

eloquence. **Priest of Jupiter** . . before their city ; the local title of Jupiter, given because his temple was at the entrance to the city. **Oxen** ; for " sacrifice ". **Garlands** ; made of wool, with leaves and flowers interwoven, to adorn the victim, the altar, the priests and the attendants at a heathen sacrifice. **Unto the gates** ; either of the city, or of the temple of Jupiter, or of the house in which the missionaries were lodged.

14-18. Apostles, . . rent their clothes ; in token of their abhorrence. **Men of like passions ;** of the same nature, and not gods, as the people wrongly supposed. **Turn from these vanities ;** these false gods. **Unto the living God ;** whom the preachers go on to declare to be the Creator and Preserver of all. Thus, though with difficulty, they kept the people from offering sacrifices to them.

III. SUFFERING PERSECUTION.—19-22. These verses tell how Jews from Antioch and Iconium, in alliance with the Gentile population of Lystra, stoned Paul, until he was left for dead outside the town walls (see 2 Cor. 11 : 25). After his recovery, probably by a miracle, he **went with Barnabas to Derbe**, from which place they returned to **Lystra, Iconium and Antioch**, bringing encouragement and instruction to the disciples in these places.

Having ordained elders in the newly founded churches, Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch in Syria, the starting point of Paul's First Missionary Journey. They gave the church at Antioch an account of their work and success, and remained amongst the disciples in that city for a considerable time, vs. 23-28.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



ICONIUM is an ancient city near the borders of Lycaonia and Phrygia. It still retains its ancient name in the form of Konia, and is at present the terminus of a railway that extends southward from the straits of Bosphorus between Asia Minor and Europe. The location of the city, amidst luxuriant orchards watered by a stream flowing from the hilly region to the west, has always made it the

most important centre in the district. **LYSTRA** was about 18 miles southeast of Iconium, in a vale about a mile wide, through which a stream flows eastward between gentle hills.

LESSON QUESTIONS

With what success did Paul and Barnabas meet in Iconium ? Why did they leave ? Whither did they then go ?

8-10 Describe the lame man whom they met. By what was Paul attracted to him ? What is said of the man's faith ? What did Paul say to him ? With what result ? To whom did Jesus say, " Thy faith hath saved thee ? " (Luke 7 : 50.) Where could He not do many mighty works because of unbelief ? (Matt. 13 : 54, 58.)

11-18 Who did the people think Paul and Barnabas were ? What did they wish to do ? How was this prevented ?

19-22 What enemies of Paul and Barnabas came to Lystra ? What was done to Paul ? Whither did the missionaries go, when he had recovered ?

What officers did they ordain in the newly founded churches ? To what place did they then return ? Of what did they give an account to the church there ?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. The folly of idol worship.
2. What nature teaches about God.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

The Roman "tribulum" or threshing sledge was an ugly looking instrument,—a wooden platform with sharp flint or iron teeth on the under side. But it brought the precious golden grain out of the worthless chaff. Suffering is often hard to endure, but out of it God can bring the strong, beautiful character, free from unlovely faults.

Prove from Scripture—*That God made all things.*

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 17. *Into what estate did the fall bring mankind ?* A. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

The Question on Missions—7. What dangers do they bring to us ? In spite of our laws, some among those who come to us are ignorant, criminal, insane, diseased, paupers, while many have very low ideals of life. So many kinds of people are coming, that the greatest danger is that we may not be able to make good citizens of them.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What miracle did Paul work at Lystra ?
2. How did the Lystrians desire to honor Paul and Barnabas ?
3. Why did they afterwards take part in stoning him ?