

The Difference Between Israel & the Church, *part 6*

“The First Remnant Council of Jerusalem”

Don Cole

Today, we are examining the “first remnant council of Jerusalem.” This excellent historical document in which the Apostles resolved the controversy over what Yeshua’s Body believes and how Gentiles can be assimilated.

Again, we will compare the “church” to the “ekklesia” (Yeshua’s Body), by briefly looking the Catholic church theology, covenant church theology, dispensational church theology, and foremost the prophetic records of YHVH’s Scripture concerning His Body.

“First Remnant Council of Jerusalem” Acts 15

The Body of Messiah is called “the Elect” or “the Remnant of Israel.” The believers were not nor did they ever consider themselves to be a separate entity from the Nation of Israel.

Ephesians 2:8-16 (continue reading thru verse 22) NASB:

- 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and *this is* not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;
- 2:9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
- 2:11 Therefore remember that previously you, the gentiles in the flesh, who are called “uncircumcision” by the so-called “circumcision” *which* is performed in the flesh by human hands—
- 2:12 *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the people of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who previously were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,
- 2:15 by abolishing in His flesh the hostility, *which is* the Law *composed of* commandments *expressed* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two one new person, *in this way* establishing peace;
- 2:16 and that He might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the hostility.

It is extremely important that we read Romans chapters 9 through 11. Please pay special attention to Romans 11:13-24.

In Romans 9:2-5, Paul expresses:

- [9:2](#) that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.
- [9:3](#) For I could wish that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my countrymen, my kinsmen according to the flesh,
- [9:4](#) who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons *and daughters*, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the Law, the *temple* service, and the promises;
- [9:5](#) whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Let's read verse by verse Acts 15 now that we have a basic understanding of our directed reading in Romans.

Acts 15:1-21 NIV

Council at Jerusalem

- [15:1](#) 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."
- [15:2](#) 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.
- [15:3](#) 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.
- [15:4](#) 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.
- [15:5](#) 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."
- [15:6](#) The apostles and elders met to consider this question.
- [15:7](#) After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.
- [15:8](#) God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.
- [15:9](#) He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.
- [15:10](#) 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?

- 15:11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”
- 15:12 The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.
- 15:13 When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me.
- 15:14 Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles.
- 15:15 The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:
- 15:16 ““After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,
- 15:17 that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things’ —
- 15:18 things known from long ago.
- 15:19 “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.
- 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.
- 15:21 For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

Assignment

What are the four major points you learned from Acts 15?

Bring these papers back, and we will continue with this.

Baruch YHVH,
Pastor Don