

ACTS 15

NLET

A DELEGATION FROM ANTIOCH IS SENT TO JERUSALEM CONCERNING AN ISSUE ABOUT CIRCUMCISION

1 And some *men*, having come down from Judea, were teaching the Brothers that, "If ever you have not been circumcised by the practice from ¹ Moses, you are not able to be saved."

2 So then,² after inquiry and no small discord came into being with Paul and Barnabas, *it* was arranged with them *that* Paul and Barnabas and some from among them go up to the Apostles and elders in Jerusalem concerning the inquiry – *namely*, this *one*.

3 So then, on the one hand, the ones who had been sent forth by the Ekklesia passed through the *region* of Phoenicia and Samaria, telling in detail the turning about of the Ethnicities. And, they were creating great joy for the Brothers.

THE ISSUE ABOUT CIRCUMCISION IS RAISED IN JERUSALEM

4 On the other hand, those who had come to Jerusalem were received³ by⁴ the Ekklesia and the Apostles and the Elders. And, they brought back news *of* as many things God did by means of them.

5 Now, some from among the sect of the Pharisees who had lastingly believed stood up, saying, "It is necessary to give orders to circumcise them so as to keep the Law of Moses."

HOW THE APOSTLES AND ELDERS RESOLVED THE ISSUE ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF CIRCUMCISION FOR THE ETHNICITIES

6 Now,⁵ the Apostles and the Elders were brought together to look into the assertion – *namely*, this *one*.

7 Now, after much joint inquiry⁶ had come about, having arisen, Peter said to them, "Men, brothers, you, *for your parts*, know for certain that from former days amongst you⁷ the God chose that by means of the

mouth *that is* mine the Ethnicities hear the Word of the Excellent Announcement and believe.

8 And, the Knower of Hearts – *namely*, God – bore witness to them, giving to them⁸ the Spirit – *namely*, the Holy *one* – just as also to us. 9 And, *in* NOTHING did He distinguish between us and them, by the Faith having cleansed the Hearts *that are* theirs.

10 So then, now why are you putting the God to the test, to place a yoke upon the neck of the Disciples which neither the Fathers *that were* ours nor we, *for our part*, were able to bear? 11 Rather, by means of the Grace of the Lord Jesus we keep on believing to be saved, according to which means these also *are believing to be saved*."

12 Now, all the multitude was silent.

And, they were listening to Barnabas and Paul while they were relating in detail such signs and wonders as the God did in connection with the Ethnicities by means of them.

13 Now, after they became silent, Jacob responded, saying, "Men, brothers, hear me. 14 Simon has related in detail how initially the God oversaw for Himself to take from among the Ethnicities a people in the power of⁹ the Name *that is* His.

15 And, with this the words of the Prophets are in harmony, just as it has been lastingly written: 16 **'After these things I shall turn back. And, I shall rebuild the Tabernacle of David which has lastingly fallen down. And, the things *that are* hers which have been lastingly razed to the ground I shall rebuild.**

And, I shall set her upright again, 17 in order that the remainder of the People might ever seek out the Lord, also all the Ethnicities upon whom the Name *that is* Mine shall be lastingly called – upon them!' says YaHWeH, the¹⁰ One Who is doing these things

¹ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the definite article 'the' here.

² 93% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'So then,' here instead of 'Now,'.

³ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'were received'. The NU has a synonym.

⁴ 99% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'by' here. On the basis of 1% the NU has a preposition that can have the same meaning.

⁵ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'Now,' here instead 'And,'.

⁶ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

transmission (f35), have 'joint inquiry' here instead of 'inquiry'.

⁷ 30% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'you' (plural) here. On the basis of 55% the NU has 'us'.

⁸ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include 'to them' here.

⁹ 87% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the preposition translated as 'in the power of' here.

¹⁰ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article 'the' here. On the basis of 7% the NU omits it.

– all of them¹¹. 18 From eternity all the deeds that are His are known to the God!^{12,13}

19 Wherefore, I, for my part, am giving judgement not to annoy the ones from the Ethnicities who are turning about toward the God, 20 rather, to send a message to them that they keep away from¹³

- the pollutions of the idols, and
- the temple prostitution, and
- the strangled sacrifices, and
- the blood from them.

21 For, from ancient generations city by city Moses has those who are heralding him in the synagogues, sabbath by sabbath being one who is read.

22 Then, it seemed good to the Apostles and to the Elders together with the whole Ekklesia, having selected men from among themselves, to send them to Antioch together with¹⁴ Paul and Barnabas:

- Judas (being surnamed¹⁵ 'Barsabas'^{16 17}), and
- Silas –

men who were leading the way amongst the Brothers – 23 having written by means of their hand this¹⁸:

From: The Apostles, and the Elders, and the¹⁹ Brothers.

To: the ones in the various places of²⁰ Antioch, and

Syria, and Cilicia, to brothers – that is, the ones from among the Ethnicities:

Rejoice!

24 Since we have heard that some from among us, having gone out, have disturbed you with words,

ones who are ruining the psyches that are yours, telling you to be circumcised and to keep the Law²¹, which things we did

not expressly command, 25 it seemed right to us, it having come about that with one accord, having chosen for ourselves men to send to you together with the beloved ones that are ours – Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have lastingly handed over the psyches that are theirs for the sake of the Name of the Lord that is ours, Jesus the Anointed.

27 So then, we have lastingly dispatched Judas and Silas,

also these by means of a verbal explanation reporting in answer to these things.

28 For, it seemed right to the Holy Spirit²² and to us to place no greater burden upon you except the necessary things – namely, these²³:

29 to keep away from

- things sacrificed to idols, and
- blood, and
- a strangled animal²⁴, and
- temple prostitution.

If you are keeping yourselves from these things, you are succeeding well.

Be lastingly strengthened!

WHAT TRANSPIRED WHEN THE DELEGATION FROM JERUSALEM CAME TO ANTIOCH

30 So then, on the one hand, those having been sent away went²⁵ to Antioch. And, having gathered together the Main Body, they delivered the epistle.

¹¹ 48% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'things – all of them' here. 45% has 'all these things'. On the basis of 7% the NU omits 'all'.

¹² 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), 'All the deeds that are His are known to the God from eternity!' here. On the basis of 5% the NU has 'known from eternity'.

¹³ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the preposition 'from' here. The NU omits it.

¹⁴ 93% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the definite article 'the' here.

¹⁵ 87% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'being surnamed' here instead of 'being called'.

¹⁶ 50% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the spelling 'Barsabas' here instead of 'Barsabbas'.

¹⁷ 'Barsabas' – meaning 'son of father'

¹⁸ 97.7% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the pronoun 'this' here.

¹⁹ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the words 'and the' here. The NU omits them.

²⁰ 20% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the definite article 'the' here.

²¹ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the words 'telling you to be circumcised and to keep the Law' here. The NU omits them.

²² 87% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'to the Holy Spirit' here instead of 'to the Spirit – that is, the Holy One'.

²³ 63% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'the necessary things – namely, these' here. On the basis of 30% the NU has 'these, the necessary things'.

²⁴ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'a strangled animal' here instead of 'strangled animals'.

²⁵ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'went' here instead of 'went down'.

31 On the other hand, after coming to know *everything* completely, they rejoiced because of the Encouragement.

32 And, Judas and Silas – these also being prophets – by means of a long explanation encouraged the Brothers. And, they made *them* firm.

33 Now, having spent time *there*, they departed with peace from the Brothers to the Apostles²⁶. ²⁷

THE ACTIVITY OF PAUL AND BARNABAS IN ANTIOCH

35 Now, Paul and Barnabas delayed in Antioch, teaching and proclaiming as an excellent announcement the Word of the Lord, also with many others.

PAUL AND BARNABAS RESOLVE TO REVISIT THE CITIES IN WHICH THEY HAD ANNOUNCED THE WORD OF THE LORD

36 Now, after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Having returned, let us look in on the Brothers *that are ours*²⁸ in every city²⁹ in which we have announced the Word of the Lord to see how they are."

HOW PAUL AND BARNABAS SEPARATED

FROM ONE ANOTHER

37 Now, Barnabas wished³⁰ to take also³¹ John, the one called Mark, along.

38 Now, Paul was holding the opinion *that* they not take along³² this *one* who withdrew from them in Pamphylia and who did not go together with them toward the Work.

39 So then,³³ a sharp *disagreement* came about with the result that they separated from one another, Barnabas taking Mark along to sail away to Cyprus.

²⁶ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'Apostles' here instead of 'ones who dispatched them'.

²⁷ 70.8% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), omit verse 34. In small print 20.3% have ³⁴ 'Now, Silas resolved to remain there.'

²⁸ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the possessive pronoun translated as 'that are ours' here.

²⁹ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'in every city' here instead of 'city by city – all of them'.

³⁰ 92% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

40 Now, Paul, having chosen Silas for himself, went out, having been handed over to the Grace of the God³⁴ by the Brothers.

41 Now, he was passing through the *regions* of Syria and ³⁵ Cilicia, making firm the Ekklesias.

transmission (f35), have 'wished' (an aorist verb) here instead of 'was wishing' (an imperfect verb).

³¹ 39% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'also' here. 50% have 'the'. On the basis of 3% the NU has 'also the'.

³² 92% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'take along' (an aorist verb) here instead of 'be taking along' (a present tense verb).

³³ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'separated' here instead of 'separated from' (thereby duplicating the preposition 'from').

³⁴ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'God' here instead of 'Lord'.

³⁵ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the definite article 'the' here.