

NOON BIBLE STUDY: ACTS 15

ACTS 15:1-6 - ISSUE AT HAND, NEED FOR CHURCH LEADERS TO GATHER

V. 1 - MEN, CAME FROM JUDEA (TO ANTIOCH, SEE ACTS 14:26-28), & BEGAN TEACHING "THE BRETHREN" "UNLESS YOU ARE CIRCUMCISED ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM OF MOSES, YOU CANNOT BE SAVED."

- CIRCUMCISION - SEE GENESIS 17:1-14



WE SAW THAT THIS SEEMED TO BE A CONFLICT THAT PAUL AND BARNABAS WOULD FACE DURING THEIR FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY. IN THE TIME BETWEEN THEIR FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY AND ACTS 15, PAUL WILL WRITE THE LETTER TO THE CHURCHES OF GALATIA, WHICH WAS THE REGION WHERE THEIR JOURNEY TOOK PLACE.

GALATIANS 1:1-9, 5:1-12 - TONE AND CONTEXT OF LETTER TO GALATIAN CHURCHES

ACTS 15:7-11 - PETER'S VIEW

V. 7 - "MUCH DEBATE" - THERE WASN'T JUST 1 DECREE BY 1 PERSON, BUT CONVERSATION, SEARCHING OF SCRIPTURES, & DEBATE.

REMEMBER, PETER WAS THE FIRST ONE TO SPEAK THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES (ACTS 10, PERHAPS 10 YEARS BEFORE ACTS 15) AND HE RELATED THAT GOD HAD ACCEPTED THE GENTILES (BY GIVING THEM THE SPIRIT), AND THAT THE JEWISH DISCIPLES SHOULD TOO.

V. 10 — "YOKE" VERSES V. 11 - GRACE

ACTS 15:12 - PAUL & BARNABAS SHARE OF THE "SIGNS AND WONDERS GOD HAD DONE THROUGH THEM AMONG THE GENTILES."

GALATIANS 3:2, 5, 13-15

ACTS 15:13-21 - JAMES' DECISION

V. 15-18 - JAMES USES OT TO SHOW THAT IT WAS GOD'S DESIRE FOR ALL NATIONS TO COME & KNOW HIM. (CP. AMOS 9:11-12)

V. 20 - THERE WERE THINGS THAT JAMES FELT WERE IMPORTANT FOR THE GENTILE'S TO EMBRACE. THESE THINGS WERE ROOTED IN THE MOSIAC LAW, BUT WERE NOT PROSCRIBED AS COMMANDMENTS FROM MOSES. THE GENTILE'S CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT WAS FILLED WITH THINGS THAT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO HOLINESS, YET NOT RECOGNIZED AS SUCH. JAMES' DECISION AND THE COUNCIL'S LETTER SERVE AS SORT OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN ALL OF THE PRESENT PARTIES AND VIEWS. ALSO, THESE THINGS WOULD ENABLE JEWS AND GENTILES TO FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER. THE JEWISH DISCIPLES AT THIS POINT PROBABLY MAINTAINED THEIR JEWISH IDENTITY THROUGH CUSTOMS AND DIETARY LAWS.

