

THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM

Acts 15:1-41

key Verse: 15:9

1. Read Verses 1-2. What was the controversy that arose when some men came from Jerusalem to visit Antioch? What did these men teach? Why did Paul and Barnabas disagree? What did the church decide to do?
2. Read verses 3-5. Describe their journey to Jerusalem. What was their joyful testimony? What objection did they meet in Jerusalem?
3. What would it mean to Gentile evangelism if it had been decided that Gentiles must become Jews before being accepted into the Christian church? (See verse 5.)
4. Read verses 6-11. Who considered this question? What was Peter's testimony? Why had he spoken the gospel to Gentiles? (7) What had he learned from his experience with Cornelius (8,9, Acts 10,11)
5. According to Peter, how are sinners saved? What did he say about the requirement that believers be circumcised in order to be accepted into the church?
6. Read verse 12-21. Who spoke for the assembly and made the ruling? What did he base his ruling on? What was his judgment (19-21)? Why did he make a few restrictions regarding accepting Gentiles?
7. Read verses 22-35. Who was sent to Antioch with the decision of the Jerusalem Church? To whom was the letter addressed? What was the general response of the Gentile believers? What did Paul and Barnabas do after this?
8. Read verses 36-41. What was the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas? What does this show about the character of each? What did each do? How did God use each of them?