

# Acts 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

## Analysis

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**After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David**—James quotes Amos 9:11-12 (LXX) at the Jerusalem Council to justify Gentile inclusion without circumcision. The Greek σκηνήν (skēnēn, tabernacle/tent) refers to David's fallen dynasty. The verb ἀνοικοδομήσω (anoikodomēsō, I will rebuild) emphasizes God's sovereign restoration, not human effort.

**Which is fallen down** (τὴν πεπτωκυῖαν)—The perfect participle indicates the completed state of David's house after the exile. James argues that Christ's resurrection fulfills this promise, establishing a restored kingdom that now includes Gentiles "upon whom my name is called" (v. 17). This isn't ethnic Israel's political restoration but the Messiah's universal reign through the church, vindicating Peter's report of Gentile conversions (v. 7-11).

## Historical Context

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The Jerusalem Council (c. AD 49-50) addressed whether Gentile converts needed circumcision for salvation. James, the half-brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church, settled the dispute by demonstrating that Amos prophesied Gentile inclusion in the restored Davidic kingdom. His authoritative ruling shaped the church's missionary strategy and prevented a fatal split between Jewish and Gentile believers.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does James's interpretation of Amos show that Old Testament promises find fulfillment in Christ's church, not merely ethnic Israel?
2. What does this passage teach about using Scripture to resolve theological disputes in the church?

## Interlinear Text

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Μετὰ ταῦτα ἀναστρέψω καὶ ἀνοικοδομήσω τὰ  
After this I will return and I will build again which  
G3326 G5023 G390 G2532 G456 G3588

σκηνὴν Δαβὶδ τὰ πεπτωκυῖαν καὶ τὰ  
the tabernacle of David which is fallen down and which  
G4633 G1138 G3588 G4098 G2532 G3588

κατεσκαμένα αὐτήν ἀνοικοδομήσω καὶ ἀνορθώσω αὐτήν  
the ruins it I will build again and I will set it  
G2679 G846 G456 G2532 G461 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 12:15** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.

**1 Kings 12:16** (References David): So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.

