

Notes on the Greek New Testament Week 46 – Acts 13:47-14:28

Day 226: Acts 13:47-52

Verse 47

οὕτως γὰρ ἐντέταλται ἡμῖν ὁ κύριος,
τέθεικά σε εἰς φῶς ἐθνῶν τοῦ εἶναι σε εἰς
σωτηρίαν ἕως ἑσχάτου τῆς γῆς.

ἐντεταλται perf ἐντελλομαι command,
order, give orders command
τέθεικά Verb, perf act indic, 1 s τιθημι
φως, φωτος n light
σωτηρία, ας f salvation
ἑσχατος, η, ον adj last, final

These words from Is 49:6 were addressed by God to his Servant and are alluded to in the words of Simeon (Lk 2:32) who applied them to Jesus. Here Paul uses them of the mission of Christians (see also Acts 1:8; 26:23; Lk 24:47).

In the context of the second Servant song it is Israel that is addressed (Is 49:3). Paul longs that the Jews would be a light to the Gentiles, and hence, even though he is the apostle to the Gentiles he preaches first to the Jews. "Again and again he experienced the rejection of the Jews and turned to the Gentiles of that town. But he never gave up on his fellow Jews. It was very much the problem he wrestled with in Rom 9-11. In spite of the overwhelming rejection of the gospel by his own people, Paul could not bring himself to believe that the rejection was final and that God had deserted them... The ambiguity of the witness to the Jews persists to the very end of Acts and is never definitively settled (cf. 28:17-28). The contemporary church can learn from Paul's persistence. His actions caution against a mission policy that only targets those who are most receptive to the gospel message." Polhill

Verse 48

ἀκούοντα δὲ τὰ ἔθνη ἔχαιρον καὶ
ἐδόξαζον τὸν λόγον τοῦ κυρίου, καὶ
ἐπίστευσαν ὅσοι ἦσαν τεταγμένοι εἰς ζωὴν
αἰώνιον·

χαίρω rejoice, be glad
δοξάζω praise, honour, glorify, exalt
ὅσος, η, ον as much as; pl. as many as
τεταγμένοι Verb, perf pass ptc, m nom pl
τάσσω appoint, designate, set aside

Cf. Lk 10:20; Phil 4:3; Rev 13:8; 20:12; 21:27;
Ex 32:32f.; Ps 69:28; Isa 4:3; Dan 12:1.

The unbelief of the Jews and conversion of the Gentiles were part of the fulfilment of God's purposes.

Verse 49

διεφέρετο δὲ ὁ λόγος τοῦ κυρίου διὰ ὅλης
τῆς χώρας.

διαφέρω carry through, drive about
χώρα, ας f country, region, territory

The region of Phrygia Galatica.

Verse 50

οἱ δὲ Ἰουδαῖοι παρωτρυναν τὰς
σεβομένας γυναῖκας τὰς εὐσχήμονας καὶ
τοὺς πρωτοὺς τῆς πόλεως καὶ ἐπήγειραν
διωγμὸν ἐπὶ τὸν Παῦλον καὶ Βαρναβᾶν,
καὶ ἐξέβαλον αὐτοὺς ἀπὸ τῶν ὀρίων
αὐτῶν.

παρωτρυναν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl
παροτρυνω incite, stir up
σεβομαι see v.43

"The influence attributed to the women ... is in perfect accord with the manners of the country. In Athens or in an Ionian city, it would have been impossible." Ramsay

εὐσχημων, ον gen ονος respected, of
high standing

πρωτος, η, ον first, leading
πολις, εως f city, town

τοὺς πρωτοὺς τῆς πόλεως Bruce says these are the town magistrates and adds, "Luke carefully shows how throughout Paul's travels in the Roman world it was Jews who were foremost in stirring up opposition against him, not the authorities acting on their own initiative."

ἐπήγειραν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl
ἐπεγειρω stir up

διωγμος, ου m persecution
ἐκβάλλω throw out, expel, cast out
ὄριον, ου n territory, region,
neighbourhood

Verse 51

οἱ δὲ ἐκτιναξάμενοι τὸν κονιορτὸν τῶν
ποδῶν ἐπὶ αὐτοὺς ἦλθον εἰς Ἴκόνιον,

ἐκτιναξάμενοι aor midd ptc ἐκτινασσω
shake off, shake out

κονιορτος, ου m dust
πους, ποδος m foot

On this action, cf. Mt 10:14; Mk 6:11; Lk 9:5; 10:11, also Acts 18:6; 22:22f.

Ἰκόνιον modern **Konia**

In NT times the easternmost city of Phrygia Galatica.

Verse 52

οἱ τε μαθηταὶ ἐπληροῦντο χαρᾶς καὶ πνεύματος ἁγίου.

μαθητης, ου m **disciple, follower**
πληρωω **fill, make full**

Despite the premature departure of Paul and Barnabas, they left behind a community of disciples.

Day 227: Acts 14:1-7

Verse 1

Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν Ἰκονίῳ κατὰ τὸ αὐτὸ εἰσελθεῖν αὐτοὺς εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν τῶν Ἰουδαίων καὶ λαλῆσαι οὕτως ὥστε πιστεῦσαι Ἰουδαίων τε καὶ Ἑλλήνων πολὺ πλῆθος.

κατὰ τὸ αὐτὸ **'after the same manner'**

Cf. Lk 6:23,26, also Acts 17:2.

λαλῆσαι aor infin **λαλεω speak**

This infinitive, like εἰσελθεῖν, is governed by the ἐγένετο at the beginning of the verse.

οὕτως adv. **thus, in this way**

ὥστε **so that, with the result that**

Ἕλληνα, ἡνος m **a Greek, non-Jew**
πληθος, ους n **crowd, multitude**

Verse 2

οἱ δὲ ἀπειθήσαντες Ἰουδαῖοι ἐπήγειραν καὶ ἐκάκωσαν τὰς ψυχὰς τῶν ἐθνῶν κατὰ τῶν ἀδελφῶν.

ἀπειθεω **disobey, be an unbeliever**

ἐπήγειραν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl

ἐπεγειρω **stir up**

κακωω **treat badly, force (someone to do something)**

κακωω τὴν ψυχὴν τινος κατὰ **poison someone's mind against (another).**

ἐθνος, ους n **nation, people; τὰ ἔ.**

Gentiles

The verse sequence presents difficulties for some. Moffatt transposes vv. 2 and 3. Bruce comments, "It requires no excess of imagination to suppose that the Jews of Pisidian Antioch communicated with those in Iconium, who proceeded at once to prejudice the authorities against Paul and Barnabas: ver 2 will then indicate the immediate Jewish opposition, ver 5 the success of the attempt to stir up the magistrate and the populace. But until the Gentile opposition broke out, the apostles ignored the Jewish hostility and carried on the work of evangelisation for a considerable time."

Verse 3

ἱκανὸν μὲν οὖν χρόνον διέτριψαν παρρησιαζόμενοι ἐπὶ τῷ κυρίῳ τῷ μαρτυροῦντι [ἐπὶ] τῷ λόγῳ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, δίδόντι σημεῖα καὶ τέρατα γίνεσθαι διὰ τῶν χειρῶν αὐτῶν.

ἱκανος, η, ον **worthy, sufficient, large, great much; ἱκανον ... χρονον for some time, for a considerable time**

διατριβω **remain, stay**

παρρησιαζομαι see 13:46

μαρτυρεω **bear witness, affirm**

διδόντι Verb, pres act ptc, m dat s **διδωμι**
σημειον, ου n **miraculous sign, sign, miracle**

τερας, ατος n **wonder, object of wonder**

Cf. 2:22,43.

χειρ, χειρος f **hand, power**

Christ himself confirmed the word through the signs performed in his name and by his power.

Verse 4

ἐσχίσθη δὲ τὸ πλῆθος τῆς πόλεως, καὶ οἱ μὲν ἦσαν σὺν τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις οἱ δὲ σὺν τοῖς ἀποστόλοις.

ἐσχίσθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s **σχιζω**

split, separate, disunite

"Barnabas is called an apostle; though not one of the twelve, he was probably one of the 120 (1:15) and a witness of the Resurrection." Bruce

Verse 5

ὥς δὲ ἐγένετο ὁρμὴ τῶν ἐθνῶν τε καὶ Ἰουδαίων σὺν τοῖς ἄρχουσιν αὐτῶν ὑβρίσαι καὶ λιθοβολῆσαι αὐτούς,

ὁρμη, ης f **impulse, attempt, mind, will**

ἀρχων, οντος m **ruler, official, authority**

ὑβριζω **treat shamefully, insult, mistreat**

λιθοβολεω **stone, throw stones at**

Not here legal Jewish stoning but mob violence.

Verse 6

συνιδόντες κατέφυγον εἰς τὰς πόλεις τῆς Λυκαονίας Λύστραν καὶ Δέρβην καὶ τὴν περίχωρον,

συνιδόντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl
συναρω realise, learn of, become aware of

κατέφυγον Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl
καταφευγω flee, flee for safety

Lystra, along with Pisidian Antioch, was made a Roman colony by Augustus in AD 6. The two colonies were connected by a military road, which did not pass through Iconium. Derbe was a frontier city of the province of Galatia.

περιχωρος, ου f surrounding region

"There were no other significant towns in the region, but the reference to the "surrounding country" in v.6 might indicate that they evangelised the smaller towns and countryside of Lyconia as well." Polhill

Verse 7

κάκει εὐαγγελιζόμενοι ἦσαν.

Day 228: Acts 14:8-13**Verse 8**

Καὶ τις ἀνὴρ ἀδύνατος ἐν Λύστροις τοῖς ποσὶν ἐκάθητο, χωλὸς ἐκ κοιλίας μητρὸς αὐτοῦ, ὃς οὐδέποτε περιεπάτησεν.

ἀδυνατος, ον impossible, weak, crippled
πους, ποδος m foot

ἀ. τοις ποσιν 'crippled in the feet'

καθημαι sit, sit down, live
χωλος, η, ον lame, crippled
κοιλια, ας f stomach, womb

Cf. 3:2.

οὐδέποτε never

A threefold stress on the severity of his condition.

Verse 9

οὗτος ἤκουσεν τοῦ Παύλου λαλοῦντος· ὃς ἀτενίσας αὐτῷ καὶ ἰδὼν ὅτι ἔχει πίστιν τοῦ σωθῆναι

ἀτενίζω fix eyes on, look intently at

Cf. 3:4.

πιστις, εως f faith, trust, belief
σωθῆναι aor pass infin σωζω save, heal

Used here primarily in the sense 'to be healed' but not excluding also the spiritual sense.

Verse 10

εἶπεν μεγάλη φωνῇ, Ἀνάστηθι ἐπὶ τοὺς πόδας σου ὀρθός. καὶ ἦλατο καὶ περιεπάτει.

μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα large, great
ἀνάστηθι Verb, 2 aor act imperat, 2 s
ἀνιστημι rise, stand up

πόδας Noun, acc pl ποους see v.8
ὀρθος, η, ον straight, upright, erect
ἦλατο Verb, aor mid dep indic, 3 s
ἄλλομαι leap

Cf. 3:8

Verse 11

οἱ τε ὄχλοι ἰδόντες ὃ ἐποίησεν Παῦλος ἐπήραν τὴν φωνὴν αὐτῶν Λυκαονιστὶ λέγοντες, Οἱ θεοὶ ὁμοιωθέντες ἀνθρωποὶ κατέβησαν πρὸς ἡμᾶς·

ἐπαιρω raise, lift up

Λυκαονιστι adv in the Lycaonian language

Those spoken of here were not the aristocracy of Lystra, whose language would have been Latin, but the native inhabitants. "The apostles evidently did not at first understand what the crowd was saying, and realised it only when they saw the preparation that followed." Bruce

ὁμοιωθέντες Verb, aor pass ptc, m nom pl
ὁμοιωω make like; pass resemble, be like

Cf. 28:6.

Verse 12

ἐκάλουν τε τὸν Βαρναβᾶν Δία, τὸν δὲ Παῦλον Ἑρμῆν, ἐπειδὴ αὐτὸς ἦν ὁ ἡγούμενος τοῦ λόγου.

Δία Proper name, acc Ζεὺς gen Διὸς acc Δία m Zeus (Greek equivalent of Roman god Jupiter)

Ἑρμῆς Hermes, son of Zeus (Greek equivalent of Roman god Mercury).

ἐπειδὴ since, because, for
ἡγεομαι lead, rule; ὁ ἡ. leader, ruler

ὁ ἡ. του λογου the chief speaker.

Verse 13

ὃ τε ἱερεὺς τοῦ Διὸς τοῦ ὄντος πρὸ τῆς πόλεως ταύρους καὶ στέμματα ἐπὶ τοὺς πυλῶνας ἐνέγκας σὺν τοῖς ὄχλοις ἤθελεν θύειν.

ἱερεὺς, εως m priest

του ὄντος προ της πολεως 'whose [temple] was in front of the city'

ταυρος, ου m bull
στεμμα, τος n garland, wreath

Festive woolen wreaths.

πυλων, ωνος m gate, gateway, entrance, porch

It is not clear whether the entrance mentioned here is that of the temple, the city or the apostles' lodging place. "Perhaps, as in 3:2, the lame man lay at the temple gate." Bruce

ἐνέγκας Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s φερω
bring, carry, bear, lead

ἤθελεν Verb, imperf act indic, 3 s θελω
wish, will

θυω slaughter, sacrifice, kill

Day 229: Acts 14:14-20

Verse 14

ἀκούσαντες δὲ οἱ ἀπόστολοι Βαρναβᾶς καὶ Παῦλος, διαρρήξαντες τὰ ἱμάτια αὐτῶν ἐξεπήδησαν εἰς τὸν ὄχλον, κράζοντες

διαρρήξαντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl
διαρρηγνυμι and διαρησσω tear, rip
ἱματιον, ου n garment, robe, cloak

The rending of their garments indicated horror at blasphemy (cf. Mk 15:63).

ἐκπηδαω rush out
ὄχλος, ου m crowd, multitude
κραζω cry out, call out

Verse 15

καὶ λέγοντες, Ἄνδρες, τί ταῦτα ποιεῖτε; καὶ ἡμεῖς ὁμοιοπαθεῖς ἐσμεν ὑμῖν ἄνθρωποι, εὐαγγελιζόμενοι ὑμᾶς ἀπὸ τούτων τῶν ματαίων ἐπιστρέφειν ἐπὶ θεὸν ζῶντα ὃς ἐποίησεν τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ τὴν γῆν καὶ τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ πάντα τὰ ἐν αὐτοῖς·

ὁμοιοπαθης, ες like in every way

Cf. Jas. 5:17.

εὐαγγελιζω act. and midd proclaim the good news

ματαιος, α, ον worthless, futile, useless
ἐπιστρεφω turn back, turn round, turn

ζωω live, be alive

γη, γης f earth

θαλασσα, ης f sea

"This is the first recorded Christian address to a pagan audience." Bruce

The way that the Gospel is presented is accommodated to an audience who are without any knowledge of the Scriptures. Preaching begins with God as Creator and one true God. Cf. Rom 1:19ff; 2:14f.

Verse 16

ὃς ἐν ταῖς παρωχημέναις γενεαῖς εἶασεν πάντα τὰ ἔθνη πορεύεσθαι ταῖς ὁδοῖς αὐτῶν·

"With the teaching of this verse cf. 17:30, where the meaning is similar; also Rom 1:18ff., where the meaning is somewhat different. Here and in ch. 17 the point is that until the full revelation of God came to the Gentiles, He overlooked their errors in so far as these arose from ignorance of His will; in Rom 1, God's giving them up to their own devices is the penalty for their rejecting even the little light they had." Bruce

παρωχημέναις Verb, perf midd/pass dep ptc, f dat pl παροιχομαι pass (pf. ptc. past)

γενεα, ας f generation

εἶασεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἔαω allow, permit

ὁδος, ου f way, path, road, journey

Verse 17

καίτοι οὐκ ἀμάρτυρον αὐτὸν ἀφῆκεν ἀγαθουργῶν, οὐρανόθεν ὑμῖν ὑετοὺς διδοὺς καὶ καιροὺς καρποφόρους, ἐμπιπλῶν τροφῆς καὶ εὐφροσύνης τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν.

καίτοι yet, and yet, although

ἀμάρτυρος, ον without evidence or witness

Cf. Rom 1:20.

ἀφῆκεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἀφιημι
allow, leave

ἀγαθουργεω (contracted form of ἀγαθοεργεω) do good, show kindness

οὐρανοθεν adv from heaven

ὑετος, ου m rain

διδους Verb, pres act ptc, m nom s διδωμι

καιρος, ου m time, season

καρποφορος, ον fruitful

ἐπι(μ)πλημι and ἐπιπλω fill, satisfy, enjoy

τροφη, ης f food, nourishment

εὐφροσυνη, ης f gladness, joy

Verse 18

καὶ ταῦτα λέγοντες μόλις κατέπαυσαν τοὺς ὄχλους τοῦ μὴ θύειν αὐτοῖς.

μολις adv with difficulty, scarcely

καταπαυω trans cause to rest, prevent

θυω slaughter, sacrifice, kill

Verse 19

Ἐπῆλθαν δὲ ἀπὸ Ἀντιοχείας καὶ Ἰκονίου Ἰουδαῖοι, καὶ πείσαντες τοὺς ὄχλους καὶ λιθάσαντες τὸν Παῦλον ἔσυρον ἔξω τῆς πόλεως, νομίζοντες αὐτὸν τεθνηκέναι.

ἐπῆλθαν Verb, 2 aor act indic, 3 pl
ἐπερχομαι come, come upon

Lystra & Pisidian Antioch were separated by more than 100 miles but were closely connected by trade.

πείσαντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl
πειθω persuade, win over

λιθαζω stone

See 2 Corinthians 11:25

συρω drag, drag away, sweep down

ἔξω out, outside, away

νομίζω think, suppose, assume

τεθνηκέναι Verb, perf act infin θνησκω
die; pf be dead

"There is grim irony in the quick reversal of the inhabitants' attitude to the apostles (cf. 28:4-6). This may have been the occasion when Paul received the σιγμάτα of Gal 6:17; for his remembrance many years later of what he endured at Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, cf. 2 Tim 3:11." Bruce

Verse 20

κυκλωσάντων δὲ τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτὸν ἀναστὰς εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὴν πόλιν. καὶ τῇ ἐπαύριον ἐξῆλθεν σὺν τῷ Βαρναβᾷ εἰς Δέρβην.

κυκλωσάντων Verb, aor act ptc, gen pl
κυκλω surround
μαθητης, ου m disciple, pupil, follower

An indication of the effect of their ministry in Lystra.

ἐπαυριον the next day

Derbe was about 60 miles by road from Lystra and would have taken several days on foot.

Day 230: Acts 14:21-28

Verse 21

Εὐαγγελισάμενοί τε τὴν πόλιν ἐκείνην καὶ μαθητεύσαντες ἱκανοὺς ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς τὴν Λύστραν καὶ εἰς Ἰκόνιον καὶ εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν,

μαθητευω trans make a disciple of
ἱκανος, η, ον sufficient, large, much
ὑποστρεφω return, turn back

"Had the two chosen to do so, they could have continued southeast from Derbe on through the Cilician gates the 150 miles or so to Paul's hometown of Tarsus and from there back to Syrian Antioch. It would have been the easiest route home by far. They chose, however, to retrace their footsteps and revisit all the congregations that had been established in the course of the mission." Polhill

"Luke makes no comment on the courage shown by the apostles in returning so soon to the cities where they had been so shamefully treated; the bare statement that they did so is eloquent enough." Bruce

Verse 22

ἐπιστηρίζοντες τὰς ψυχὰς τῶν μαθητῶν, παρακαλοῦντες ἐμμένειν τῇ πίστει, καὶ ὅτι διὰ πολλῶν θλίψεων δεῖ ἡμᾶς εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ.

ἐπιστηρίζω strengthen

Cf. 11:33; 13:43.

παρακαλεω exhort, encourage, urge
ἐμμενω remain faithful to, obey, stay
πίστει Noun, dat s πιστις, εως f faith, the Christian faith

θλιψις, εως f trouble, suffering

δει impersonal verb it is necessary, must, should, ought

Cf. 2 Thess 1:4,5; Rom 8:17; 2 Tim 2:12.

Verse 23

χειροτονήσαντες δὲ αὐτοῖς κατ' ἐκκλησίαν πρεσβυτέρους προσευξάμενοι μετὰ νηστειῶν παρέθεντο αὐτοὺς τῷ κυρίῳ εἰς ὄν πεπιστεύκεισαν.

χειροτονεω appoint, choose
πρεσβυτερος, α, ον elder

"Although the etymological sense of χειροτονεω is 'to elect by show of hands', it came to be used in the sense 'designate', 'appoint': cf. the same word with prefix προ in 10:41. The πρεσβυτεροι were appointed on the model of those in the Jerusalem church (cf. 11:30)." Bruce

"The pattern of the Jewish synagogue seems to have been followed by appointing a group of lay elders to shepherd the flock." Polhill

προσευχομαι pray
νηστεια, ας f fasting

Cf. 13:3.

παρέθεντο Verb, aor midd indic, 3 s
παρατιθημι midd. commit, entrust
πεπιστεύκεισαν Verb, pluperf act indic, 3 pl
πιστευω

Verse 24

καὶ διελθόντες τὴν Πισιδίαν ἦλθον εἰς τὴν Παμφυλίαν,

Pisidia was the southernmost 'region' of the province of Galatia. It lay across the northern boundary of Pamphylia (cf. 13:14).

"It is in this period that we may most satisfactorily place the events of Gal 2:11ff." Bruce.

Verse 25

καὶ λαλήσαντες ἐν Πέργῃ τὸν λόγον κατέβησαν εἰς Ἀττάλειαν.

Attalia was the chief port of Pamphylia.

Verse 26

κἀκεῖθεν ἀπέπλευσαν εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν, ὅθεν ἦσαν παραδεδομένοι τῇ χάριτι τοῦ θεοῦ εἰς τὸ ἔργον ὃ ἐπλήρωσαν.

κἀκεῖθεν and from there - formed from
καὶ ἐκεῖθεν

ἀπέπλευσαν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl

ἀποπλεω set sail, sail away

ὅθεν where, from where

παραδεδομένοι Verb, perf pass ptc, m nom

pl παραδιδωμι hand or give over,
commit

πληρωω fill, fulfill, accomplish

Compare 13:2f

Verse 27

παραγενόμενοι δὲ καὶ συναγαγόντες τὴν ἐκκλησίαν ἀνήγγελλον ὅσα ἐποίησεν ὁ θεὸς μετ' αὐτῶν καὶ ὅτι ἤνοιξεν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν θύραν πίστεως.

παραγινομαι come, arrive, appear

συναγω gather, gather together

ἀναγγελλω tell, report

ὅσος, η, ον as much as, how much

μετ' αὐτῶν perhaps suggests the idea of co-workers with God (cf. 2 Cor 6:1).

ἄνοιγω open

ἔθνεσιν Noun, dat pl ἔθνος, ουσ n nation,
people; τα ἔ. Gentiles

θύρα, ας f door, gate

Cf. 1 Cor 16:9; 2 Cor 2:12; Col 4:3.

Verse 28

διέτριβον δὲ χρόνον οὐκ ὀλίγον σὺν τοῖς μαθηταῖς.

διατριβω remain, stay

χρονος, ου m time, period of time

ὀλιγος, η, ον little, small; pl. few

Cf. 12:18.

μαθητης, ου m disciple, pupil, follower