

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 ὑμεῖς 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 God among us
G3754 G575 G2250 G744 G3588 G2316 G1722 G2254

ἐξελέξατο διὰ τοῦ στόματός μου ἀκοῦσαι τὰ
made choice by mouth my should hear
G1586 G1223 G3588 G4750 G3450 G191 G3588

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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