

The Acts of the Apostles I
The Council at Jerusalem
Acts 15:1-41

- I. THE CONTROVERSY OVER CIRCUMCISION (Acts 15:1-5)
 - A. The Contention in Antioch (Acts 15:1-2)
 - i. The Judeans (Acts 15:1) – taught the brethren [they cornered the newly saved]
 1. The need for circumcision
 2. Necessary for salvation
 - ii. The missionaries (Acts 15:2)—Paul in conflict (Acts 15:2, 39; Galatians 2:11; Philippians 1:16)
 1. Dissension –
 - a) Meaning: “*dissension*” – defined: “*from Old French dissension (12c.)... ..disagreement, difference of opinion, discord, strife.*”
 - b) Scriptural usage: Used three times in scripture: (first use – Acts 15:2; Acts 23:7; Acts 23:10).
 2. Disputation –
 - a) Meaning: “*disputation*” – defined: “*late 14c., from Old French desputation..., ... noun of action. To weigh, examine, discuss, argue... ..from dis-‘separate’+putare ‘to count, consider.’*”
 - b) Scriptural usage: Used once in the singular form: (Acts 15:2), and once in the plural: (Romans 14:1)
 - B. The Council in Jerusalem (Acts 15:2-3)
 - i. To the apostles in Jerusalem (Acts 15:2) – no pattern was set here
 - ii. Through the churches on the way (Acts 15:3)
 - C. The Claims of the Believers (Acts 15:4-5)
 - i. Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:4)
 - ii. The believing Pharisees (Acts 15:5; Acts 21:17-20)
 1. The necessity of circumcision
 2. The keeping of the law (cp. Galatians 3:23-26)

The Acts of the Apostles I | **To the Greek Also** **Paul's 1st Missionary Journey**

NOTE: No Need for Circumcision

- i. In salvation (Galatians 2:16)
 - 1. In Jesus Christ (Galatians 5:1-6; Galatians 6:15)
 - 2. As with Abraham (Romans 4:8-12)
- ii. In service
 - 1. No claim to obedience (1 Corinthians 7:17-20)
 - 2. Only glory in the flesh (Galatians 6:12-13)

II. THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL (Acts 15:6-18)

A. The Message of Peter (Acts 15:6-11)

- i. The open door to the Gentiles (Acts 15:6-8)
- ii. The equality of the Gentiles (Acts 15:9-10; Galatians 3:28)
 - 1. No difference (Acts 15:9; Acts 10:28)
 - 2. No yoke (Acts 15:10; Galatians 5:1)
- iii. The superiority of the Gentiles (Acts 15:11)
 - 1. Not in individual value
 - 2. But in the grace of God

B. The Message of the Missionaries (Acts 15:12)

- i. The wonders of God
- ii. Working among the Gentiles

C. The Message of James (Acts 15:13-18)

- i. The words of Simeon (Acts 15:13-14; Luke 2:32)
- ii. The words of the prophets (Acts 15:15; Isaiah 42:6; Isaiah 49:6)
- iii. The words of Amos (Acts 15:16-18; Amos 9:11-12)
 - 1. The tabernacle of David (Acts 15:16)
 - 2. The salvation of the Gentiles (Acts 15:17)
 - 3. The foreknowledge of God (Acts 15:18; Isaiah 46:9-10)

III. THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFLICT (Acts 15:19-31)

A. The Recommendation of James (Acts 15:19-21)

- i. Freedom (Acts 15:19; Galatians 5:1)
- ii. Restrictions (Acts 15:20)

The Acts of the Apostles I | To the Greek Also

Paul's 1st Missionary Journey

1. Pollutions of idols (Exodus 20:3-5; Exodus 34:15; 1 Corinthians 8:1, 4, 7-9)
2. Fornication (1 Corinthians 6:18)
3. Things strangled
4. Blood (Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 17:10-14)

B. The Decision of the Council (Acts 15:22-27)

- i. Sending men (Acts 15:22)
- ii. Writing letters (Acts 15:23)
- iii. Addressing the problem (Acts 15:24; cp. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2)
- iv. Recommending the men (Acts 15:25-27)

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him, **2** That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter **as from us**, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

C. The Confirmation of the Holy Ghost (Acts 15:28-31)

- i. The necessary things (Acts 15:28-29)
- ii. The epistle delivered (Acts 15:30-31) – causing the disciples at Antioch to have “consolation” (Romans 15:5-6) (“*consolation*” – “*encourage, comfort, cheer*”)

IV. THE CONTINUATION OF THE MINISTRY (Acts 15:32-41)

A. In Antioch (Acts 15:32-35)

- i. Prophetic exhortation (Acts 15:32-33)
- ii. Bible teaching (Acts 15:34-35)

B. The Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-41)

- i. Paul considers the journey (Acts 15:36)
- ii. Paul contends with Barnabas (Acts 15:37-39)
 1. Over John Mark (Acts 15:37-38; Acts 13:13)
 2. To the point of separation (Acts 15:39)
- iii. Paul chooses Silas (Acts 15:40, 32, 34)
- iv. Paul confirms the churches (Acts 15:41; Acts 16:4-5)