

“Simplifying The Faith To Open The Way Of Salvation!”

Acts 15:13-21

And after **They (Whole Combined Church Council & Delegates)** had become silent, **James (The Brother of Jesus)** answered, saying, “**Men and Brethren, 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 (Amos, Jeremiah, Isaiah, et. al.) agree, just as it is Written: ‘After this I will return and will rebuild the Tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild Its ruins, and I will set It up; so that the Rest of Mankind (Gentiles) may 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) Judge that We (Whole Combined Church Council & Delegates) should not trouble (Answer - #1) Those from among the Gentiles Who are Turning to God (By Faith), but that we Write to Them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality (Answer - #2), from things strangled, and from blood (Answer - #3). For Moses (The Whole of the Old Testament Law) has had throughout many generations those who preach Him (Law) in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.**” **Acts 15:13-21 (NKJV)**

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Acts 15:13-21

The 1st Church Council Ever Held Was Of Great Importance To The Future Of The Church’s Success In Providing A Framework Of What Was Important & What Was Not When It Came To Orthodox Essential Theology & Understanding Of The Gospel Message & The Minimum Interaction Between God’s Chosen Old Testament People, The Jews, & God’s New Testament People, The Rest Of Humanity, The Gentiles! Thus, Luke Gave This 1st Church Council Top Billing In His Second Half Of The Book Of Acts, Found Here In Chapter 15.

1st Ever Ecumenical Council of the Church Asked Three Essential Theological Questions!

- 1) “Are The Old Traditions & Signs Of Faith Necessary For All Peoples Who Put Their Faith & Trust In God, Through His Son, Jesus Christ?”
(With A Special Emphasis On Circumcision)**
- 2) “What Is The Proper Way To Worship The One True God?”**
- 3) “What Foods & Purity Laws Are Essential For Good Health & Wholeness In Mind, Body, & Sprit?”**

The Answers To These Fundamental Theological Framework Questions Concerning The Christian Faith Were Primarily Answered By Peter, Paul, James the Brother of Jesus (Head of the Church in Jerusalem), & The Other 11 Apostles & Other Disciple Elders Gathered Together.

Now the Apostles and Elders (Jerusalem Church Council) came together to consider this Matter (Fully). Acts 15:6

1st Peter Gave His Ruling To The Church Council Concerning These Questions

2nd Paul & Barnabas Report God’s Approval Based On The Evidence From Their 1st Missionary Journey To The Gentiles

3rd James Is About To Give His Overall Ruling To These Questions Before The Church Council

Q

“Who Is James?”

A1

He Is The Brother (Son of Joseph & Mary) Of Jesus Christ (Son of God & Son of Mary)

A2

He Is The Head ("*Primus Inter Pares*") Of The Jerusalem Church

Meaning

The First Christian Brother Among Equals (All Christian Brothers / Disciples)

A3

He Is The 1st Of The Church's 3 # Pillars Of Leadership

1) James 2) Peter 3) John

A4

They Are The New Testament Pillar Church Leaders
Standing In The Place Of The Old Testament Pillar - Prophets

1) Moses 2) David 3) Elijah

A5

The Old Testament Pillar - Prophets
Standing In Place Of Three Pillar - Patriarchs Of God's Chosen People - The Jews

1) Abraham 2) Isaac 3) Jacob

A6

The Three Pillar - Patriarchs Of God's Chosen People – The Jews
Standing In Place Of The Three Ancient Patriarchs Of All Humanity

1) Adam 2) Enoch 3) Noah

A7

James Is Therefore God's Chosen Leader For This Moment In Church History!
Therefore, James Gives His "*Y^elamm^e denu*"

Meaning

A Prophetic Fulfillment Of God's Prophetic Words Complete With Signs & Wonders
Discerned By A Prophetic Judgement According To The Eternal Will Of God!

James Will Separate & Support His Ruling ("*Y^elamm^e denu*") Into 4 # Sections

- 1) God's Eternal Plan & Promise To Call & Save The Whole World Is Now Being Fulfilled
- 2) God's Ancient Prophetic Words Of Plan & Promise Recorded By The Prophets
- 3) God Has An Answer To Every Question, In All Times, That Face His Church – His People
- 4) God Always Keeps All Of His Covenantal Promises To His People

1) God's Eternal Plan & Promise To Call & Save The Whole World Is Now Being Fulfilled

And after They (Whole Combined Church Council & Delegates) had become silent, James
(The Brother of Jesus) answered, saying, "*Men and Brethren, 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*"

Acts 15:13-14

2) God's Ancient Prophetic Words Of Plan & Promise Recorded By The Prophets

"And with this the Words of the Prophets (Amos, Jeremiah, Isaiah, et. al.) agree, just as it is
Written: 'After this I will return and will rebuild the Tabernacle of David, which has fallen down.
I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; so that the Rest of Mankind (Gentiles) may 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."

Acts 15:15-18

3) God Has An Answer To Every Question, In All Times, That Face His Church – His People

Q1

"Are The Old Traditions & Signs Of Faith Necessary For All Peoples
Who Put Their Faith & Trust In God, Through His Son, Jesus Christ?"

(With A Special Emphasis On Circumcision)

A1

"Therefore, I (James) Judge that We (Whole Combined Church Council & Delegates) should not
trouble Those from among the Gentiles Who are Turning to God (By Faith)" (Answer - #1) ...

Acts 15:19

Q2

“What Is The Proper Way To Worship The One True God?”

A2

... “But that we Write to Them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality (Answer - #2).” Acts 15:20a & b

Q3

“What Foods & Purity Laws Are Essential For Good Health & Wholeness In Mind, Body, & Spirit?”

A3

... “But that we Write to Them to abstain from things strangled, and from blood (Answer - #3).” Acts 15:20a & c

4) God Always Keeps All Of His Covenantal Promises To His People

... “For Moses (The Whole of the Old Testament Law) has had throughout many generations those who preach Him (Law) in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

Acts 15:21

The Synopsis Of The 1st Ever Church Council Is Based On 4 # Teachings

1) Jesus 2) Peter 3) Paul 4) James

1) Jesus’ Teaching

Jesus Spoke to the Multitudes and to His Disciples, “The Scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ Seat (Pillars of the Church). Therefore, whatever They tell You to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to Their Works; for They say, and do not do. For They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on Men's Shoulders; but They Themselves will not move them with one of Their Fingers ...” Matthew 23:1-4

2) Peter’s Teaching

Peter Spoke, “Now therefore, why do You (‘Judiazers’) test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the Disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But We (Jews) believe that through the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ We (Jews) shall be Saved in the same manner as They (Gentiles).” Acts 15:10-11

3) Paul’s Teaching

Paul Spoke, “And this occurred because of ‘False Brethren’ (‘Judiazers’) secretly brought in (‘Who’ came in by stealth to spy out our Liberty which We have in Christ Jesus, that ‘They’ might bring Us into Bondage), to ‘Whom’ We did not yield submission even for an hour, that the Truth of the Gospel might continue with You. But when I saw that ‘They’ were not straightforward about the Truth of the Gospel, I said to Peter before ‘Them’ all, “If You, being a Jew, live in the Manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do You Compel Gentiles to live as Jews? Knowing that a Man is not Justified by the Works of the Law but By Faith in Jesus Christ, even we have Believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be Justified By Faith in Christ and not by the Works of the Law; for by the Works of the Law No Flesh Shall Be Justified. For I through the Law Died to the Law that I Might Live to God. I Do Not Set Aside the Grace of God; for if Righteousness Comes Through the Law, then Christ Died In Vain.”

Galatians 2: 4-5, 14, 16, 19, & 21

4) James’ Teaching

James Spoke, “Therefore, I Judge that We (Whole Combined Church Council & Delegates) should not trouble Those from among the Gentiles Who are Turning to God (By Faith)”

Acts 15:19

(Continued Over)

The Final Combined Teaching Of The 1st Ever Church Council

"God Desires To Give Us Rest & Salvation In Him

By Carrying His Light Burden Of Faith & Easy Yoke Of Grace!"

Jesus Spoke, "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, All You Who labor and are heavy laden, and I Will Give You Rest. Take My Yoke Upon You and Learn From Me, for I AM Gentle and Lowly in Heart, and You Will Find Rest for Your Souls. For My Yoke Is Easy and My Burden Is Light."

Matthew 11:27-30

"Today I Implore You Once Again

As I Stand Before You As A Modern Day Pillar Of The Church

In The Place Of Peter, Paul, & James This Morning.

Do Not Lay A Heavy Burden On All Those You Meet,

They Already Are Weighed Down By The Many Troubles Of This Life!

Do Not Place A Heavy Yoke Upon Them With Many Religious Rules & Traditions.

Do Not Grieve The Holy Spirit Of God Who Lives Within You

And Who Loves Them & You!

Instead, Tell Them About Your Lord Jesus Christ,

Share The Good News Of The Gospel With Them,

So That He Can Become Their Lord Too!

Explain To Them - We Are All Sinners In Need Of God's Grace & Forgiveness.

And Implore Them To Be Saved & Set Free By Faith Alone In HIM!"