

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church – The Beginnings, Part 43
Transitioning from the Mosaic to the New Covenant
Acts 15:1-35



Acts 15:1-35 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

15 Some men came down from Judea and began to teach the brothers:

"Unless you are circumcised according to the custom prescribed by Moses, you cannot be saved." ² After Paul and Barnabas had engaged them in

serious argument and debate, Paul and Barnabas and some others were appointed to go up to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem about this issue.

³ When they had been sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and they brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters.

⁴ When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church, the apostles, and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them.

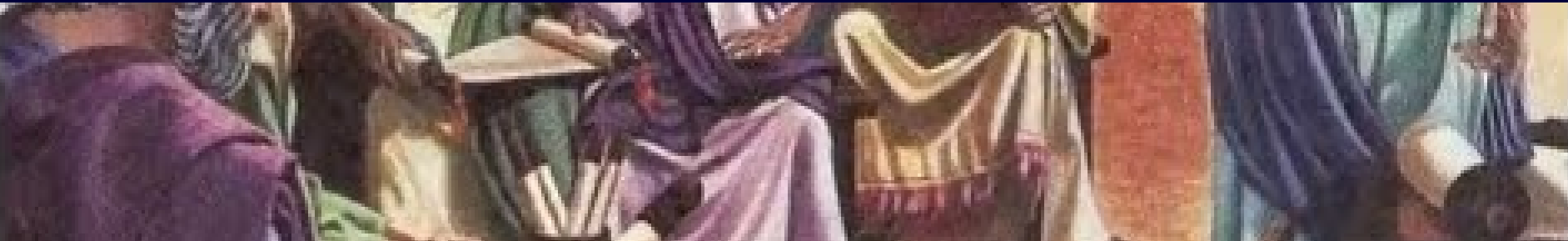
⁵ But some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to keep the law of Moses."



The PREMISE - the CHALLENGE – Acts 15:1-35

Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, “UNLESS you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, YOU CANNOT BE SAVED.”

(5) But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is NECESSARY to CIRCUMCISE them and to direct them to OBEY the Law of Moses.” (6) The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.





(7) After there had been MUCH DEBATE, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. (8) And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, JUST AS HE ALSO DID TO US; (9) and He made NO distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. (10) Now therefore WHY do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? (11) But we believe that we are SAVED through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the SAME WAY as they also are.”



This is a CLASH of COVENANTS



JOHN 3:16

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM
SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT...

HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

JimPalacios.com '08

This is a CLASH of COVENANTS

This was brought up because there were folks who had **BAGGAGE** **BAGGAGE** of the **OLD Covenant** and from a **Religious Sect** in Judaism in particular – the **Pharisees**

Up to that Point – **BEFORE** the Gospel of Christ ... before Jesus came ...

Most Gentiles came to Follow the God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob in **TWO** major ways:

1. **Converting to Judaism** (joining a sect – Pharisees, for example)
Males were circumcised, and everyone followed all the laws, etc.
2. **Being a Gentile God Fearer** – trusting in, Praying to, and loving God but not Converting (as in #1 above). **Went to synagogue – backseats Cornelius** and his “household” in **Acts 10**

Note: The Pharisees were **never** happy with that “compromise”

This Big Issue had Everything to Do with a Clash of **COVENANTS**

A **Covenant** is a **Promise** – it is a **FRAMEWORK** of Relationship, duties, responsibilities, properties, etc. → **A CONTRACT**

The Jews / Israel **were** under the Mosaic Covenant ...

The “**OLD Covenant**” or “**The Law of Moses**” – refers to the Covenant God gave **through** Moses to the Nation of Israel. It was a **NATIONAL COVENANT**. It was related to the **whole Nation of Israel**. It was **not** a Personal Relationship Covenant, as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had with God, but a National Covenant – of all the people of Israel, together, with God.

Reference: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

Jeremiah 31:31-33 (NKJV)

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah —

³² NOT according to the Covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the [New] Covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Hebrews 8:13 - By saying a New Covenant, He has declared that the first is obsolete. And what is obsolete and growing old is about to pass away.

The New Covenant – will **NOT** be like the Old Mosaic Covenant – it is **Spiritual** – affecting **Mind** and **Heart** → and the Old is passing away

Ezekiel 36:25-27 (NKJV)

25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a New Heart and put a New Spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

This gives us detail regarding the New Covenant mentioned in Jeremiah 31:31-33 ... God's Spirit would Live Inside those who are in the New Covenant. God's Spirit would lead these New Covenant people to fulfill and obey God's Laws

God said that He would Write His Laws upon the Minds and Hearts of those in the New Covenant – that His Spirit would live inside and lead them to follow and obey God's Laws ... but what Laws? The Old Covenant Mosaic Laws? OR – the New Laws, in Christ, in The Spirit ... New Covenant Laws of Christ?

In the New Covenant, we don't need to EXTERNALLY seek to Follow and Obey the Laws of Moses – but God's Spirit would LEAD or CAUSE us to follow God's Laws ... His New Laws in the New Covenant ... let's look at Hebrews 3:1 & 7:12 ...

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Hebrews 3:1 - Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus

Hebrews 7:12

For the PRIESTHOOD being CHANGED, of NECESSITY there is also a CHANGE of the Law.

Thus, The **New Covenant** in the Messiah of Israel – Jesus Christ is **DIFFERENT** and **NOT** Like the Mosaic Covenant ... and Gentiles are to brought into this **New Covenant by Faith in the Messiah**

No more need of the Tabernacle/Temple – **we are the Temple**

No more need of the Levitical Priesthood –

Jesus is the **New High Priest** according

to the order of Melchizedek, etc. (Hebrews 7:1ff)

New Covenant Understanding → Fulfillment in Christ ...

Whatever was tied to the **Levitical Priesthood** and the **Tabernacle/Temple** complex and system (all of it) was fulfilled in

Christ. All the Sacrifices, Rituals, etc. fulfilled in Christ.

That included the Sabbath, the 7 Feasts of the LORD, etc.

That included the **TITHE** System, as well, tied to the Levites.

In Christ, in the Messiah, in the New Covenant ...
Neither Jew (Israeli), Gentile Convert to Judaism, nor plain old
Gentile **needs** to the Follow and Obey the Laws of Moses **to be
SAVED** nor to **maintain** their Salvation ... we learned this from the
Old Testament Passages we just looked at.

On top of that, we have the Acts 15 – the Jerusalem Council's
decision – they were led to that Decision by the Holy Spirit – with
His seal of approval.

Question – did God ever intend the Law of Moses to be a Pathway
to be made Right with God, to be Justified, to have an Eternal
Relationship with God, as the Pharisees seemed be suggesting
→ **“Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of
Moses, you cannot be saved.”** →

Let's see what Paul has to say

Galatians 3 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

3 You foolish Galatians! Who has cast a spell on you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? **2** I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by believing what you heard? **3** Are you so foolish? After beginning by the Spirit, are you now finishing by the flesh? **4** Did you experience so much for nothing—if in fact it was for nothing? **5** So then, does God give you the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law? Or is it by believing what you heard— **6** just like Abraham who **believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness?**

7 You know, then, that those who have faith, these are Abraham's sons. **8** Now the Scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and proclaimed the gospel ahead of time to Abraham, saying, **All the nations will be blessed through you.** **9** Consequently those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith.

Question – did God ever intend the Law of Moses to be a Pathway to be made Right with God, to be Justified, to have an Eternal Relationship with God, as the Pharisees seemed be suggesting
→ **“Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”** →

Galatians 3:11 → **Now it is clear that NO ONE is justified before God by the law, because the righteous will live by faith. (Rom 3)**

Galatians 3:19 → **Why then was the law given? It was added for the sake of transgressions UNTIL the Seed to whom the promise was made would come.**

How were Abram/Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and Melchizedek all SAVED or how did they have a Relationship with God in those ancient times? → A TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP

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→ **“Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”** →

Galatians 3:6-9: just like Abraham who believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness ...

⁷ You know, then, that those who have faith, these are Abraham's sons. ⁸ Now the Scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and proclaimed the Gospel ahead of time to Abraham, saying, All the nations will be blessed through you. ⁹ Consequently those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith. (faith = personal Trust in God – directly)

Question – did God ever intend the Law of Moses to be a Pathway to be made Right with God, to be Justified, to have an Eternal Relationship with God, as the Pharisees seemed be suggesting
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Galatians 3:17: The law, which came 430 years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously established by God and thus cancel the promise.

**Therefore – based on all of these Scriptures (& many others) –
The LAW of MOSES is/was NOT Necessary and was
NEVER INTENDED for the Salvation of any human –
it reveals that we are sinners in need of a Savior**

**Gentiles in Christ are Grafted in – to the SAME ROOT as Israel,
the Nation is ... to Abraham – Galatians 3 & Romans 1-5 & 11**