

Acts 15

Chapter 15 of 28 · 41 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Jerusalem Council

¹ And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

² When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

³ And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

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

⁵ But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

⁶ And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

⁷ And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

⁸ And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

⁹ And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

¹⁰ Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon 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, even as they.

12 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

19 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers

22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.

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

29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

30 So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:

31 Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

32 And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.

33 And after they had tarried there a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles.

34 Notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still.

35 Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

Paul and Barnabas Separate

36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.

37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Apostle — ἀπόστολος (Apostolos)

Apostle, sent one

The Greek **apostolos** (ἀπόστολος) means apostle or sent one—an authorized messenger. The twelve apostles were chosen by Christ and empowered as His witnesses, laying the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20).

Blood — αἷμα (Haima)

Blood

The Greek **haima** (αἷμα) denotes blood. Christ's blood 'cleanseth us from all sin' (1 John 1:7), securing 'eternal redemption' (Hebrews 9:12) through His once-for-all sacrifice. Believers have been 'purchased with his own blood' (Acts 20:28).

Believe — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

Elect — ἐκλεκτός (Eklektos)

Elect, chosen

The Greek **eklektos** (ἐκλεκτός) means chosen or elect—those selected by God. Believers are 'elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father' (1 Peter 1:2).

Faith — πίστις (Pistis)

Faith, belief, trust

The Greek **pistis** (πίστις) denotes faith, belief, or trust—confidence in God's character and promises. It's both intellectual assent and relational trust, central to justification (Romans 5:1).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Gospel — εὐαγγέλιον (Euangelion)

Good news, gospel

The Greek **euangelion** (εὐαγγέλιον) means good news or gospel—the message of salvation through Christ's death and resurrection. It's 'the power of God unto salvation' (Romans 1:16).

Grace — χάρις (Charis)

Grace, favor

The Greek **charis** (χάρις) denotes unmerited divine favor—God's kindness toward the undeserving. Salvation is 'by grace through faith' (Ephesians 2:8), not human merit.

Holy — ἅγιος (Hagios)

Holy, sacred, set apart

The Greek **hagios** (ἅγιος) denotes holiness—moral purity and separation unto God. Believers are called 'saints' (hagioi), those set apart for God through Christ's sanctifying work.

Law — νόμος (Nomos)

Law

The Greek **nomos** (νόμος) denotes law—particularly the Mosaic law. While believers are not under law but under grace (Romans 6:14), Christ fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17) and wrote it on believers' hearts (Hebrews 8:10).

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Prophet — προφήτης (Prophētēs)

Prophet

The Greek **prophētēs** (προφήτης) denotes a prophet—one who speaks forth God's message. Jesus was recognized as 'a prophet mighty in deed and word' (Luke 24:19), fulfilling and surpassing the prophetic office.

Save — σῶζω (Sozo)

To save, deliver, heal

The Greek **sozo** (σῶζω) means to save—deliverance from sin, death, and judgment. 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved' (Acts 16:31). The word also encompasses physical healing and spiritual wholeness.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

CROSS REFERENCES

Acts 15:1

Parallel theme: Acts 15:3; 15:24; Leviticus 12:3; Galatians 2:1; 5:6; Colossians 2:8. **References Moses:** Acts 6:14; 15:5; John 7:22

Acts 15:2 **Parallel theme:** Acts 11:30. **References Jerusalem:** Acts 15:4

Acts 15:3 **Parallel theme:** Acts 14:27; 15:12; 21:5; Romans 15:24; 1 Corinthians 16:6; 16:11; Titus 3:13

Acts 15:4 **References God:** Acts 14:27; 15:12. **References Jerusalem:** Acts 21:17. **Parallel theme:** Acts 15:3

Acts 15:5 **References Moses:** Acts 15:1

Acts 15:6 **Parallel theme:** Acts 15:25; Proverbs 15:22; Hebrews 13:7; 13:17

Acts 15:7 **Parallel theme:** Acts 10:20; 15:2

Acts 15:8 **Parallel theme:** Acts 1:24; Revelation 2:23. **Holy:** Acts 2:4; 10:47. **Witness:** Acts 14:3

Acts 15:9 **Parallel theme:** Acts 10:28; 10:34; 11:12; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 3:6; Colossians 3:11; 1 Peter 1:22. **Faith:** Romans 3:22; Galatians 5:6

Acts 15:10 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 17:2; Isaiah 7:12; Matthew 23:4; Galatians 5:1; Hebrews 3:9; 9:9. **References God:** Matthew 4:7; Galatians 4:9

Acts 15:11

Grace: Romans 3:24; 5:15; 1 Corinthians 16:23; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 13:14; Galatians 1:6. **Salvation:** Titus 2:11. **Faith:** Galatians 2:16. **References Jesus:** Romans 6:23

Acts 15:12 **References God:** Acts 14:27; 15:4. **Parallel theme:** John 4:48

Acts 15:13 **Peace:** Acts 12:17

Acts 15:14 **References God:** 2 Peter 1:1. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 43:21

Acts 15:15 **Parallel theme:** Acts 13:47

Acts 15:16 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 12:15. **References David:** 1 Kings 12:16

Acts 15:17 **References Lord:** Jeremiah 14:9; 16:19; Zechariah 2:11; Malachi 1:11. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 22:18; 49:10; Isaiah 11:10; 43:7; 65:1; Hosea 2:23

Acts 15:18 **References God:** Numbers 23:19; Ephesians 3:9. **Parallel theme:** Acts 17:26; Matthew 13:35; Ephesians 1:4; 1:11; 1 Peter 1:20

Acts 15:19 **Parallel theme:** Acts 15:24; 15:28. **References God:** 1 Thessalonians 1:9

Acts 15:20 **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 6:9; 6:18; 8:1; Revelation 2:14; 2:20; 9:20. **Blood:** Acts 15:29; 21:25; Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 3:17

Acts 15:21 **Parallel theme:** Acts 13:15; 13:27

Acts 15:22 **Parallel theme:** Acts 1:23; 15:27; 15:32; 1 Peter 5:12. **References Paul:** Acts 15:40; 16:19; 16:29; 17:10; 17:14; 18:5

Acts 15:23

Parallel theme: Acts 14:27; 15:1; 15:4; 15:22; 15:41; 23:26; Galatians 1:21; James 1:1; 2 John 1:3; 3 John 1:14

Acts 15:24

Parallel theme: Acts 15:1; Galatians 1:7; 5:10; 5:12; 1 John 2:19. **Word:** 2 Timothy 2:14

Acts 15:25

References Paul: Acts 15:2; 15:22. **Parallel theme:** Acts 1:14. **Love:** 2 Peter 3:15. **Good:** Luke 1:3

Acts 15:26 **Parallel theme:** Acts 13:50; 14:19; Judges 5:18; 1 Corinthians 15:30

Acts 15:27 **Parallel theme:** Acts 15:22

Acts 15:28 **Spirit:** John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 7:40; 14:37. **Parallel theme:** Acts 15:19; Matthew 11:30; Revelation 2:24. **Holy:** Acts 5:32; 15:8; 1 Peter 1:12

Acts 15:29 **Blood:** Acts 15:20; 21:25; Leviticus 17:14. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 11:9; 13:11; 1 Timothy 5:22; 1 John 5:21; Jude 1:24; Revelation 2:14; 2:20

Acts 15:30 **Parallel theme:** Acts 6:2; 16:4

Acts 15:32 **Parallel theme:** Acts 11:23; 14:22; 1 Peter 5:1; 5:10; 5:12. **Prophecy:** Acts 13:1

- Acts 15:33** **Peace:** Acts 16:36; Genesis 26:29; 1 Corinthians 16:11; Hebrews 11:31
- Acts 15:35** **Parallel theme:** Acts 13:1; Colossians 1:28. **Word:** 2 Timothy 4:2
- Acts 15:36** **Parallel theme:** Acts 13:4; 13:51; 14:1; 14:6; 2 Corinthians 11:28. **Word:** Exodus 4:18
- Acts 15:37** **References John:** Acts 12:12
- Acts 15:38** **References Paul:** Acts 13:13
- Acts 15:39** **Parallel theme:** Acts 4:36; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Colossians 4:10; James 3:2
- Acts 15:40** **Grace:** Acts 11:23; 14:26; 1 Corinthians 15:10. **References Paul:** Acts 15:22
- Acts 15:41** **Parallel theme:** Acts 6:9; 15:23; 15:32; 18:18; 21:3; Galatians 1:21

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