

Acts of the Apostles 15:13-19 __ Lesson 36

Gentiles in Prophecy

1. Acts 15:11-12 – The Outcome of the Acts 15 Apostolic Conference

- a. Acts 15:2 – Traditional interpretation: Paul is submitting to the Jerusalem apostles
- b. Gal 2:2-5 - Paul's perspective: Paul sets them straight concerning his ministry
- c. Gal 2:6 - *“added nothing to me, but contrariwise”* → Acts 15:11
 - i. Prophesied grace → Deu 9:5-6, Ps 84:11, Jer 31:2, Eze 20:44,36:22-24; Hos 14:2, John 1:17, Heb 10:29, 11:40; Luke 11:13-1Pet 4:10, 1 Pet 5:5, Jam 4:6
 - ii. The prophesied grace was to Israel due to their covenants of promise.
- d. Gal 2:7 - What did they see? Pete's gospel commission v. Paul's gospel commission
- e. Gal 2:8 – *“he that wrought effectually”* → was God, the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit
- f. Gal 2:9 – *“when [they] perceived the grace”* – They learned something not Paul
- g. *“right hands of fellowship”* - Instead of the right hook of hostility - Lam 2:4, 1Ti 2:8
- h. Conclusion: 1) The apostles in Jerusalem acknowledged Paul's special apostleship.
 - i. 2) The apostles shut down their kingdom commission – Mt 28:19, Mk 16:15

2. Acts 15:13-21 – Gentiles Called in Prophecy

- a. *“after they held their peace”* – Peter/Paul not James made them hold their peace.
- b. *“hearken unto me”* – (Peter's not the pope.) Who is James? An authority (15:19)
 - i. The Lord had brothers → Matt 13:55, John 7:5, Gal 1:19
 - ii. James 'seemed to be somewhat' and caused dissimulation – Gal 2:6,9,12,13
- c. 15:14 - *“Simeon declared”* – not Paul, but who should be Peter, speaking of Acts 10
 - i. *“at the first”* – before/initially, referring to what Peter said before about what happened a *“good while ago”* - John 12:16, 19:39, Acts 26:4
- d. 15:15-17 - *“agree the words of the prophets”* – Amos 9:11-12
 - i. *“agree”* ≠ the same – Rom 1:2, 1:17, 3:10, Eph 6:2, 1Cor 1:31, 2:9, 15:3-4, Acts 17:2-3 → Amos 9 is not the dispensation of grace or mystery of Christ
 - ii. Amos 9 is speaking about Israel's failure and fall- Amos 9:4,7-9
 - iii. *“After this”* – Judgment, *“I will return”* – kingdom, *“Gentiles seek”* – Is 2:2
 - iv. Israel has a future hope in Amos 9:11-12 to which Gentiles come, too
 - v. Scofield makes this the mystery in prophecy, it is not.
 - vi. It speaks of Gentiles in the name of the Lord in the kingdom, not a body.
- e. 15:18 – *“Known unto God”* not necessarily unto men – Rom 15:8-12, 16
 - i. God intended to have Gentiles called by his name in the kingdom (Acts 10)
 - ii. Gentiles in prophecy was no secret – Ro 11:25; Isa 49:6,60; Ps 72, 98, Rv 15:4
- f. James notes that Gentiles being blessed and called out by God was no mystery.
- g. 15:19 – *“we trouble not [the Gentiles]”* ... or rather Paul can minister grace in peace
- h. 15:23 – Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, Cilicia... remember Gal 1:17-22 was in Acts 9!