

Acts 15:1-35

v1-Judea	(proper noun)	a region See map 1
v1-Antioch	(proper noun)	a city See map 2
v1-brothers	(noun)	other male believers
v1-circumcised	(verb)	had the male's foreskin removed. In the Old Testament all Jewish men were required to be circumcised.
v1-custom	(noun)	a way of behaving that is usual in a community
v1-Moses	(proper noun)	the man who (under God) led God's people out of Egypt, through the desert and to the Promised Land (see Exodus). Through Moses God gave Israel his laws to live by.
v1-saved	(verb)	rescued; reconciled to God
v2-sharp	(adjective)	fierce, harsh
v2-dispute	(noun)	argument, debate
v2-appointed	(verb)	formally chosen for a task
v2-Jerusalem	(proper noun)	a city, the capital of Israel. see map
v2-apostles	(noun)	certain people who witnessed Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and who were appointed by Jesus to tell others about him.
v2-elders	(noun)	older leaders in the church
v3-Phoenicia	(proper noun)	a country See map 1
v3-Samaria	(proper noun)	a region See map 1
v3-Gentiles	(proper noun)	people who are not Jews
v3-converted	(verb)	caused to change in their beliefs (became Christians)
v5-Pharisees	(proper noun)	a particular group of Jewish religious leaders; members of a Jewish sect
v5- the law of Moses	(noun)	the rules God had given to Israel through Moses for them to live by
v7-gospel	(noun)	the good news that Jesus died for our sins and reconciled us to God
v8-heart	(noun)	your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centres
v8-Holy Spirit	(proper noun)	the third member of the Trinity. Christians believe that God is one God, three persons- Father, Son and Holy Spirit
v9-distinction	(noun)	difference
v9-purified	(verb)	made clean and whole, freed from sin and guilt
v9-faith	(noun)	trust, belief
v10-disciples	(noun)	followers of Jesus; Christians
v10-yoke	(noun)	burden (the wooden instrument used to keep two animals together. See picture)
v10-bear	(verb)	carry
v11-grace	(noun)	undeserved kindness, the kindness God shows to us because he loves us
v12-assembly	(noun)	gathering of people
v12-miraculous	(adjective)	surprising, unexpected; caused by God; supernatural
v12-signs	(noun)	events or something that points to the reality of something else
v12-wonders	(noun)	amazing, unexpected events
v14-a people	(noun)	a nation
v15-prophets	(noun)	people who receive God's words and speak them to God's people
v16-David	(proper noun)	a king of Israel



v16-tent	(noun)	a shelter held up by poles and ropes
v16-ruins	(noun)	what remains after a building is destroyed
v16-restore	(verb)	bring it back to its original condition
v17-remnant	(noun)	the small part that remains after the main part disappears or is destroyed
v17-bear	(verb)	carry
v17 – ‘bear my name’		belong to me
v19-judgment	(noun)	assessment; decision made after careful consideration
v20,29-abstain	(verb)	choose not to (eat)
v20-polluted	(verb)	made unclean, contaminated
v20,29-idols	(noun)	things other than God that is worshipped
v20,29-sexual immorality	(noun)	sexual behaviour that is against God's law; any use of sex outside of marriage
v20,29-strangled	(adjective)	killed by squeezing its throat so tight it cannot breathe.
v21-preached	(verb)	proclaimed; taught publicly
v21-synagogues	(noun)	places where Jews met together to worship God and learn from the Scriptures
v21-Sabbath	(proper noun)	Saturday. The day of rest for Jews.
v22-Syria	(proper noun)	A country. See map 2
v23-Cilicia	(proper noun)	A region. See map 2
v24-authorisation	(noun)	official permission
v24-disturbed	(verb)	troubled
v26-risked	(verb)	did something even though it might be dangerous
v26 – ‘risked their lives’		did something even though it may result in you losing your life
v27-confirm	(verb)	strengthen, establish firmly, show something is definitely true
v28-burden	(verb)	put a heavy load on something; make things difficult for someone
v28-requirements	(noun)	needs, specifications
v29-sacrificed	(verb)	given to a god as an act of worship
v33-blessing	(noun)	a prayer asking God to bring His goodness to a person or situation

Map 1



Map 2



Acts 15:1-35 (New International Reader's Version)

¹ Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch. Here is what they were teaching the believers. "Moses commanded you to be circumcised," they said. "If you aren't, you can't be saved." ² But Paul and Barnabas didn't agree with this. They argued strongly with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed to go up to Jerusalem. Some other believers were chosen to go with them. They were told to ask the apostles and elders about this question. ³ The church sent them on their way. They traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria. There they told how the Gentiles had turned to God. This news made all the believers very glad. ⁴ When they arrived in Jerusalem, the church welcomed them. The apostles and elders welcomed them too. Then Paul and Barnabas reported everything God had done through them.

⁵ Some of the believers were Pharisees. They stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised. They must obey the law of Moses."

⁶ The apostles and elders met to consider this question. ⁷ After they had talked it over, Peter got up and spoke to them. "Brothers," he said, "you know that some time ago God chose me. He appointed me to take the good news to the Gentiles. He wanted them to hear the good news and believe. ⁸ God knows the human heart. By giving the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles, he showed that he accepted them. He did the same for them as he had done for us. ⁹ God showed that there is no difference between us and them. That's because he made their hearts pure because of their faith. ¹⁰ Now then, why are you trying to test God? You test him when you put a heavy load on the shoulders of Gentiles. Our people of long ago couldn't carry that load. We can't either. ¹¹ No! We believe we are saved through the grace of our Lord Jesus. The Gentiles are saved in the same way."

¹² Everyone became quiet as they listened to Barnabas and Paul. They were telling about the signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³ When they finished, James spoke up. "Brothers," he said, "listen to me. ¹⁴ Simon Peter has explained to us what God has now done. He has chosen some of the Gentiles to be among his very own people. ¹⁵ The prophets' words agree with that. They say,

¹⁶ "After this I will return
and set up again David's fallen tent.
I will rebuild what was destroyed.
I will make it what it used to be.

¹⁷ Then everyone else can look to the Lord.
This includes all the Gentiles who belong to me, says the Lord.
The Lord is the one who does these things.'

¹⁸ The Lord does things that have been known from long ago.

¹⁹ "Now here is my decision. We should not make it hard for the Gentiles who are turning to God. ²⁰ Here is what we should write to them. They must not eat food that has been made impure by being offered to statues of gods. They must not commit sexual sins. They must not eat the meat of animals that have been choked to death. And they must not drink blood. ²¹ These laws of Moses have been preached in every city from the earliest times. They are read out loud in the synagogues every Sabbath day."

A Letter Is Written to Gentile Believers

²² Then the apostles, the elders and the whole church decided what to do. They would choose some of their own men who were leaders among the believers. They would send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. So they chose Judas Barsabbas and Silas. They were leaders among the believers. ²³ Here is the letter they sent with them.

The apostles and elders, your brothers, are writing this letter.

We are sending it to the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia.

Greetings.

²⁴ We have heard that some of our people came to you and caused trouble. You were upset by what they said. But we had given them no authority to go. ²⁵ So we all agreed to send our dear friends Barnabas and Paul to you. We chose some other men to go with them. ²⁶ Barnabas and Paul have put their lives in danger. They did it for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ So we are sending Judas and Silas with them. What they say will agree with this letter. ²⁸ Here is what seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us. We will not give you a load that is too heavy. So here are a few basic rules. ²⁹ Don't eat food that has been offered to statues of gods. Don't drink blood. Don't eat the meat of animals that have been choked to death. And don't commit sexual sins. You will do well to keep away from these things.

Farewell.

³⁰ So the men were sent down to Antioch. There they gathered the church together. They gave the letter to them. ³¹ The people read it. They were glad for its message of hope. ³² Judas and Silas were prophets. They said many things to give strength and hope to the believers. ³³⁻³⁴ Judas and Silas stayed there for some time. Then the believers sent them away with the blessing of peace. They sent them back to those who had sent them out. ³⁵ Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch. There they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.

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