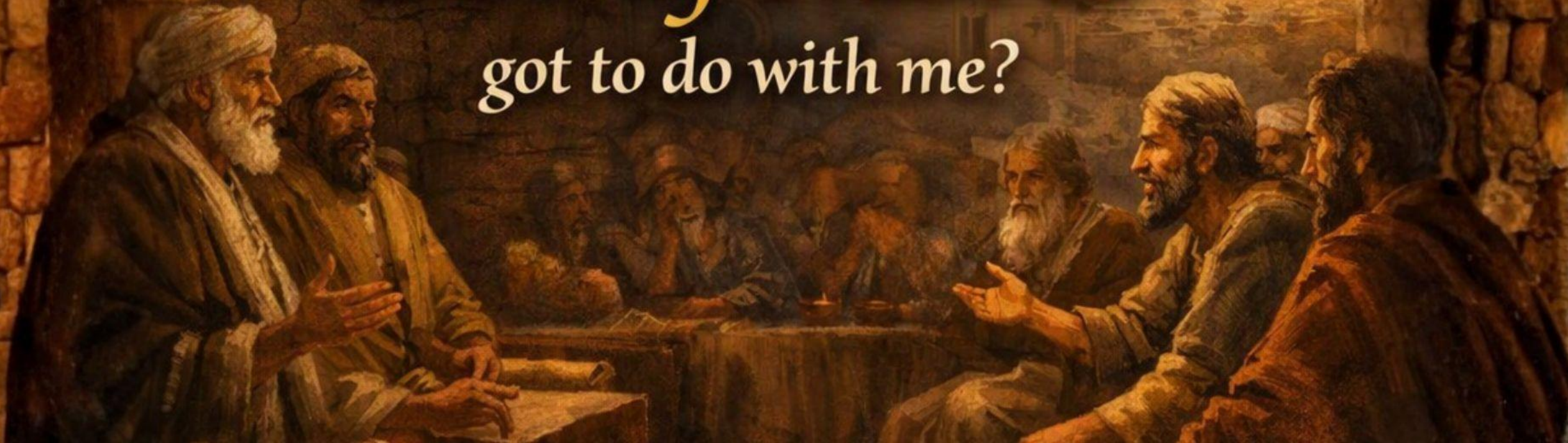


THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL - ACTS 15

If I am in Christ,
what has the
Law of Moses
got to do with me?



Acts 15

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them.

So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

3 The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. 4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses."

Historical precedent: How can you be “saved”. To receive God’s help, you must:

- “putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke” (Acts 15:10)
- “under the law” (E.G., Romans 6:14)

Distinctive about these people:
Culture and traditions,
shared language and history,
circumcision (Genesis 17:9,10),
food laws (Leviticus, Deuteronomy)



Peter (Acts 15: 7 to 11)

...God **made a choice** among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

8 God, who knows the heart, **showed** that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9 He did not discriminate between us and them, for he **purified** their hearts by faith.

10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?

11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

(ESV) 11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

Peter: why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?

11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.

- Did the pharisee Christians agree with Peter's conclusion of their own failure to keep the law?
- How did Israel's history show this? (2 Kings 17)

Deuteronomy 4

- 25 ...if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord your God and arousing his anger, 26 I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed. 27 The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the Lord will drive you.

Why bother with any laws at all? And why *these* laws?
And why should I care?

Acts 15

- 20 Instead we should write to them, telling them
- to abstain from food polluted by idols,
- from sexual immorality,
- from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.
- 21 For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

Acts 16

4 As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey.

5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

Tryphena's Story

Source: truelove.is stories