### Acts

## Chapter 15

1However, some men then came down from However, some men then came down from <span class="placename">JudeaHowever, some men then came down from <span class="placename">Judea</span> and started teaching the brothers that if they didn’t get circumcised following the custom of Moses, they couldn’t be saved. 2However, Paul and BarNabas opposed them and argued with them.  
  
So they arranged for Paul, BarNabas, and some others who were there to go to the Apostles and elders in So they arranged for Paul, BarNabas, and some others who were there to go to the Apostles and elders in <span class="placename">JeruSalemSo they arranged for Paul, BarNabas, and some others who were there to go to the Apostles and elders in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span> to ask [their opinion] on the matter. 3And at that, the congregation sent them off.  
  
Well, as they were traveling through Well, as they were traveling through <span class="placename">PhoeniciaWell, as they were traveling through <span class="placename">Phoenicia</span> and Well, as they were traveling through <span class="placename">Phoenicia</span> and <span class="placename">SamariaWell, as they were traveling through <span class="placename">Phoenicia</span> and <span class="placename">Samaria</span>, they stopped and spoke [to the congregations] along the way about the conversion of gentiles, which brought great joy among all the brothers.  
  
  
  
4Then when they got to Then when they got to <span class="placename">JeruSalemThen when they got to <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>, they were welcomed by the congregation (which included the Apostles and the elders), and they told them about all the things that God had been accomplishing through them.  
  
5However, some of those who were believers from the sect of the Pharisees then stood up and said:  
  
 ‘We must circumcise those people and order them to obey the Laws of Moses!’  
  
6So thereafter, the Apostles and the elders held a meeting to discuss this matter.  
  
7And after a lot of wrangling, Peter then stood up and said:  
  
 ‘Men… Brothers… You know how long it’s been since God chose to have gentiles hear the word of the Good News and believe through my mouth, 8and of how God (who knows the heart) testified about them by giving them the Holy Breath – just as He did to us.  
  
 9‘So as you can see, He didn’t create a difference between us. And since He’s also purified their hearts in the faith... 10Why are you testing God by putting this yoke on the neck of the disciples? [The same one] that we and our fathers couldn’t carry?  
  
 11‘For we believe that they’ve been saved just the same as we have – through the loving care of our Lord Jesus!’  
  
12Well at that, the group became silent, and they listened to BarNabas and Paul tell about the many signs and omens that God had used them to perform among the gentiles.  
  
13Then after they’d finished speaking, James said:  
  
 ‘Men… Brothers… Hear me!  
  
 14‘It was Simon who explained to us how for the first time, God has [chosen] to take a people for His Name from among the gentiles.  
  
 15‘And the words of the Prophet [Amos] agree with this, for it is written:  
  
 16‘In that day,  
 I’ll rebuild the tent of David that has fallen…  
 I’ll rebuild it and make it stand once again.  
  
 17‘Then those who remain of the gentiles  
 May inquire of those who have called on My Name.’  
 [Amos 9:11-12]  
  
 ‘Jehovah, the one doing all these things, said this 18because He’s known about these things throughout the ages!  
  
 19‘Therefore, I’ve decided not to create problems for the gentiles who are turning to God. 20Rather, I’ll send word to them to stay free from things polluted by idols, from immorality, from whatever is strangled, and from blood... 21Because [these Laws of] Moses are preached in every city, and read in the synagogues on every Sabbath, and have been for generations!’  
  
22Well after that, the Apostles, elders, and the whole congregation was unanimously in favor of sending men whom they’d selected from among themselves back to Well after that, the Apostles, elders, and the whole congregation was unanimously in favor of sending men whom they’d selected from among themselves back to <span class="placename">AntiOchWell after that, the Apostles, elders, and the whole congregation was unanimously in favor of sending men whom they’d selected from among themselves back to <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>.  
  
So among those who traveled there with Paul and BarNabas were Judas (who was called BarSabbas) and Silas… Leading men from among the brothers.  
  
23And this is what was written by their hands:  
  
 ‘[From] the Apostles and the older brothers, to those gentile brothers in ‘[From] the Apostles and the older brothers, to those gentile brothers in <span class="placename">AntiOch ‘[From] the Apostles and the older brothers, to those gentile brothers in <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>, ‘[From] the Apostles and the older brothers, to those gentile brothers in <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>, <span class="placename">Syria ‘[From] the Apostles and the older brothers, to those gentile brothers in <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>, <span class="placename">Syria</span>, and ‘[From] the Apostles and the older brothers, to those gentile brothers in <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>, <span class="placename">Syria</span>, and <span class="placename">Kilikia ‘[From] the Apostles and the older brothers, to those gentile brothers in <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>, <span class="placename">Syria</span>, and <span class="placename">Kilikia</span>:  
  
 ‘Rejoice!  
  
 24‘We’ve heard that there were some, who came from us, who’ve been stirring things up there with speeches... And they’ve urged you to make changes in your lives (although we really didn’t tell them to do this).  
  
 25‘Therefore, we’ve unanimously decided to choose men to send to you along with our beloved BarNabas and Paul… 26These men who’ve been willing to give their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus the Anointed One. 27And now Judas and Silas can further explain these things to you.  
  
 28‘For through the Holy Breath, it’s become clear to us that we shouldn’t put any burdens on you other than these necessary things:  
  
 29‘Stay away from:  
  
 • Things that are sacrificed to idols,  
 • From blood,  
 • From the strangled,  
 • And from sexual immorality.  
  
 ‘If you stay away from these things, you’ll do well. Good health to you!’  
  
30So when these men whom they’d sent arrived in So when these men whom they’d sent arrived in <span class="placename">AntiOchSo when these men whom they’d sent arrived in <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>, they assembled the congregation and presented them with the letter. 31And after reading it, [the brothers in And after reading it, [the brothers in <span class="placename">AntiOchAnd after reading it, [the brothers in <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>] were very happy over the encouragement that the letter conveyed.  
  
32Then Judas and Silas (since they were also Prophets) gave instructions to the brothers with many speeches to strengthen them.  
  
  
  
33And after some time had passed, [the congregation] allowed them to return to those who’d sent them with that message of peace. 34However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there. [spurious text] 35However, Paul and BarNabas stayed on in However, Paul and BarNabas stayed on in <span class="placename">AntiOchHowever, Paul and BarNabas stayed on in <span class="placename">AntiOch</span> for a while (along with many others), teaching and preaching the good news of the word of the Lord.  
  
  
  
36Then after many days, Paul said to BarNabas:  
  
 ‘Now that these matters have been settled, let’s go back and visit the brothers in all those cities where we’ve preached the word, to see how they’re doing.’  
  
37However, BarNabas wanted to bring John (who was called Mark) along with them. 38But because Paul didn’t think he was worthy, he didn’t want to take him, since he’d departed from them at But because Paul didn’t think he was worthy, he didn’t want to take him, since he’d departed from them at <span class="placename">PamPhyliaBut because Paul didn’t think he was worthy, he didn’t want to take him, since he’d departed from them at <span class="placename">PamPhylia</span> and he hadn’t continued in the work.  
  
39So there was quite an argument over this, which resulted in each man going his own way. Therefore, BarNabas took Mark and they sailed off to So there was quite an argument over this, which resulted in each man going his own way. Therefore, BarNabas took Mark and they sailed off to <span class="placename">CyprusSo there was quite an argument over this, which resulted in each man going his own way. Therefore, BarNabas took Mark and they sailed off to <span class="placename">Cyprus</span>, 40while Paul chose Silas.  
  
Then after sharing the joy of the Lord with the brothers there, [Paul] traveled on, 41going through going through <span class="placename">Syriagoing through <span class="placename">Syria</span> and going through <span class="placename">Syria</span> and <span class="placename">Kilikiagoing through <span class="placename">Syria</span> and <span class="placename">Kilikia</span>, strengthening the congregations in those places.