

THE GODS HAVE BECOME LIKE MEN

Acts 14:11-13 *When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like men and have come down to us." And they [began] calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose [temple] was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds."*



The Greeks believed that their gods came down to earth periodically in the form of men. So when they saw the miracles performed by Sha'ul and Barnabas, they thought the gods had come down to be with them, hence they wanted to worship them. They maybe thought that Hermes and Zeus were in their presence. Mercury was the god of orators and Paul was an incredible orator, so perhaps they associated Paul with Mercury.

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