

~ICONIUM (147) (I-co'ni-um)

- An ancient city of Asia Minor lying about 1,027 meters (3,370 feet) above sea level. **Iconium** is presently known as Konya (Konia), located about 240 kilometers (150 miles) South of Ankara on the Southwest edge of the central Turkish plateau.
- In the **First Century C.E.**, **Iconium** was one of the principal cities in the Roman province of Galatia and lay astride the main trade route from Ephesus to Syria.
- The city had an influential Jewish population. Paul and Barnabas, after being forced to leave Pisidian Antioch, preached in the city of **Iconium** and in its synagogue, and there they helped many Jews and Greeks to become believers.
- But when an attempt was made to stone them, they fled from **Iconium** to Lystra. However, Jews from Antioch and Iconium soon came to Lystra and stirred up the crowds there so that they stoned Paul.
- Thereafter Paul and Barnabas went to Derbe and then courageously returned to Lystra, **Iconium**, and Antioch, strengthening the brothers and appointing older men to positions of responsibility in the congregations established in these cities.
- But the Jews stirred up the reputable women who worshiped God and the principal men of the city, and they raised up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and threw them outside their boundaries. (**Acts of Apostles 13:50**)
- These shook the dust off their feet against them and went to **Iconium**. (**Acts of Apostles 13:51**)
- Now in Iconium they entered together into the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in such a manner that a great multitude of both Jews and Greeks became believers. (**Acts of Apostles 14:1**)
- But the Jews that did not believe stirred up and wrongly influenced the souls of people of the nations against the brothers. (**Acts of Apostles 14:2**)

- Therefore they spent considerable time speaking with boldness by the authority of Yehowah, who bore witness to the word of his undeserved kindness by granting signs and portents to occur through their hands. ([Acts of Apostles 14:3](#))
- However, the multitude of the city was split, and some were for the Jews but others for the apostles. ([Acts of Apostles 14:4](#))
- Now when a violent attempt took place on the part of both people of the nations and Jews with their rulers, to treat them insolently and pelt them with stones. ([Acts of Apostles 14:5](#))
- they, on being informed of it, fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe and the country round about. ([Acts of Apostles 14:6](#))
- And there they went on declaring the Good News. ([Acts of Apostles 14:7](#))
- But Jews arrived from Antioch and **Iconium** and persuaded the crowds, and they stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, imagining he was dead. ([Acts of Apostles 14:19](#))
- However, when the disciples surrounded him, he rose up and entered into the city. And on the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe. ([Acts of Apostles 14:20](#))
- And after declaring the Good News to that city and making quite a few disciples, they returned to Lystra and to **Iconium** and to Antioch. ([Acts of Apostles 14:21](#))
- Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to remain in the faith and saying; We must enter into the kingdom of God through many tribulations. ([Acts of Apostles 14:22](#))
- Moreover, they appointed older men for them in each congregation and, offering prayer with fastings, they committed them to Yehowah in whom they had become believers. ([Acts of Apostles 14:23](#))
- Later, after the circumcision issue arose and was settled by the apostles and older men of the Jerusalem congregation, Paul may have revisited **Iconium**. It was on this second missionary journey that Paul

took along Timothy, a young man having a fine reputation among the brothers at Lystra and **Iconium**.

- So he arrived at Derbe and also at Lystra. And, look! A certain disciple was there by the name of Timothy, the son of a believing Jewish woman but of a Greek father. (**Acts of Apostles 16:1**)
- And he was well reported on by the brothers in Lystra and **Iconium**. (**Acts of Apostles 16:2**)
- Paul expressed the desire for this man to go out with him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews that were in those places, for one and all knew that his father was a Greek. (**Acts of Apostles 16:3**)
- Now as they traveled on through the cities they would deliver to those there for observance the decrees that had been decided upon by the apostles and older men who were in Jerusalem. (**Acts of Apostles 16:4**)
- Therefore, indeed, the congregations continued to be made firm in the faith and to increase in number from day to day. (**Acts of Apostles 16:5**)
- But you have closely followed my teaching, my course of life, my purpose, my faith, my long-suffering, my love, my endurance. (**2 Timothy 3:10**)
- My persecutions, my sufferings, the sort of things that happened to me in Antioch, in **Iconium**, in Lystra, the sort of persecutions I have borne, and yet out of them all the Lord delivered me. (**2 Timothy 3:11**)
- **Iconium** was on the border between Phrygia and Lycaonia. This may explain why certain ancient writers, including Strabo and Cicero, assigned it to Lycaonia, whereas Xenophon called it the last city of Phrygia. From a geographic standpoint, **Iconium** belonged to Lycaonia, but as indicated by archaeological discoveries, it was Phrygian in culture and speech.
- Inscriptions found at the site in **1910 C.E.** show that Phrygian was the language used there for two centuries after Paul's time. Appropriately, therefore, the writer of Acts did not include **Iconium** as part of Lycaonia, where the Lycaonian tongue was spoken.

- **They, on being informed of it, fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe and the country round about. ([Acts of Apostles 14:6](#))**
- **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](#))**