership was established in order to consolidate the groups for the future. They then returned direct by sea to Antioch, where they reported on their work to the Church, the emphasis lying on the way in which God had led them into successful work among the Gentiles” (Cited in I. Howard Marshall, Tyndale Commentaries, pg240).

You will notice from Ch13:13, that neither Paul nor Barnabas preached the word in Perna, on the outbound trip, but on the return trip, **they** both do! On Thursday Oct 26th the Nepal Team will set out, all 8 together, and who knows what may not happen on the way out,

may indeed happen on the way back!

RETURNED AND REPORTED! v26-27

The phrase “the word of his grace” appears both here in Ch14:3 and Ch20:32, there is a similar phrase in Ch13:43, so what does the phrase “**to the grace of God**” mean? It can refer to the active love of God which enables people to do His Will! ***It implies the protective care of God who watches over His people, especially His missionaries!*** It would also carry with it a specific plan, which according to Luke is now “fulfilled.”

As the Church gathers together, reporting back was a way of encouraging the believers to see how God had answered their prayers! Paul and Barnabas were able to clearly see how God's grace was how everything that happened, happened! They explain it as “how he opened a door of faith to the Gentiles”, again emphasising only by God's grace!

R+R - RESTED AND RELAXED! v28

“And they remained no little time with the disciples”, how long? The missionary journey could have taken anything from 1-2 years, Paul had been stoned, injured, missions is both physically and emotionally exhausting, and there was a need to re-connect with the Church at Antioch Syria. Luke on two previous occasions refers to extended periods of time concerning Paul both in Ch9:23 – “When many days had passed” - a 3 year period and in Ch14:3 “So they remained for a long time” meaning possibly many months or longer!

So Paul and Barnabas had an extended time of refreshing fellowship with the disciples at Antioch Syria, their sending Church!

APPLICATION

Look at the “*Rough Guide to Nepal*” on the Church Website.

1. *How much money a month do we currently sent out to Nepal?*
2. *How is this done and by whom?*
3. *What are the names of the two Churches that we are involved with?*
4. *What are the names of the two Pastors of the two churches?*
5. *How far away is Nepal?*
6. *What is the name of its capital?*
7. *What is the main religion in Nepal?*
8. *Can you legally share the Gospel in Nepal?*
9. *How long does it take to get there?*
10. *What kind of physical and emotional state are we usually in when we return?*
11. *Can anyone go?*
12. *During our time there, what does the team do?*
13. *As a team how hard do we work when we get there?*
14. *Do you need injections before you go?*
15. *Can we just enter the country with no paperwork?*
16. *How much would it usually cost to go?*
17. *Is it worth it?*
18. *Who covers us when we are away?*
19. *What can I do to become more involved?*
20. *How do you know that God wants us as a Church to be involved with Nepal? Acts Ch14:27!*