

Acts 15:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The 'great disputing' at the Jerusalem Council reveals how seriously the early church took theological questions. The debate over Gentile circumcision touched fundamental issues about salvation's basis and the law's role. That the church allowed extensive discussion before resolution shows wisdom in thoroughly addressing controversies rather than quick, superficial decisions.

Historical Context

This council (c. AD 49) addressed Christianity's most crucial theological crisis: whether Gentiles must become Jews to be saved. The debate's outcome determined whether Christianity would remain a Jewish sect or become a universal faith.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you balance conviction about truth with patience in allowing full discussion of controversial issues?
2. What does this teach about the importance of thoroughly addressing theological controversies rather than ignoring them?

Interlinear Text

πολλῆς	δὲ	συζητήσεως	γενομένης	ἀναστὰς	Πέτρος		
much	And	disputing	when there had been	rose up	Peter		
G4183	G1161	G4803	G1096	G450	G4074		
εἶπεν	πρὸς	αὐτούς	Ἄνδρες	ἀδελφοί	ὕμεῖς	ἐπίστασθε	
and said	unto	them	Men	and brethren	ye	know	
G2036	G4314	G846	G435	G80	G5210	G1987	
ὅτι	ἀφ'	ἡμερῶν	ἀρχαίων	ὁ	θεὸς	ἐν	ἡμῖν
how that	ago	while	a good	G3588	God	among	us
G3754	G575	G2250	G744		G2316	G1722	G2254
ἐξελέξατο	διὰ	τοῦ	στόματός	μου	ἀκοῦσαι	τὰ	
made choice	by	G3588	mouth	my	should hear	G3588	
G1586	G1223		G4750	G3450	G191		
ἔθνη	τὸν	λόγον	τοῦ	εὐαγγελίου	καὶ	πιστεῦσαι·	
that the Gentiles	G3588	the word	G3588	of the gospel	and	believe	
G1484		G3056		G2098	G2532	G4100	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 15:2 (Parallel theme): 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.

Acts 10:20 (Parallel theme): Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

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