

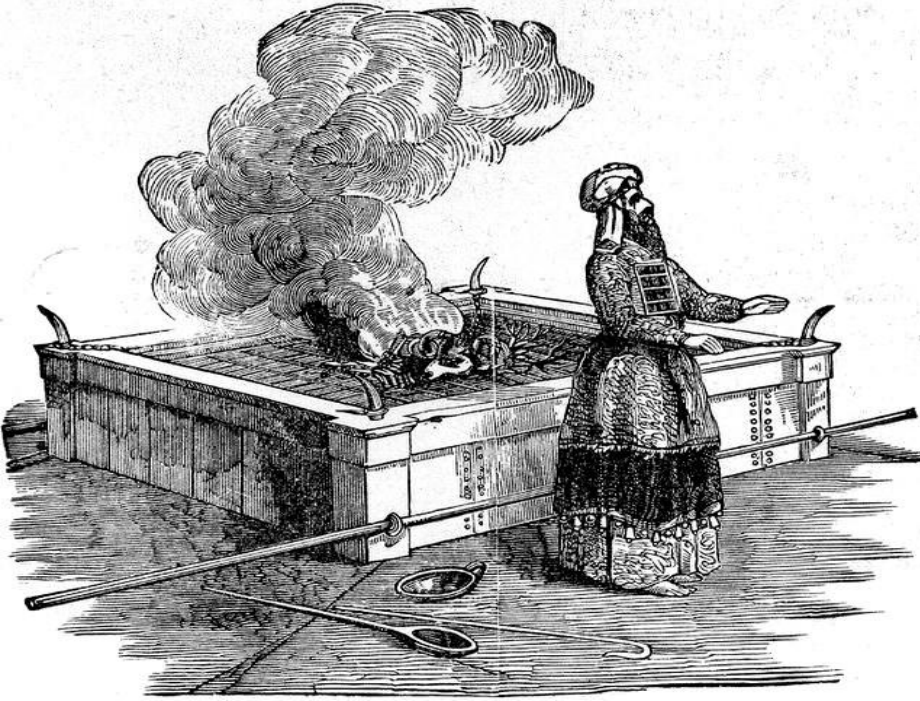


FORGIVENESS OF SINS

- Acts 13:38, 39
- This statement is the molten core of our faith
- Plain reading: some sins in the Torah have no atonement available
- But Yeshua CAN forgive these same sins
- Mainstream Christian doctrine: there was no actual forgiveness in the Law, only in Yeshua



THE LEDGER OF JUSTICE

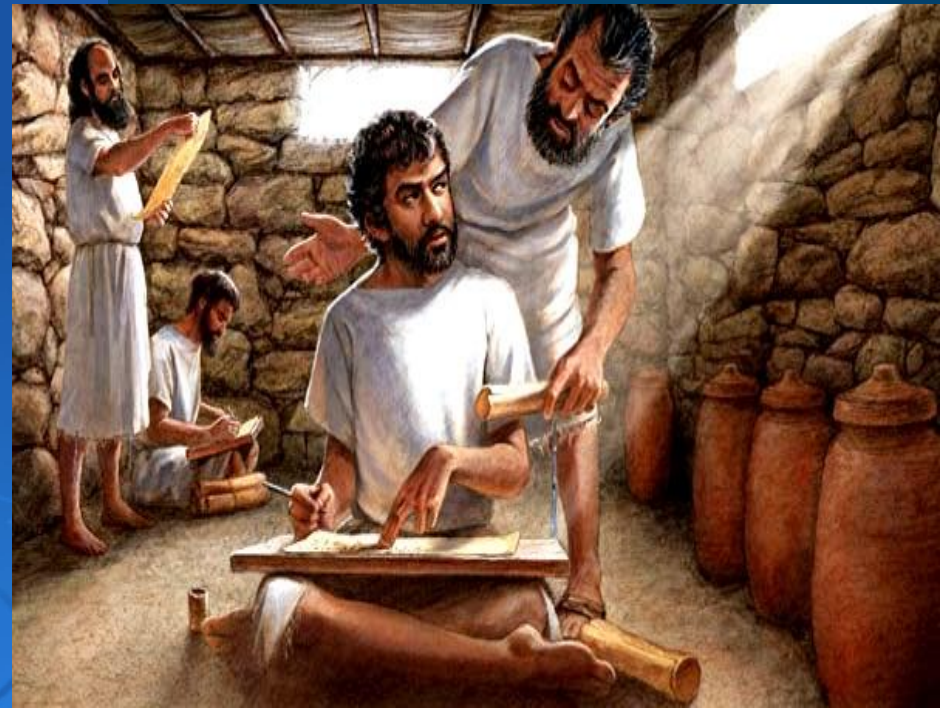


- Lev. 4:35 “...and he will be forgiven”
- Some sins cannot be forgiven by the Torah of Moses
- Animal sacrifice either did, or did not, provide forgiveness
- If not, then the Torah is wrong, and God either created and instituted a broken system or He changed His mind
- Yeshua’s forgiveness is better because it encompasses more
- Yeshua only deals with the consequences side of the ledger Matt.5:17 - 19

PAUL ISSUES A WARNING

- Habakkuk chapter 1
- God is doing an astounding work that is hard to believe....but mockers beware
- By saying that Yeshua forgives sins, it is implicit that He must be God
- Mark 2: 5 – 7
- Saying Yeshua forgives sins was taken as blasphemy by most Jews
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Teacher of Righteousness = the anointed one
- No evidence that Essenes believed that this was Yeshua

**YESHUA
IS GOD**



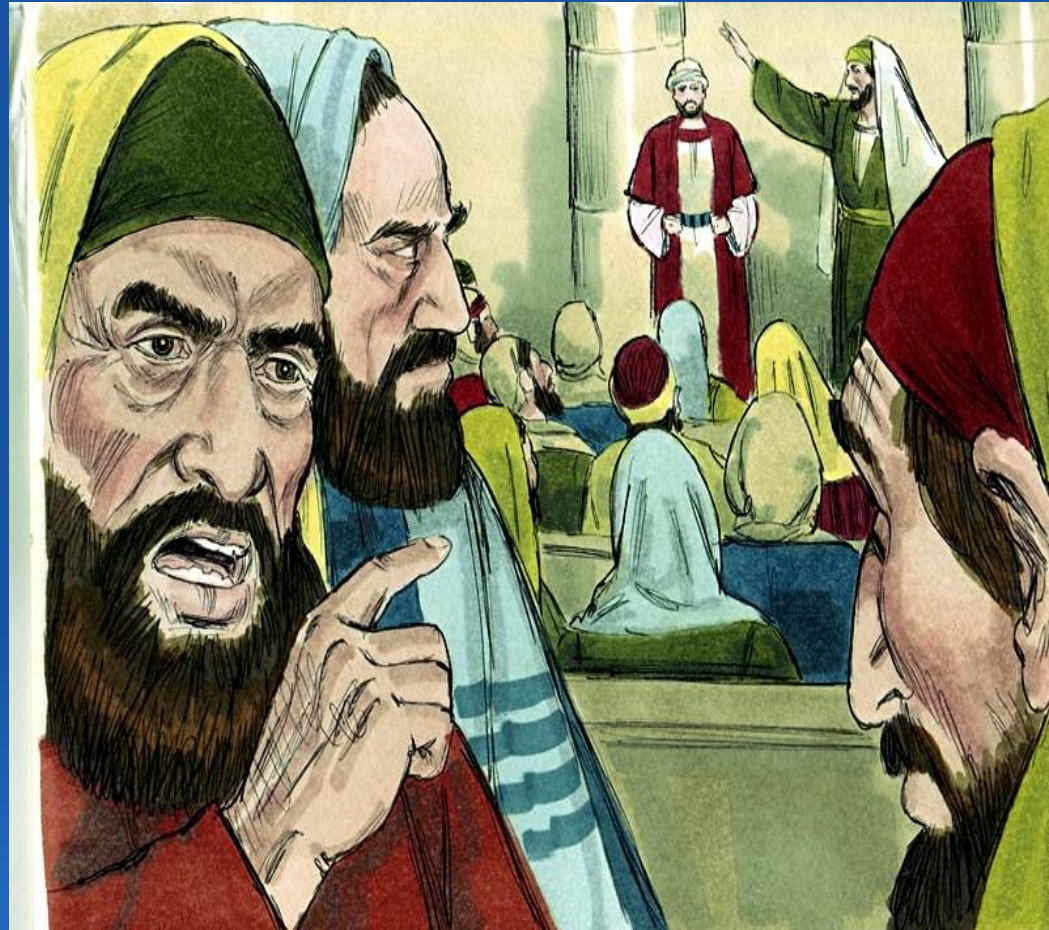
PAUL WAS ASKED TO SPEAK AGAIN...ON SHABBAT



- Yeshua and the disciples went to synagogue on Shabbat, as a traditional cultural norm
- Paul spoke to the congregation with respect
- He taught them in terms and history they could identify with
- **A pattern:** Paul would establish a group of Believers, leave, and come back later to encourage them

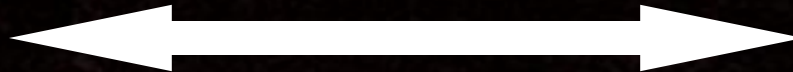
THE ISSUE OF GENTILES

- Local Jews accused Paul of blasphemy
- Some of them were opposed to inclusion of gentiles
- Seems OK for a gentile to come to synagogue as a guest, but being delivered by the Jewish Messiah is another matter
- The issue boils down to circumcision (becoming a Jew)



PREDESTINATION

ABSOLUTE



NOT AT ALL

- Vs.48 *“.....as many as had been appointed to eternal life came to trust.”*
- Westminster Confession: *“...from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass...”*
- Absolute Predestination (Calvin) says man has no free will, that all has been predetermined
- Denial of Predestination in any form
- A middle ground: some things predestined, other things not

FREE WILL: REAL OR ILLUSION ?

- A clear belief by Paul in some measure of predestination
- Sadducees: God does not intervene in human affairs
- Essenes: Everything is pre-ordained by God
- Pharisees: Some things predestined, others not
- Choosing and turning are constant themes with Paul
- Paul's 2 main influences were Yeshua and his Pharisee training
- Why evangelize if all is predestined?

FREE WILL OR NO FREE WILL ?

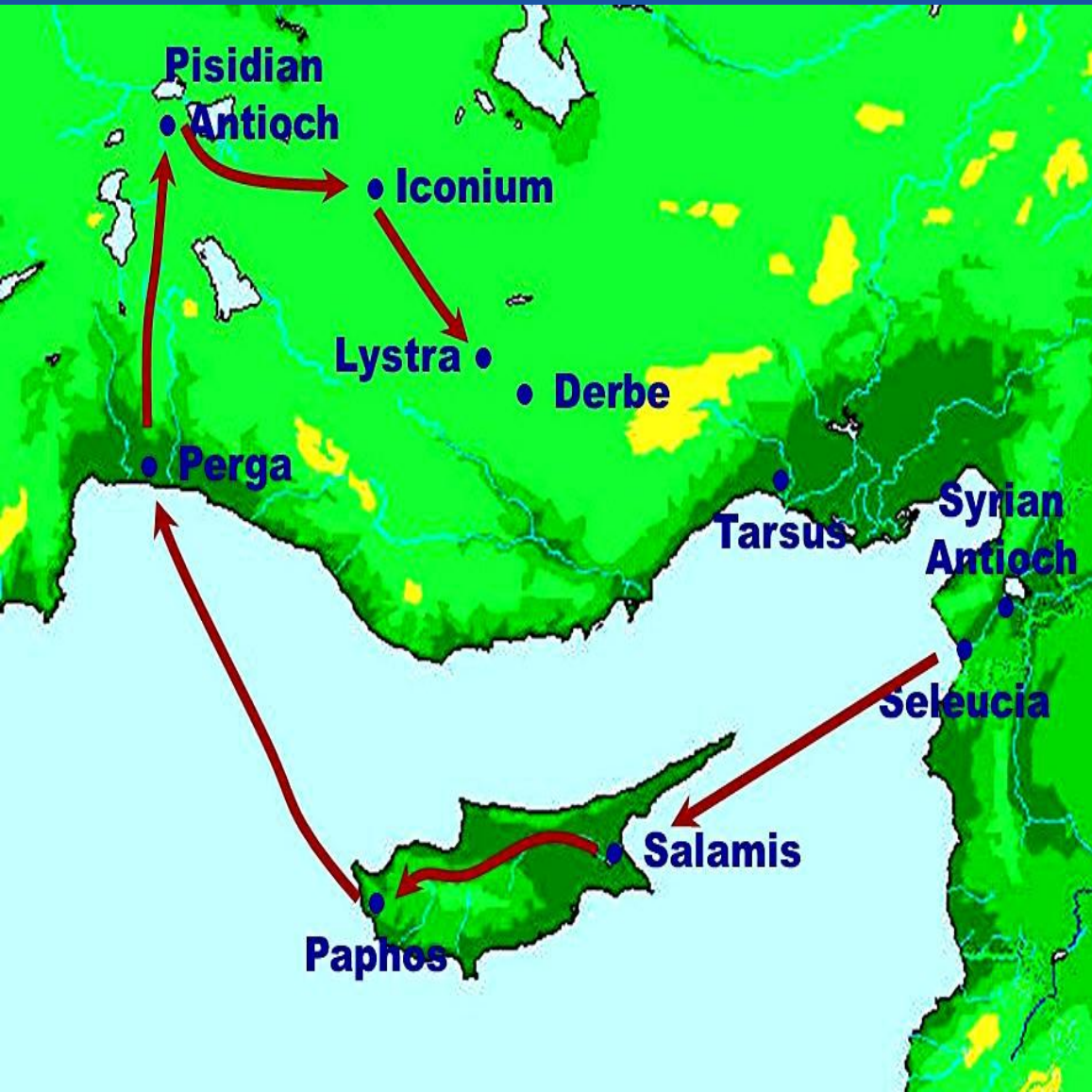


PAUL AND BARNABAS FORCED TO LEAVE ANTIOCH

- Female God-fearers of high social standing opposed Paul
- Aristocratic women had little to do, so many became social benefactors
- The term “persecution” can mean anything from harassment, to violence, to murder
- Paul and Barnabas left Antioch for Iconium



ACTS CHAPTER 14: MOVING ON TO ICONIUM



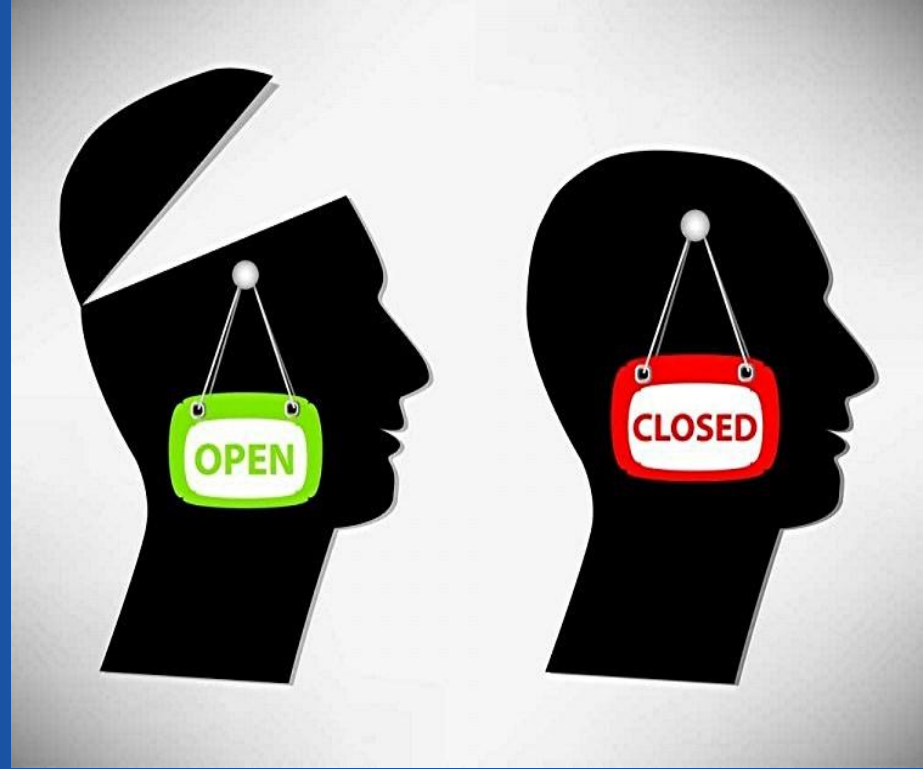
- Paul and Barnabas go to the town synagogue
- Many believed
- A sizeable number also opposed Paul
- Jews sought alliance with gentiles
- What was the upset about?

IDOLATRY ACCORDING TO WHO?



- Idolatry only exists in a religion that forbids idols
- Except for Judaism, all other religions used idols
- Jews showed open contempt for the gods, so Roman citizens saw Jews and Judaism as cultish and isolationist
- Roman society was tolerant of all religions, all gods, including Judaism

- Judaism different from all other of the world's religions
- Tacitus: *"The Jews regard as profane all we hold sacred"*
- Romans were religious, saw themselves as pious and good people
- Romans were open minded towards religion
- Jews were closed minded towards religion
- Open mindedness is valued in Roman and modern societies
- Jews tried to walk a very fine line between observing their religion versus live and let live





- The modern Believer's dilemma
- Shall we compromise and do as the Romans did?
- Shall we accept all faiths and holy books as equal to our faith and holy book?
- Shall we keep our faith private and not share it?
- Or.....shall we do as the Jews did and stubbornly adhere to our faith knowing the world will misunderstand and call us intolerant and unloving?
- John 15:17 - 21