

Acts 1:14



V15

"We Too Are Only
Men, Humanlike
You."

¹ At Iconium Paul And Barnabas Went As Usual Into The Jewish Synagogue. There They Spoke So Effectively That A Great Number Of Jews And Gentiles Believed.

² But The Jews Who Refused To Believe Spread Up The Gentiles And Poisoned Their Minds Against The Brothers. ³ So Paul And Barnabas Spent Considerable Time There, Speaking Boldly For The Lord, Who Confirmed The Message Of His Grace By Enabling Them To Do Miraculous Signs And Wonders. ⁴ The People Of The City Were Divided; Some Sided With The Jews, Others With The Apostles. There Was A Riot Among The Gentiles And Jews, Together With Their Leaders, To Intimidate And Stone Them. ⁵ But They Found Out About It And fled To The Lycaonian Handwritten Bible

ACTS 14

18 BABY
Bosches Southport

CITIES OF LYSDA AND DELBE AND TO THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY,⁷ WHERE THEY CONTINUED TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS.

⁸ IN LYSDA THERE SAT A MAN CRIPPLED IN HIS FEET, WHO WAS HOME FROM BETH AND WHO NEVER WALKED.⁹ HE LISTENED TO PAUL AS HE WAS SPEAKING, AND ROOKS DIRECTLY AT HIM SAW THAT HE HAS FAITH TO BE HEALED.¹⁰ AND CALLED OUT "STAND UP TO YOUR FEET!" AT THAT, THE MAN JUMPED UP AND BEGAN TO WALK.

"WHEN THE CROWD SAW WHAT PAUL HAD DONE, THEY SHOUTED IN THE LYCONIAN LANGUAGE, "THE GODS HAVE COME DOWN TO US IN HUMAN FORM!"¹¹

¹² BARNABAS THEY CALLED ZEUS, AND PAUL THEY CALLED HERMES BECAUSE HE WAS THE CLEVER SPEAKER.¹³ THE PRIEST OF ZEUS, WHOSE TEMPLE WAS JUST OUTSIDE THE

CITY, BECAUSE BULLS AND WILDEBEESTS TO
THE CITY CITIES BECAUSE HE WANTS TO
OFFER SACRIFICE TO THEM.

"¹⁴But when the apostles Barnabas and
Paul heard of this, they tore their
clothes and rushed into the crowd,
¹⁵" "Men, why are you doing
this? We too are men, human
like you. We are bringing you
good news, telling you to turn
from these worthless things to
the living God, who made heaven and
earth and the sea and everything in
them."¹⁶ In the past, he let all
nations go their own way.¹⁷ Yet
he has not left himself without witness: he
has shown kindness by giving you rain from
heaven and crops in three seasons; he provides for you
when hungry or feeds those who have no joy." Even
with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from

Stonishing them.

¹⁹ Then some of the Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.²⁰ But after the disciples had gathered round him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

²¹ They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,²² strengthening the disciples. ~~Then they~~ and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.²³ Peter and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each town, and with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord in whom they had put their trust.²⁴ After leaving Pisidia, they had come into Pamphylia,²⁵ and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

Acts 14

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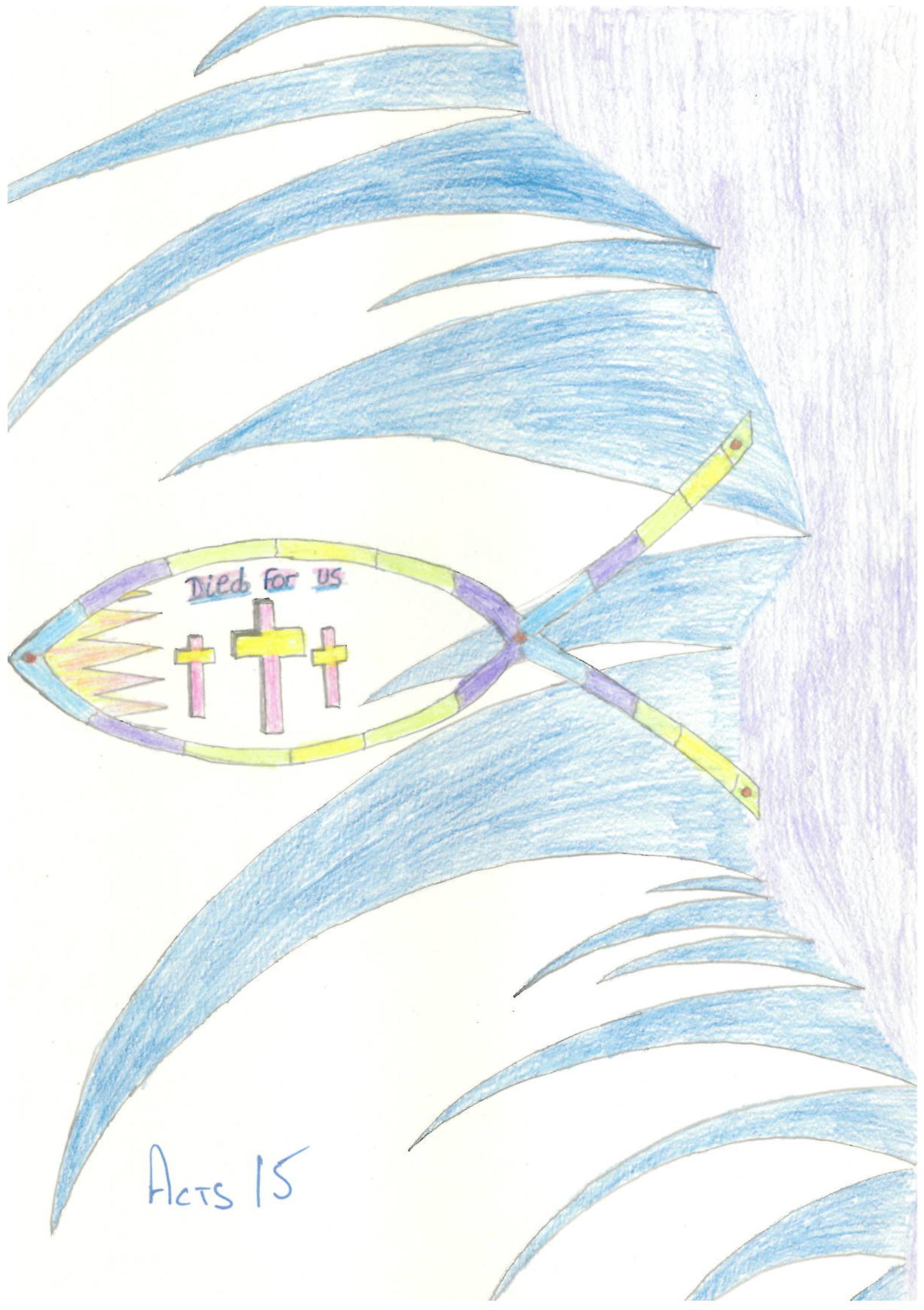
15

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from Attalia They Sailed Back To Antioch,
where They Had Been Committed To The Grace
of God for The Work They Had Now
Completed.

27

On Arriving There, They Greeted The
Circumlocution And Reported All That God Had
Done Through Them And How He Had Opened
The Door of Faith To The Gentiles.²⁸ And
They Stayed There A Long Time With
The Disciples.



Acts 15

The Council at Jerusalem.

15 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers : "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."²

This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

3 The church sent them on their way, and as they travelled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad.⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

⁵ THEN Some of the believers who belonged to

the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses."

⁶ The apostles and elders met to consider this question.⁷ After much discussion, Peter addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.⁸ God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.⁹ He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?¹¹ No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

¹² The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

13 When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me."

14 Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. 15 The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

16 "After this I will return

and rebuild David's fallen tent.

It means I will rebuild,

and I will restore it,

17 that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,

and all the Gentiles who

bear my name,

says the Lord, who does these things"

18 that have been known for ages.

19 "It is my judgement, therefore that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality,

20. from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.
21. For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers

22. Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch, with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers.

23. With them they sent the following letter:

The apostles and elders, your brothers,
To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and
Cilicia: Greetings

24. We have heard that some went out from us without our authorisation and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.

25. So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul -²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27. Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing.

28. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:

29. You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

Farewell.

30. The men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. 31. The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message. 32. Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers. 33. After spending some time there, they were sent off by the brothers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them.

35. But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.

Disagreement Between Paul and Barnabas

36. Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." 37. Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38. but Paul did not think it was wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. 39. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company: Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, 40. but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers in the grace of the Lord. 41. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Paul was also on to Derbe and to Lystra,
where there was a disciple named Timothy,
the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer,
but his father was a Greek.² He was well
spoken of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium.
³ Paul took him and had him circumcised because
of the Jews who were in those places, for they
all knew that his father was a Greek.⁴ As
they went from town to town, they delivered to them
for observance the decisions that had been
reached by the apostles and elders who were in
Jerusalem.⁵ So the churches were strengthened
in the faith and increased in numbers daily.

⁶ In the region of Phygia and Galatia, having
been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to
speak the word in Asia when they had
come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go
into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow
⁸ them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.
⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a

man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to pro-

11 claim the good news to them.¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis,¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.¹³ On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

14 A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have

16

'judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.
One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.'¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

19

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities.²⁰

When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt and observe.'²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped

Acts 16

of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.²³ After they had given them a severe flogging they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in stocks.

(25) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.
26 Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped.²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.'²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul & Silas.³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

31 They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their hands; then he and his entire family were baptized, without delay. He brought them up into the house & set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

35 When morning came, the magistrates sent the police, saying "Let those men go" ³⁶ and the jailer reported the message to Paul, saying, "The magistrates sent word to let you go; therefore come out now and go in peace." But Paul replied: "They have beaten us in public, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and now they are going to discharge us in secret?" Certainly not! Let them come and take us out themselves. The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens; so they

came and apologized to them. After they took them out and asked them to leave the city.⁴⁰ After leaving the prison they went to Lydia's home; and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.

17

- ¹ After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.
- ² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, 'This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.'
- ³ Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul & Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the market-places they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the Assembly, they attacked Jason's house.⁴ When they could not find them, they

dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, 'These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also,⁷ and Jason entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.'⁸ The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this,⁹ and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

¹⁰ That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea; and when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue.¹¹ These Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so.¹² Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of highstanding.

¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea as well, they came there too, to stir up and incite the crowds. Then the believers immediately sent Paul away to the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained behind. Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols.¹⁷ So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day

with those who happened to be there.¹⁸ Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, 'What does this babbler want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.)¹⁹ So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?'²⁰ It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.'²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown God." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he

allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us.²⁸ For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,

“for we too are his offspring.”

²⁹ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

³² When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’³³ At that point Paul left them.³⁴ But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.