

The background features a dark teal color with several water droplets of various sizes scattered across the surface. In the upper center, there is a blurred, out-of-focus image of a green bowl or cup. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

# **THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS**

**ACTS 14 & 15**

## LUKE 24:46-49

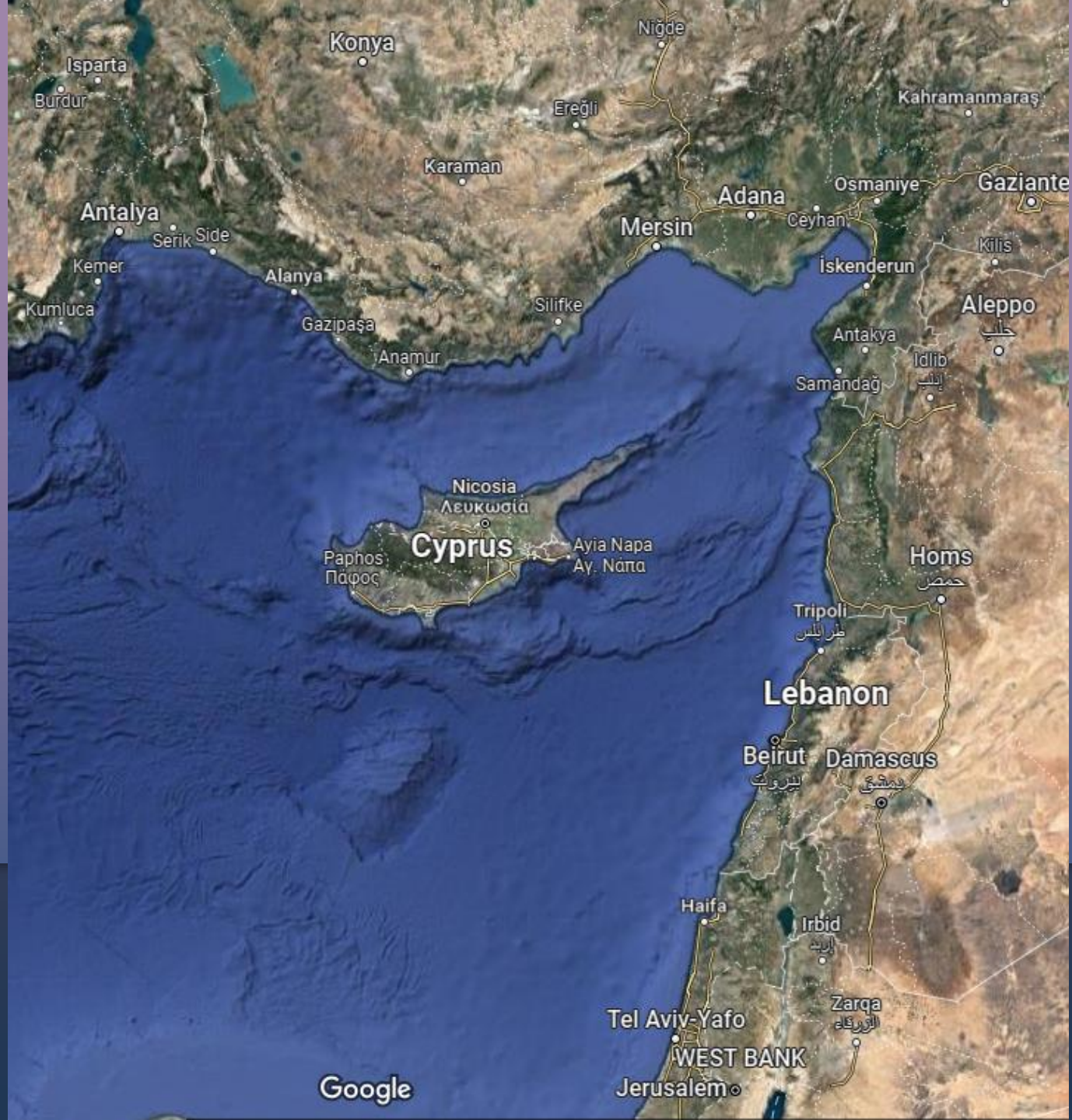
46 AND SAID TO THEM, “THUS IT IS WRITTEN, THAT THE CHRIST SHOULD SUFFER AND ON THE THIRD DAY RISE FROM THE DEAD,

47 AND THAT REPENTANCE FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS SHOULD BE PROCLAIMED IN HIS NAME TO ALL NATIONS, BEGINNING FROM JERUSALEM.

48 YOU ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS.

49 AND BEHOLD, I AM SENDING THE PROMISE OF MY FATHER UPON YOU. BUT STAY IN THE CITY UNTIL YOU ARE CLOTHED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH.”





ACTS 14:7, 15, 18

**7 AND THERE THEY CONTINUED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL.**

**14 BUT WHEN THE APOSTLES BARNABAS AND PAUL HEARD OF IT, THEY TORE THEIR GARMENTS AND RUSHED OUT INTO THE CROWD, CRYING OUT,**

**15 “MEN, WHY ARE YOU DOING THESE THINGS? WE ALSO ARE MEN, OF LIKE NATURE WITH YOU, AND WE BRING YOU GOOD NEWS, THAT YOU SHOULD TURN FROM THESE VAIN THINGS TO A LIVING GOD, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM.**

**18 EVEN WITH THESE WORDS THEY SCARCELY RESTRAINED THE PEOPLE FROM OFFERING SACRIFICE TO THEM.**



**EXO 20:3-4**

**3 “YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.**

**4 “YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF A CARVED IMAGE, OR ANY LIKENESS OF ANYTHING THAT IS IN HEAVEN ABOVE, OR THAT IS IN THE EARTH BENEATH, OR THAT IS IN THE WATER UNDER THE EARTH.**

**ROM 1:25 BECAUSE THEY EXCHANGED THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD FOR A LIE AND WORSHIPED AND SERVED THE CREATURE RATHER THAN THE CREATOR, WHO IS BLESSED FOREVER! AMEN.**





## ACTS 26:15-18

15 AND I SAID, 'WHO ARE YOU, LORD?' AND THE LORD SAID, 'I AM JESUS WHOM YOU ARE PERSECUTING.'

16 BUT RISE AND STAND UPON YOUR FEET, FOR I HAVE APPEARED TO YOU FOR THIS PURPOSE, TO APPOINT YOU AS A SERVANT AND WITNESS TO THE THINGS IN WHICH YOU HAVE SEEN ME AND TO THOSE IN WHICH I WILL APPEAR TO YOU,

17 DELIVERING YOU FROM YOUR PEOPLE AND FROM THE GENTILES—TO WHOM I AM SENDING YOU

18 TO OPEN THEIR EYES, SO THAT THEY MAY TURN FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT AND FROM THE POWER OF SATAN TO GOD, THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS AND A PLACE AMONG THOSE WHO ARE SANCTIFIED BY FAITH IN ME.'



## 2 TIM 3:10-11

**10 YOU, HOWEVER, HAVE FOLLOWED MY TEACHING, MY CONDUCT, MY AIM IN LIFE, MY FAITH, MY PATIENCE, MY LOVE, MY STEADFASTNESS,**

**11 MY PERSECUTIONS AND SUFFERINGS THAT HAPPENED TO ME AT ANTIOCH, AT ICONIUM, AND AT LYSTRA—WHICH PERSECUTIONS I ENDURED; YET FROM THEM ALL THE LORD RESCUED ME.**



## ACTS 14:21-22

**21 WHEN THEY HAD PREACHED THE GOSPEL TO THAT CITY AND HAD MADE MANY DISCIPLES, THEY RETURNED TO LYSTRA AND TO ICONIUM AND TO ANTIOCH,**

**22 STRENGTHENING THE SOULS OF THE DISCIPLES, ENCOURAGING THEM TO CONTINUE IN THE FAITH, AND SAYING THAT THROUGH MANY TRIBULATIONS WE MUST ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**





## 2 COR 4:3-4

**3 AND EVEN IF OUR GOSPEL IS VEILED, IT IS VEILED TO THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING.**

**4 IN THEIR CASE THE GOD OF THIS WORLD HAS BLINDED THE MINDS OF THE UNBELIEVERS, TO KEEP THEM FROM SEEING THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL OF THE GLORY OF CHRIST, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD.**



# ACTS 13:38-39

**38 LET IT BE KNOWN TO YOU THEREFORE, BROTHERS, THAT THROUGH THIS MAN FORGIVENESS OF SINS IS PROCLAIMED TO YOU,**

**39 AND BY HIM EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IS FREED FROM EVERYTHING FROM WHICH YOU COULD NOT BE FREED BY THE LAW OF MOSES.**



## GAL 1:6-7

**6 I AM ASTONISHED THAT YOU ARE SO QUICKLY DESERTING HIM WHO CALLED YOU IN THE GRACE OF CHRIST AND ARE TURNING TO A DIFFERENT GOSPEL—**

**7 NOT THAT THERE IS ANOTHER ONE, BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO TROUBLE YOU AND WANT TO DISTORT THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.**



## GAL 2:11-13

**11 BUT WHEN CEPHAS CAME TO ANTIOCH, I OPPOSED HIM TO HIS FACE, BECAUSE HE STOOD CONDEMNED.**

**12 FOR BEFORE CERTAIN MEN CAME FROM JAMES, HE WAS EATING WITH THE GENTILES; BUT WHEN THEY CAME HE DREW BACK AND SEPARATED HIMSELF, FEARING THE CIRCUMCISION PARTY.**

**13 AND THE REST OF THE JEWS ACTED HYPOCRITICALLY ALONG WITH HIM, SO THAT EVEN BARNABAS WAS LED ASTRAY BY THEIR HYPOCRISY.**



## GAL 3:1-5

**1 O FOOLISH GALATIANS! WHO HAS BEWITCHED YOU? IT WAS BEFORE YOUR EYES THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS PUBLICLY PORTRAYED AS CRUCIFIED.**

**2 LET ME ASK YOU ONLY THIS: DID YOU RECEIVE THE SPIRIT BY WORKS OF THE LAW OR BY HEARING WITH FAITH?**

**3 ARE YOU SO FOOLISH? HAVING BEGUN BY THE SPIRIT, ARE YOU NOW BEING PERFECTED BY THE FLESH?**

**4 DID YOU SUFFER SO MANY THINGS IN VAIN—IF INDEED IT WAS IN VAIN?**

**5 DOES HE WHO SUPPLIES THE SPIRIT TO YOU AND WORKS MIRACLES AMONG YOU DO SO BY WORKS OF THE LAW, OR BY HEARING WITH FAITH—**



## ACTS 15:1, 3-4

**1 BUT SOME MEN CAME DOWN FROM JUDEA AND WERE TEACHING THE BROTHERS, “UNLESS YOU ARE CIRCUMCISED ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM OF MOSES, YOU CANNOT BE SAVED.”**

**3 SO, BEING SENT ON THEIR WAY BY THE CHURCH, THEY PASSED THROUGH BOTH PHOENICIA AND SAMARIA, DESCRIBING IN DETAIL THE CONVERSION OF THE GENTILES, AND BROUGHT GREAT JOY TO ALL THE BROTHERS.**

**4 WHEN THEY CAME TO JERUSALEM, THEY WERE WELCOMED BY THE CHURCH AND THE APOSTLES AND THE ELDERS, AND THEY DECLARED ALL THAT GOD HAD DONE WITH THEM.**





## ACTS 15:7-9

**7 AND AFTER THERE HAD BEEN MUCH DEBATE, PETER STOOD UP AND SAID TO THEM, “BROTHERS, YOU KNOW THAT IN THE EARLY DAYS GOD MADE A CHOICE AMONG YOU, THAT BY MY MOUTH THE GENTILES SHOULD HEAR THE WORD OF THE GOSPEL AND BELIEVE.**

**8 AND GOD, WHO KNOWS THE HEART, BORE WITNESS TO THEM, BY GIVING THEM THE HOLY SPIRIT JUST AS HE DID TO US,**

**9 AND HE MADE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN US AND THEM, HAVING CLEANSED THEIR HEARTS BY FAITH.**



## ACTS 15:24-27

24 SINCE WE HAVE HEARD THAT SOME PERSONS HAVE GONE OUT FROM US AND TROUBLED YOU WITH WORDS, UNSETTLING YOUR MINDS, ALTHOUGH WE GAVE THEM NO INSTRUCTIONS,

25 IT HAS SEEMED GOOD TO US, HAVING COME TO ONE ACCORD, TO CHOOSE MEN AND SEND THEM TO YOU WITH OUR BELOVED BARNABAS AND PAUL,

26 MEN WHO HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

27 WE HAVE THEREFORE SENT JUDAS AND SILAS, WHO THEMSELVES WILL TELL YOU THE SAME THINGS BY WORD OF MOUTH.



## ACTS 15:32-35

**32 AND JUDAS AND SILAS, WHO WERE THEMSELVES PROPHETS, ENCOURAGED AND STRENGTHENED THE BROTHERS WITH MANY WORDS.**

**33 AND AFTER THEY HAD SPENT SOME TIME, THEY WERE SENT OFF IN PEACE BY THE BROTHERS TO THOSE WHO HAD SENT THEM.**

**35 BUT PAUL AND BARNABAS REMAINED IN ANTIOCH, TEACHING AND PREACHING THE WORD OF THE LORD, WITH MANY OTHERS ALSO.**



# ACTS 15:36, 41

**36 AND AFTER SOME DAYS PAUL SAID TO BARNABAS, “LET US RETURN AND VISIT THE BROTHERS IN EVERY CITY WHERE WE PROCLAIMED THE WORD OF THE LORD, AND SEE HOW THEY ARE.”**

**41 AND HE WENT THROUGH SYRIA AND CILICIA, STRENGTHENING THE CHURCHES.**

