

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.

1st Meeting
Acts 14:27

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.

2nd Meeting
Acts 10-11

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.

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.’

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.”

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**:

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Old Covenant</p> <p>Circumcision Genesis 17:10-11 Romans 4:9-12 Galatians 2:3-10</p> <p>Food laws Leviticus 11, Deut. 14 Acts 11:2-18 Galatians 2:11-21</p>	<p>Not a return to law, but fraternal advice for Gentile believers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food offered to Idols – 1 Cor 8:1-13, and 1 Co 10:14-11:1 -<i>Public witness to others</i> 2. Fornication –1 Cor 6:13b-20 -<i>Moral Law</i> -<i>Common Gentile danger</i> 3. Strangled Animals and blood –Gen 9:4, Deut 12:16, 23 1 Cor 9:19-23, 1 Cor 8:13 -<i>Brotherly love for Jewish Christians</i>
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Galatians 2:11-21, v.11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed;

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.