

Acts of the Apostles 13-15

Last week: the break with Judaism

It would be wrong to over emphasize this

These passages have been used to support terrible anti-Semitism

Catholics are still closely tied to Judaism

Concept of priesthood, calendar, similar rituals, Sabbath

Last time we discussed diet: to this we add, Shabbos and ritual cleanliness

This week: more of same and the first mission to the Gentiles

A guided tour of the Eastern Med.

Paul will make three major missionary journeys: the shortest is first

Cyprus (Island sacred to Aphrodite)

Sergius Paulus: a senator known from inscriptions in Rome

Note the tactic: go to the big boys first

"Proconsul" a prolonged consulship: note Roman politics

Opposition from the hangers on: bar-Jesus the magician

Paul blinds him: but he was already blinded in the Spirit.

He must be knocked out of the ruler's circle

Note the Jewish/NT horror of the occult

This is still a major problem

*Antioch in Pisidia (not the same as the one in the Levant)

These may be the cities of Galatia, re. the Epistle, but borders changed

Address to the Synagogue: standard apostolic sermon

REF TO Scriptural history, ffby Jesus and Resurrection and appeal

Resistance now from Jewish insiders: note v. 44 ff. the shift

Notice the "God fearers"

This is a representation to a larger phenomena in sys after syn

Note the "women of prominence" a formidable bunch

*Iconium: another split community leading ultimately to violence

*Lystra: city of the blockheads, the "paganos", country dwellers

This is the traditional home of Timothy what we see here bears fruit

later

Woe to the preachers who point to their own glory

Everyone who lives the faith will get some stones

A wonderful healing followed by misunderstanding

Sacrifice: ritual of animal sacrifice

Barnabas as Zeus and Paul as Hermes: there is a big difference!

Myth from Metamorphosis of Ovid about these two gods

*end of the first mission

Refreshing the disciples: that's exhausting work

Discussion of suffering for the sake of the Gospel
The appointment of presbyters
They spent time with them

Acts 15 *God has always planned to expand His Word to all nations
It is a question of identity: who are we?
Note role of conversion: its hard to leave old ways
This Council even interrupts the missionary task of Paul
Disagreement is part of the plan of us working out our salvation
Note the role of debate in Rabbinic training
Note that a troubling question is pushed upstairs
Note the first "encyclical"
Note the spirit of compromise
Its not "anything goes" in Christianity: there are moral limits
Idolatry, blood from strangled animals, and "pornea"
Beware of translations