

The places Paul and Barnabas encounter in Acts 11-14

(most detail from Craig Keener, *Acts*, Volume II)

Syrian Antioch (11.19-24)	Former capital of Seleucia, including under Antiochus IV Epiphanes and site of major Roman building projects and events, including marriage of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra (GK 207) the "mother city" of Syria; "Since 47 BCE, Antioch had been a 'free city'—that is, one that the Romans allowed to govern itself mostly by its own laws." (CK 1834) "Antigonos I founded Antioch in 307 BCE.; Seleucus I Nicator defeated Antigonos in 301 BCE, renaming the city and moving it in 300 BCE to its present site (where Antakya lies today). It became the capital of the Seleucid kingdom; various distinct settlements, each with its own walls, were united into a tetrapolis. Romans made it their capital for Syria after conquering the Seleucids in 64 BCE." (CK 1835) "Antiochus IV Epiphanes began the building of a major temple to the Olympian Zeus on Mount Silpius, but it was finally completed only by Tiberius in the early first century. Julius Caesar built, presumably around the center of the city, the Kaisareion for the cult of Roma; a statue of Caesar was in the building. Caesar also rebuilt the declining Pantheon in Antioch." (CK 1836) "During the war of 66–73, Antioch (along with Sidon, Apamea, and Gerasa, <i>Jos. War</i> 2.479–80) was among the few predominantly Gentile cities in the region to spare their Jewish inhabitants.... "Nevertheless, we should not exaggerate Antiochene Gentiles' trust of their Jewish neighbors, especially in the wake of the Judean revolt. That Antioch loved Germanicus, Caligula's father, and hence showed great affection for Caligula would not have boded well for local Jews sympathetic with Judean hostility toward Caligula." (CK 1838)
Seleucia (13.4)	"The travelers would have made their way down the river Orontes to Seleucia on the Mediterranean Sea; Seleucia was about fifteen miles west-southwest of Antioch (a bit less as the crow flies and a bit more, perhaps sixteen miles, for a traveler) but only five miles north of where the Orontes emptied into the sea." (CK 1997)
Salamis (13.5)	an important port town on the east coast of Cyprus, not mentioned elsewhere in Bible. "Historically, the site was settled in the eleventh century BCE 179 Salamis therefore had a very old Greek history, and it served as the island's capital under Ptolemaic rule. It remained one of Cyprus's major cities, although Rome moved the capital to New Paphos in 22 BCE (13:6), 'possibly because the harbour at Salamis had become silted up.'" (CK 2000, quoting Barrett)
Paphos (13.6-13)	origin myth linked with Aphrodite, which supports the earlier association with Rhoda/Cassandra. "Paphos was said to be dedicated to Aphrodite just as Athens was to Athena, or Delphi or Delos was to Apollo" (CK 2007) "The travelers probably preferred [the] shorter southern route [from Salamis along the coast], which was 115 miles, to 142 miles for the north-

	ern route. The southern road was built by Augustus sometime after 12 BCE and was at least a week's journey" (CK 2006) "More relevant to the narrative is that New Paphos, also named Augusta, was Cyprus's capital under Rome and the Roman proconsul lived there." (CK 2008)
Perga in Pamphylia (13.13)	"Perga was one of the five major cities of Pamphylia, competing with the neighboring city of Side (whose efficient harbor allowed profit from slave trading) for the honor of "first city" in the region." (CK 2028, noting the theater which could seat 13-15K people) "Pamphylians laid claim to ancestry from Trojans scattered after the Trojan War (Strabo 14.4.1, 3); it is thus not surprising that statue bases in Perga claim two of the heroes of that war as the city's founders." (CK 2030)
Pisidian Antioch (13.14-50)	Not the same as the Antioch at 13:1 and elsewhere. This city was civil and administrative center for province of Galatia, at 3,600 feet elevation, with a well established Jewish population (Witherington 405) CK argues across a series of pages that the family of Sergius Paulus was in Antioch and may be the reason they went there with a letter of recommendation. But Luke's audience would not know that. about 125 miles from Perga (CK 2035, who asks why this difficult destination was their choice) "one of the largest and most strategic towns of the interior highlands of Asia Minor." also a Roman <i>kolonia</i> (CK 2032) "Pisidian Antioch was originally settled by colonists from Magnesia on the Meander. Marc Antony donated it to the final Galatian king, who in turn wisely donated it to Augustus at his own death; Rome made the territory into the Roman province of Galatia and refounded Antioch as a colony, in which it settled many veterans." (CK 2039) "Its location on the southern branch of the Via Sebaste, the land route connecting Ephesus with Syria, as well as its being a key point of entry to the highlands of Pisidia must have made it an important commercial center." (CK 2038) "Mēn and his cult centers were pervasive throughout central Asia Minor, but the most prominent center of his cult there was his temple in Pisidian Antioch (where he was patron deity)... "By Paul's day, however, the cultic site that dominated Antioch's urban center was, as noted above, an imperial sanctuary. Roman settlers brought other Roman cults, but none compared with the worship of Augustus and his family; Augustus was honored as the colony's 'founder.'" (CK 2041, 42) "The likelier Alexandrian reading here for the city is 'Pisidian Antioch.'...The genitive reading in later manuscripts [as NRSV] reflects the situation after Diocletian's reorganizing of the provinces and is anachronistic." (CK 2032)

	"Pisidia was remembered for its rugged, independent, warrior tradition; warrior deities were prominent there, and Roman settlers apparently identified such deities with their own war god." (CK 2033)
Iconium (13.51-14.5)	90 miles SE of Antioch, the easternmost city in Phrygia; circuit completed implicitly at 16:2; modern Konya The road between included both paved and unpaved roads (With 417-18) the main road was the Via Sebaste, the imperial highway from Ephesus to Syria (GK 252) Augustus established a <i>kolonia</i> alongside the Greek city, which eventually merged into "Glaudiconium"; its fertile countryside, along with wool-bearing sheep, supplied the region (CK 2110)
Lystra (14.8-20)	located twenty-four miles south of Iconium a Phrygian village. The town was built on a hill surrounded by a large plain. It was not located near any major trade route. The surrounding plain was fertile and was a source of income and trade for the small town. "The Romans planted Lystra here to guard the highway (the Via Sebaste)." (CK 2128) The precise history of Lystra is not known. It was under Greek control from 280-189 B.C. then under the Attalids 189-133 B.C. then finally under Roman rule in 36 B.C. Lycania was given to Amyntas, king of Pisidia, who then became king of Galatia. Lystra was taken by the Romans in 25 B.C. and made part of the province of Galatia. Some have suggested that Rome had a military presence in Lystra to keep the mountain tribes to the south and west of it in check. Lystra became a Roman colony in 6 BCE. Under Roman influence, settlers came from Rome, roads were built, and Roman architecture was introduced. A small, but powerful, aristocracy of soldiers were located in Lystra. A larger group of well-educated Greeks called Hellenes were also part of Lystra. The rest of the population were uneducated Lycaonians who were part of an Anatolian tribe. (www.4thwatch.com/bible/maps/lystra.htm) "Coins reveal that Augustus made Lystra a Roman colony...Yet Lystra does not seem to have taken as much interest in its colonial status as did Antioch (which included both Italian and local elements) or Iconium (which may have been still seeking to achieve colonial status)." (CK 2129)
Derbe (14.20-21)	about 60 miles SE of Lystra, indicating that v. 20 isn't reporting a one-day journey. "Derbe was less advanced than some other cities Paul visited, and it lacks even evidence of signs of a proper Greek polis before Claudius's reign...[but was] experiencing more significant growth during Claudius's reign than it had before, perhaps making it a more appealing site; or perhaps it was appealing simply because it lay southward and a significant distance from the apostles' antagonists." (CK 2178)

	"The exact date when Derbe became a colony is unknown. But given Claudius's activity in Asia Minor early in his reign, such as the creation of the province of Lycia in AD 43, it was likely a colony when Paul visited in the late 40s" (Wagner/Wilson 57) "Topography and climate make it unlikely that Paul travelled from Lys- tra to Derbe over a direct route. While the distance as the crow flies be- tween them is 95 kilometres, no evidence exists for such a straight-line course in antiquity." (id, 68) He explores in depth the remains of possi- ble alternatives, but it is mostly speculation.
Attalia (14.25)	Seaport on southern coast of Asia Minor; only here; not a Roman <i>ko- lonia</i> "High-status Roman presence is attested for Attalia in this period. The Calpurnii, Italian settlers, constituted Attalia's most prominent family in the first century....Attalia was a major port for trade between Syria or Egypt and the interior of Asia." (CK 2190)