

Jerusalem Council

Acts 15:1-35

¹And certain *men* came down from Judea and taught the brethren,

“Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

²Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.

³So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.

⁴And when they had come to **Jerusalem**, they were received by **the church and the apostles and the elders**; and they reported all things that God had done with them.

⁵But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.”

Private Conference: Gal 2:1-6 Titus , too; Gal 2:7-10 Right hand

⁶Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. ⁷And when there had been much dispute, **Peter** rose up and said to them:

“Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by **giving them the Holy Spirit**, just as *He did* to us, ⁹and made **no distinction between us and them**, purifying their **hearts by faith**.

¹⁰“Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a **yoke** on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? ¹¹**But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.**”

¹²Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.

Old Covenant

Circumcision

Genesis 17:10-11

Romans 4:9-12

Galatians 2:3-10

Food laws

Leviticus 11, Deut. 14

Acts 11:2-18

Galatians 2:11-21

1st Meeting
Acts 14:27

2nd Meeting
Acts 10-11

Heart
Deut 10:16

Yoke
Rom 2:25-29, 3:1
Gal 5:1ff
Mt 11:28-30

One way of Salvation
Faith in Christ alone

¹³And after they had become silent, **James** answered, saying,
 “Men *and* brethren, listen to me: ¹⁴Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.

¹⁵And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:

¹⁶ ‘After this **I will return**

And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, **And I will set it up;**

¹⁷ So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD,
 Even all **the Gentiles** who are called by My name,
 Says the LORD who does all these things.’

¹⁸ Known to God from eternity are all His works.’

Amos
9:11-12

The
plan: A
church
with
Gentiles,
too

¹⁹Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among **the Gentiles who are turning to God**, ²⁰but that we write to them to abstain

from things polluted by idols,
from sexual immorality,
from things strangled, and *from* blood.

²¹For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

Not a return to law, but fraternal advice for Gentile believers.

1. Food offered to Idols – 1 Cor 8:1-13, and 1 Co 10:14-11:1
 -*Public witness to others*
2. Fornication –1 Cor 6:13b-20
 -*Moral Law*
 -*Common Gentile danger*
3. Strangled Animals and blood –Gen 9:4, Deut 12:16, 23
 1 Cor 9:19-23, 1 Cor 8:13
 -*Brotherly love for Jewish Christians*

Abrogation of Law

1. **Moral Law** – remain in effect, but we cannot keep them perfectly.
 Matthew 5:48 “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.
2. **Ceremonial Law** – These laws were a shadow of Christ and cease when Christ has come.
 Colossians 2:16-17 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. This includes the Saturday/Sabbath observance of the 3rd Commandment - Matthew 12:8 “For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” (also Rom 14:5-6)
3. **Civil Law** – the political laws of the nation of Israel, ceased to be in force when the ceased to be a nation. i.e. Deuteronomy 24:1-5 concerning marriage and divorce laws

The Law is to be used as a curb, mirror, and guide. It is not to be used as a means of salvation. Nor does the Law have dominion (your Lord), as a Christian you are motivated by thanksgiving to Christ.
 Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
 Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
 Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

²²Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, *namely*, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. ²³They wrote this *letter* by them:

The apostles, the elders, and the brethren,
To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:
Greetings.

²⁴Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, “*You must* be circumcised and keep the law”—to whom we gave no *such* commandment—

²⁵it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth.

²⁸For it seemed good to **the Holy Spirit**, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than **these necessary things**:

| |
|---------------------------|
| John 16:13 Holy Spirit |
|---------------------------|

²⁹that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.

Farewell.

³⁰So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. ³¹When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement. ³²Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words. ³³And after they had stayed *there* for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren to the apostles. ³⁴However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there. ³⁵Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.