

...the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them, should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.
- Acts 15:2

Meeting in Jerusalem

The Law of Moses

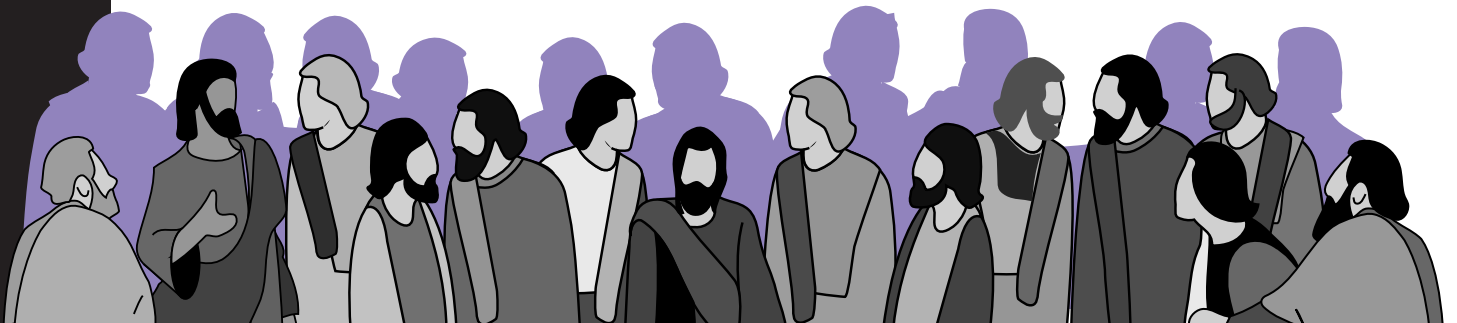
CHAPTER 15

1. What were some from Judea teaching about salvation (v.1)? See Genesis 17:9-14.
2. Who debated with the teachers from Judea? Was the issue resolved?
3. Why did several travel to Jerusalem? Who was in Jerusalem that might assist in resolving the issue? (See also Galatians 2:1-10 for possible additional information.)
4. Who in Jerusalem argued that keeping the Law of Moses was indeed necessary?

HERMENEUTICS

Hermeneutics, put simply, are the rules which govern how the Bible is interpreted to know what God wants us to do. In other words, how do we interpret the Bible to find out what is authorized and binding on us and what is not? In this chapter those gathered in Jerusalem apply sound rules for deciding the issue of circumcision.

5. Who stood and said of the Gentiles that God "bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit"? To what event do you think he had reference?
6. What **inference** did Peter draw from the fact that God gave the Gentiles the Holy Spirit and cleansed them by faith?



7. What visual imagery did Peter use in describing the impossibility of keeping the Law? (v. 10)

8. What **examples** did Paul and Barnabas recount that further indicated the Gentiles were welcomed by the Lord without keeping the Law (v. 12)?

The Early Days
Peter's reference to the "early days" in verse 7, likely is a reference to the conversion of Cornelius which according to Adam Clarke, had occurred 10 years earlier.

9. Of what **declarative statement** from the prophet Amos did James remind those who were gathered (v. 16-18)?

10. From what things did James suggest they encourage Gentiles to abstain? (See Leviticus 17:10-16)



11. What was sent to the Christians in Antioch? Who took what was sent? What was the reaction of those in Antioch?

12. What was the cause of the sharp disagreement that arose between Paul and Barnabas? What happened as a result of the disagreement?

Trace and label the two journeys mentioned in Acts 15:39-41



FOR DISCUSSION

Was the church in Antioch under the authority of the church in Jerusalem, or, was it an autonomous congregation? Who was the source of the letter of instruction sent to Antioch that made it authoritative?

