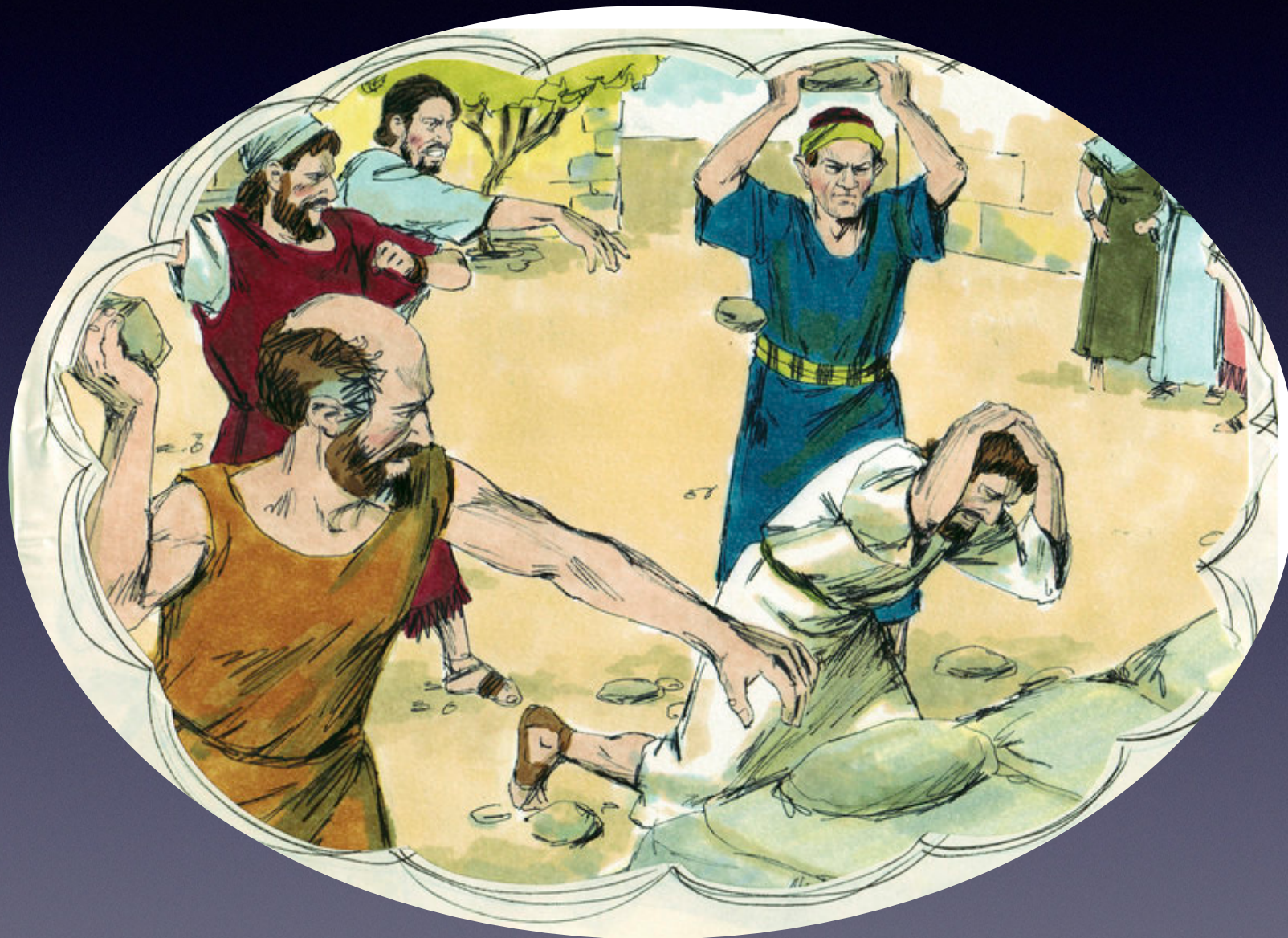


Through Many Tribulations God's Work is Accomplished

Acts 14



Acts 14:22b - “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

Acts 14:27 - When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report **all things that God had done** with them and **how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles**.

Theme Statement

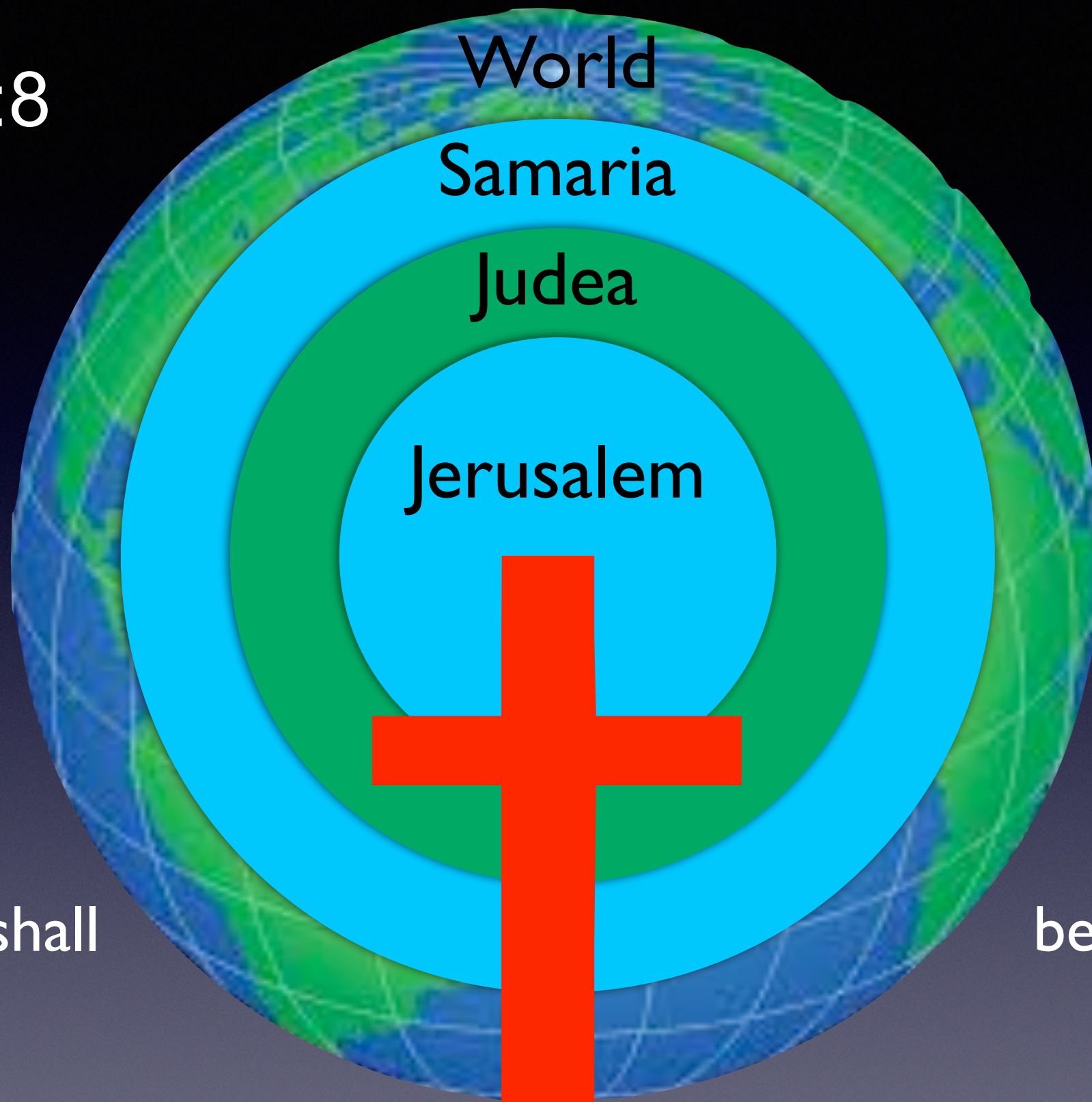
The Lord God sovereignly uses persecution, suffering and opposition to accomplish His purposes of offering the gospel to the ends of the earth and to bring His people into the Kingdom of God.

Acts 1:8

But you
will
receive
power

and you shall

both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and even to the remotest part of the earth



when the
Holy Spirit
has come
upon you;

be My witnesses

















Outline

Acts 14

Planting the Seed - v. 1-21a

In Iconium

In Lystra

In Derbe

Tending the Plants - v. 21b-23

Reporting the Harvest - v. 24-28

Planting the Seed

Acts 14:1-21a

1. In Iconium - v. 1-7

- a. They started in the synagogue of the Jews
- b. They preached a convincing message and many Jews and God-fearers/proselytes believed
- c. Disobedient Jews stirred up the Gentiles by poisoning their minds against the gospel and the messengers
- d. Paul and Barnabas persevered with boldness and with divine confirmation of the message

Planting the Seed

Acts 14:1-21a

1. In Iconium - v. 1-7

c. Disobedient Jews stirred up the Gentiles by poisoning their minds against the gospel and the messengers

d. Paul and Barnabas persevered with boldness and with divine confirmation of the message

e. The gospel message did not unite the people but instead divided the people

f. When the opposition got much more aggressive, Paul and Barnabas fled to the cities of Lycaonia to further spread the preaching of the gospel



1st Missionary Journey



Planting the Seed

Acts 14:1-21a

2. In Lystra - v. 8-20a

a. They did not start in the synagogue of the Jews.

b. Paul got the attention of the people by speaking and healing a severely lame man

c. The people interpreted the healing through the lens of their pagan religion

d. The people began calling Barnabas Zeus and Paul Hermes in their Lycaonian language and prepared to make sacrifices to them

Planting the Seed

Acts 14:1-21a

2. In Lystra - v. 8-20a

e. Paul and Barnabas claimed to be mere men like the Lycaonians with a gospel message to turn from their gods to a living God

f. Paul gave a non-Jewish message of the Creator God Who permitted nations to go their own sinful ways and yet providing common grace, the kindness of which leads to repentance

g. Jews from Antioch and Iconium took advantage of the crowd, stoned Paul and dragged his body out of the city, "supposing" him to be dead

Planting the Seed

Acts 14:1-21a

2. In Lystra - v. 8-20a

h. Paul miraculously recovered enough to return to the city and the next day to travel from Lystra to Derbe, a forty mile walk





Planting the Seed

Acts 14:1-21a

3. In Derbe - v. 20b-21a - they preached the gospel and made many disciples









Tending the Plants

Acts 14:21b-23

1. Paul and Barnabas risked their lives to care for the vulnerable believers in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch
2. They strengthened the souls of the new believers through the teaching of the Word of God
3. They encouraged the new believers to persevere through certain persecution
4. They appointed elders for them in every church
5. They committed the new believers to the Lord by prayer and fasting





1st Missionary Journey



Reporting the Harvest

Acts 14:24-28

1. On their way home, they preached the Word at Perga
2. They had completed the work through the grace of God
3. They reported back to their sending church everything that God had done and how God had opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles

Implications

1. Christians must expect resistance to the Word of God
2. Christians must persevere in the face of opposition with a confidence that God will accomplish all of His purposes
3. Christians must both share the gospel with unbelievers and encourage believers to grow in their walk with God