

“A Time Of Purification, Vows, & Uproar!”

Acts 21:15-26

And after those days, **We (The Eight)** packed and went up to **Jerusalem**. Also, some of the **Disciples from Caesarea** went with **Us (The Eight)** and brought **Us** to **Mnason of Cyprus**, an **Early Disciple**, with **Whom We** were to lodge. And when **We** had come to **Jerusalem**, the **Brethren** received **Us** gladly. On the following day **Paul** went in with **Us** to **James** (the **Brother of Jesus**), and all the **Elders** were present. When **He (Paul)** had greeted **Them**, **He Told (Reported)** in detail those things which **God** had done among the **Gentiles** through **His Ministry**. And when **They** heard it, **They Glorified** the **Lord**. And **They (Elders)** said to **Him (Paul)**, “**You see, Brother, how many Myriads of Jews** there are **Who Have Believed**, and **They** are all **Zealous for the Law**; but **They** have been informed about **You (Paul)** that **You Teach** all the **Jews Who** are among the **Gentiles** to forsake **Moses**, saying that **They** ought not to **Circumcise Their Children** nor to **Walk According to the Customs (Traditions)**. What then? **The Assembly (Asian Jews of the Diaspora meeting with the Sanhedrin)** must certainly meet, for **They** will hear that **You (Paul)** have come. Therefore, do what **We** tell **You: We** have **Four Men Who** have taken a **Vow (Nazarite)**. Take **Them** and be **Purified with Them**, and **Pay Their Expenses** so that **They** may **Shave Their Heads**, and that **All (Jews: Believers & Unbelievers)** may know that those things of which **They (All)** were informed concerning **You (Paul)**, are nothing, but that **You Yourself** also **Walk Orderly and Keep the Law**. But Concerning the **Gentiles Who Believe**, **We** have **Written and Decided** that **They Should Observe No Such Thing (Circumcision)**, except that **They** should keep **Themselves: from Things Offered to Idols**,¹ from **Blood**,^{2a} from **Things Strangled**,^{2b} and from **Sexual Immorality**”.³ Then **Paul** took the **Men** (the **Four Men Who** took the **Vow**), and the next day, having been **Purified with Them**, entered the **Temple** to **Announce the Expiration** of the **Days of Purification**, at which Time an **Offering** should be made for **Each One of Them**. **Acts 21:15-26 (NKJV)**

REVIEW

Paul Had Wanted To Get To **Jerusalem** In The Late Spring of **56 A.D.**

Q

“**What Time Did Paul Arrive In Jerusalem?**”

A

Feast of Pentecost In The Late Spring of **57 A.D.**

(Slide 11)**REVIEW**

Last Travels **By Land** From **Caesarea Philippi**

... And after those days, **We (The Eight)** packed and went up to **Jerusalem** ... **Acts 21:15**

Paul Is Comforted By The Presence Of **His Companions & Others** From **House Church**

In **Caesarea Philippi** On His Journey To **Jerusalem** Where **Paul** Finds Fellowship & Lodging!

... Also, some of the **Disciples from Caesarea** went with **Us (The Eight)** and brought **Us** to **Mnason of Cyprus**, an **Early Disciple**, with **Whom We** were to lodge. **Acts 21:16**

Q

“**What Does Paul Do Next?**”

A

Paul Meets With The **Jerusalem Church Elders**

& Gives A **Report** Of His Entire **3rd Missionary Journey**

... And when **We** had come to **Jerusalem**, the **Brethren** received **Us** gladly. On the following day **Paul** went in with **Us** to **James** (the **Brother of Jesus**), and all the **Elders** were present. When **He (Paul)** had greeted **Them**, **He Told (Reported)** in detail those things which **God** had done among the **Gentiles** through **His Ministry**. **Acts 21:17-19**

(Continued Over)

Q

“What Was The Response of the **Jerusalem Church Elders** To Paul’s Report?”

A

They Glorified God!

... And when **They (Elders)** heard It, **They Glorified** the Lord ... Acts 21:20a

However, Trouble Is Brewing Among The Jews In Jerusalem!

The **Report** of the **Current Situation** By The **Elders** In the **Church of Jerusalem** To **Paul**

... And **They (Elders)** said to **Him (Paul)**, “You see, **Brother**, how many **Myriads of Jews** there are **Who Have Believed**, and **They** are all **Zealous for the Law**; but **They** have been informed about **You (Paul)** that **You Teach** all the **Jews Who** are among the **Gentiles** to forsake **Moses**, saying that **They** ought not to **Circumcise Their Children** nor to **Walk According to the Customs (Traditions)**.

Acts 21:20b-21

Q

“What Was The **Proposal Of Elders** In The **Church of Jerusalem** To Try & Fix The Situation?”

A

Allow For Time & Tempers To Assuage A Little

By Taking **Sacred Rites & Vows** Of The **Ancient Faith**

... “What then?” The **Assembly (Asian Jews of the Diaspora meeting with the Sanhedrin)** must certainly meet, for **They** will hear that **You (Paul)** have come. Therefore, do what **We** tell **You**: **We** have **Four Men Who** have taken a **Vow** (Nazarite). Take **Them** and be **Purified with Them**, and **Pay Their Expenses** so that **They** may **Shave Their Heads**, and that **All (Jews: Believers & Unbelievers)** may know that those things of which **They (All)** were informed concerning **You (Paul)**, are nothing, but that **You Yourself** also **Walk Orderly and Keep the Law**”. Acts 21:22-24

Q

“What Were The **Elders** In The **Church of Jerusalem** Hoping **Paul** Would Be Able To Accomplish In The **Eyes of the Jews**?”

A1

Be A Good Jew By Being Made Ceremoniously Clean After Being Among The Gentiles

A2

By Fasting, Praying, & Being Purified, Paul Would Appear To Be A Repentant & Holy Jew

A3

Be A Good Jew By Being A Benefactor Of Other Jews
Who Had Taken The Sacred Rite & Vow Of Being A Nazarite

Q

“What Was The **Current Position** Of The **Elders** of the **Church of Jerusalem** Toward **Gentile Believers In Christ**?”

A

The **Same Position** As Eight Years Ago,
At The **1st Council of the Jerusalem Church** In 49 A.D.

ORIGINAL RULING of 49 A.D.

... “It seemed good to **Us (Whole Church Council of Jerusalem)**, being **Assembled with One Accord**, to **Send Chosen Men** to **You (Gentile Church of Antioch On The Orontes)** with our beloved **Barnabas and Paul**, **Men Who** have risked their lives for the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. **We (Whole Church Council of Jerusalem)** have therefore also **Sent Judas and Silas**, **Who** will also **Report the Same Things by Word of Mouth**. For it seemed **Good to the Holy Spirit**, and to **Us**, to lay upon **You** **No Greater Burden** (Circumcision) than these **Necessary Things**: That **You (Our Fellow Brothers In Christ)** **Abstain from: ...**”

... “Things Offered to Idols, ¹ from Blood, ^{2a} from Things Strangled, ^{2b} and from Sexual Immorality. ³
If You keep Yourselfs from these, You will do well. Farewell!” Acts 15:25-29

CURRENT POSITION of 57 A.D.

... “But Concerning the Gentiles Who Believe, We have Written and Decided that They Should Observe No Such Thing (Circumcision), except that They should keep Themselves: from Things Offered to Idols, ¹ from Blood, ^{2a} from Things Strangled, ^{2b} and from Sexual Immorality” ³ ...
Acts 21:25

Paul Goes Along With The Church Councils Proposal

... Then Paul took the Men (the Four Men Who took the Vow), and the next day, having been Purified with Them, entered the Temple to Announce the Expiration of the Days of Purification, at which Time an Offering should be made for Each One of Them. Acts 21:26

Q

“Was Paul Faithful To His Position On The Gospel Of Jesus Christ To All Believers, Both Jews & Gentiles Alike In His Decision To Go Along With The Church Council of Jerusalem?”

A – YES

**Paul Was Always Careful Not To Offend Jews Or Gentiles
In His Preaching & Teaching of the Gospel Message!**

TO JEWS

Paul Writes To The Gentile Believers In Corinth, “What is My Reward then? That when I Preach the Gospel, I may Present the Gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse My Authority in the Gospel. For though I am Free from All Men, I have made Myself a Servant to All, that I might Win the More; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might Win Jews; to those Who are Under the Law, as Under the Law, that I might Win those Who are Under the Law; ...”

TO GENTILES

Paul Continues, ... “To those Who are Without Law, as Without Law (not being without Law toward God, but under Law toward Christ), that I might Win those Who are Without Law; ...”

TO THE WEAK

... Paul Continues, “To the Weak (Those Who Hold Onto Customs & Traditions) I became as Weak, that I might Win the Weak. I have become All Things to All Men, that I might by All Means Save Some. Now this I do for the Gospel's Sake, that I may be Partaker of It (Gospel) with You.”

1st Corinthians 9:18-23

**“Let Us,
God’s Saved & Sanctified Followers
Of His Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord;
Become All Things To All People,
That We Might Win Some;
Before Our Lord’s Soon Return In Glory!”**