

Part I

“Old Testament, & Early New Testament Church Councils Answer The Question: ‘Who Does God Call Into His Family?’”

Acts 11:1-18 (Acts 15:1-20)

Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the **Gentiles** had also received the **Word of God**. And when **Peter** came up to Jerusalem, those of the **Circumcision (Jewish Converts To Christianity)** contended with him, saying, “*You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!*” But **Peter** explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying: “*I was in the City of Joppa **Praying**; and in a **Trance I saw a Vision**, an object descending like a great sheet, **let down from heaven** by four corners; and it came to me. When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And I heard a **Voice (from Heaven) Saying (Rhema)** to me, ‘**Rise, Peter; kill and eat!**’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.’ But the **Voice Answered (Rhema)** me again **from Heaven**, ‘**What God has cleansed you must not call common!**’ **Now this was done three times**, and **all were drawn up again into heaven**. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from **Caesarea**. Then the **Spirit Told (Rhema) Me to go with them, doubting nothing**. Moreover, these six brethren (present at the conference) accompanied me, and we entered the **Man’s (Cornelius’) house**. And **He (Cornelius) Told (Rhema) us** how he had seen an **Angel (of God - Gabriel)** standing in his house, **Who Said (Rhema) to Him**, ‘Send men to Joppa, and call for **Simon whose surname is Peter**, **Who will tell you Words** by which you and all your household will be saved.’ And as **I (Peter) began to Speak (Rhema)**, the **Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning (at Pentecost)**. Then I remembered the **Word of the Lord**, how **He Said (Rhema)**, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If therefore, **God Gave Them (the Gentiles) the Same Gift as He Gave Us (the Circumcised) when We believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?**” When **They (the Circumcision)** heard these things, **They (the Circumcision) became silent**; and **They (the Circumcised) Glorified God, Saying (Rhema)**, “Then God Has also Granted to the Gentiles Repentance to (Eternal) Life (Along With Us – The Circumcised)!” **Acts 11:1-18 (NKJV)***

CQ?

Central Question Of This Message

& Of The Old Testament & Early New Testament Church Councils:

“Who Does God Call & Accept Into His Family?”

Sub-Question CQ¹

**“What Did The Jewish Interpretation Of God’s Word & Faith Teach Concerning:
The Question: ‘Who Is Called & Accepted Into God’s Family?’
In The Old Testament Times Before Jesus Lived & Taught?”**

A

**That ALL Are Called Through The Jewish Faith Alone,
& Who Also Have ACCEPTED: Mosaic Law, Circumcision, Traditions,
& ALL Subsequent Belief Statements, Are ACCEPTED Into God’s Family!
Scriptural Support – NONE!**

**Misinterpretation Of God’s Word Throughout The Entirety Of Scripture
Relying On Proof Texting & The Theological Revelation & Teaching Of Men Over God!**

Sub-Question CQ²

**“What Did Jesus Christ Teach While On Earth
Concerning The Question: “Who Is Called & Accepted Into God’s Family?”**

A

That **ALL Are Called & ALL Those Who** By **Faith Alone ACCEPT Him**,
As Both **Lord & Savior**, & **Acknowledge That Only Through His Perfect Life & Sacrifice**
Are They Given **Grace, Forgiveness, & Salvation**, & **Are ACCEPTED Into God's Family**
Through **REBIRTH: By Water, Fire, & Spirit!**
Scriptural Support – YES!

Here Are Three Of Jesus' Most Important Words On The Subject!

1) Now when **Jesus** had entered Capernaum, a **centurion** came to **Him**, pleading with **Him**, saying, *"Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."* **Jesus** said to him, *"I will come and heal him."* The **centurion** answered and said, *"Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only **Speak a Word**, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, Do this,' and he does it."* When **Jesus** heard it, **He** marveled, and said to those who followed, *"Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not in all of Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*... Then **Jesus** said to the **centurion**, *"Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you!"* And his servant was healed that same hour. **Matthew 8:5-13**

2) **Jesus Taught the People** Again, *"Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So, they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?"* They said to **Him**, *"He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons."* **Jesus** said to them, *"Have you never read in the **Scriptures**: 'The **Stone** which the builders rejected has become the **Chief Cornerstone**. This was the **Lord's Doing**, and **It** is marvelous in our eyes?' **Therefore, I Say to you, the Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this **Stone** will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder!"*** When the Chief Priests and the Pharisees heard **His Parables**, they understood that **He** was speaking about them. **Matthew 21:33-45**

3) **Jesus** Cried Out, *"Now **My Soul** is troubled, and what shall I Say? '**Father, Save Me** from this hour'? But for this Purpose, I came to this hour. **Father, Glorify Your Name!**"* Then a **Voice** came from **Heaven, Saying**, *"I have both **Glorified It** and I will **Glorify It Again!**"* Therefore, the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, *"An Angel has spoken to **Him!**"* **Jesus** Answered them, *"This **Voice** did not come because of **Me**, but for your sake. Now is the Judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. **And I, if I AM Lifted Up from the earth, I Will Draw ALL Peoples to Myself!**"* **John 12:27-32**

Sub-Question CQ³

**"What Was The Christian Church's Interpretation Of God's Word & Faith & Teaching
Concerning The Question: 'Who Is Called & Accepted Into God's Family?'
After Jesus Ascended Into Heaven In The 1st Century A.D.?"**

A

That **ALL Are Called** & **ALL Those Who** By **Faith Alone** **ACCEPT** **Jesus Christ**,
As Both **Lord** & **Savior**, & **Acknowledge** That Only Through His **Perfect Life & Sacrifice**
Are They Given **Grace**, **Forgiveness**, & **Salvation**, & **Are ACCEPTED** Into **God's Family**
Through **REBIRTH**: By **Water**, **Fire**, & **Spirit**!
Scriptural Support – YES!

Conclusion Of The 1st Church Council On The Central Question!

Peter Recalled, But the **Voice** answered (**Rhema**) me again from **Heaven**, '*What God has cleansed you must not call common!*' Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven... Then the **Spirit Told** (**Rhema**) me to go with them, doubting nothing. And as I began to **Speak** (**Rhema**), the **Holy Spirit** fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning (**At Pentecost**). Then I remembered the **Word of the Lord**, how **He Said** (**Rhema**), 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. If therefore, **God Gave Them** (**The Gentiles**) the **Same Gift** as **He Gave Us** (**The Circumcised**) when We believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?' When **They** (**The Circumcision**) heard these things, **They** (**The Circumcision**) became silent; and **They** (**The Circumcised**) **Glorified God**, **Saying** (**Rhema**), 'Then God Has also Granted to the Gentiles Repentance to (Eternal) Life (Along With Us – The Circumcised)!' **Acts 11:9-10, 12a, & 15-18**

Scriptural Support – YES!

Conclusion Of The 2nd Church Council On The Central Question!

Now the **Apostles** and **Elders** came together to consider this matter (**Circumcision - Jews vs. Non-Circumcision - Gentiles**). And when there had been much dispute, **Peter** rose up and said to them, '*Men and Brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the Word of the Gospel and Believe*. So, **God Who** knows the heart, **acknowledged Them** (**Gentiles**) by **Giving Them the Holy Spirit**, just as **He did to Us** (**Jews**) , and made no distinction between Us (**Circumcised – Jews**) and Them (**Non-Circumcised Gentiles**), **purifying their hearts by Faith** (**Alone**). Now therefore, why do you test **God** by putting a yoke on the neck of the **Disciples** which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall all be saved in the same manner as they!' Then all the **Multitude** (**2nd Church Council**) kept silent and listened to **Barnabas** and **Paul** declaring how many **Miracles** and **Wonders** **God** had worked through them among the **Gentiles**. And After they had become silent, **James** (**Brother of Jesus**) answered, **Saying** (**Rhema**), '*Men & Brothers, listen to me, Simon* (**Peter**) *has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of Them a People for His Name*. And with this the **Words of the Prophets** agree, just as it is **Written**, '*After this, I will return and will rebuild the Tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; and I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up again; so that the Rest of Mankind* (**Non-Circumcised**) may also Seek the Lord, even **ALL the Gentiles Who Are Called by My Name**, **Says the Lord Who** does all these things!' Known to God from Eternity are all His Works. Therefore, I (**James the Brother of Jesus**) **Judge** that we should not trouble **Those** from among the **Gentiles Who are Turning to God**, but that **We** (**The Circumcision**) write to **Them** (**The Gentiles**) to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood."
Acts 15:6-20 (NKJV)

Let Us Day By Day, Be His Called, Redeemed, Accepted, Indwelled, & Holy People,
With Great Fervency & Anticipation, Let Us Be Faithfully About Our Father's Business:
Calling, Preaching, Teaching, Mentoring, Serving, Healing, & Loving Others!

Let Us Daily Invite **ALL To ACCEPT** **God's Invitation To Become A Member Of His Eternal Family**,
In The Name Above Every Other Name Alone, Our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ!