

## ~HERMES 2 (54) (Her'mes)

- A Greek god, the son of Zeus by Maia, identified by the Romans with their god of commerce, Mercury. **Hermes** was regarded as the messenger of the gods.
- He was believed to be the discreet counselor of the heroes and was considered to be the god of commerce, skillful speech, gymnastic skill, sleep, and dreams.
- It was believed that this god not only guided the living but also conducted the dead to Hades.
- While the apostle Paul was at Lystra, the native people, after seeing the apostle cure a man lame from birth, identified Paul with the god **Hermes**, since Paul was the one, taking the lead in speaking.
- Now in Lystra there was sitting a certain man disabled in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, and he had never walked at all. (**Acts of Apostles 14:8**)
- This man was listening to Paul speak, who, on looking at him intently and seeing he had faith to be made well. (**Acts of Apostles 14:9**)
- Said with a loud voice; Stand up erect on your feet. And he leaped up and began walking. (**Acts of Apostles 14:10**)
- And the crowds, seeing what Paul had done, raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian tongue; The gods have become like human's and have come down to us! (**Acts of Apostles 14:11**)
- And they went calling Barnabas Zeus, but Paul **Hermes**, since he was the one taking the lead in speaking. (**Acts of Apostles 14:12**)
- And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was before the city, brought bulls and garlands to the gates and was desiring to offer sacrifices with the crowds. (**Acts of Apostles 14:13**)
- This identification harmonizes with their **conception** of **Hermes** as a **divine messenger** and a god of skillful speech. That **Hermes** was

worshipped by the people of Lystra is indicated by the following inscription found in that vicinity in 1909 C.E.

- **Toues Macrinus also called Abascantus and Batasis son of Bretasis having made in accordance with a vow at their own expense [a statue of] Hermes Most Great along with a sun-dial dedicated it to Zeus the sun-god. [The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, edited by J. Orr, 1960, Vol. III, p. 1944]**