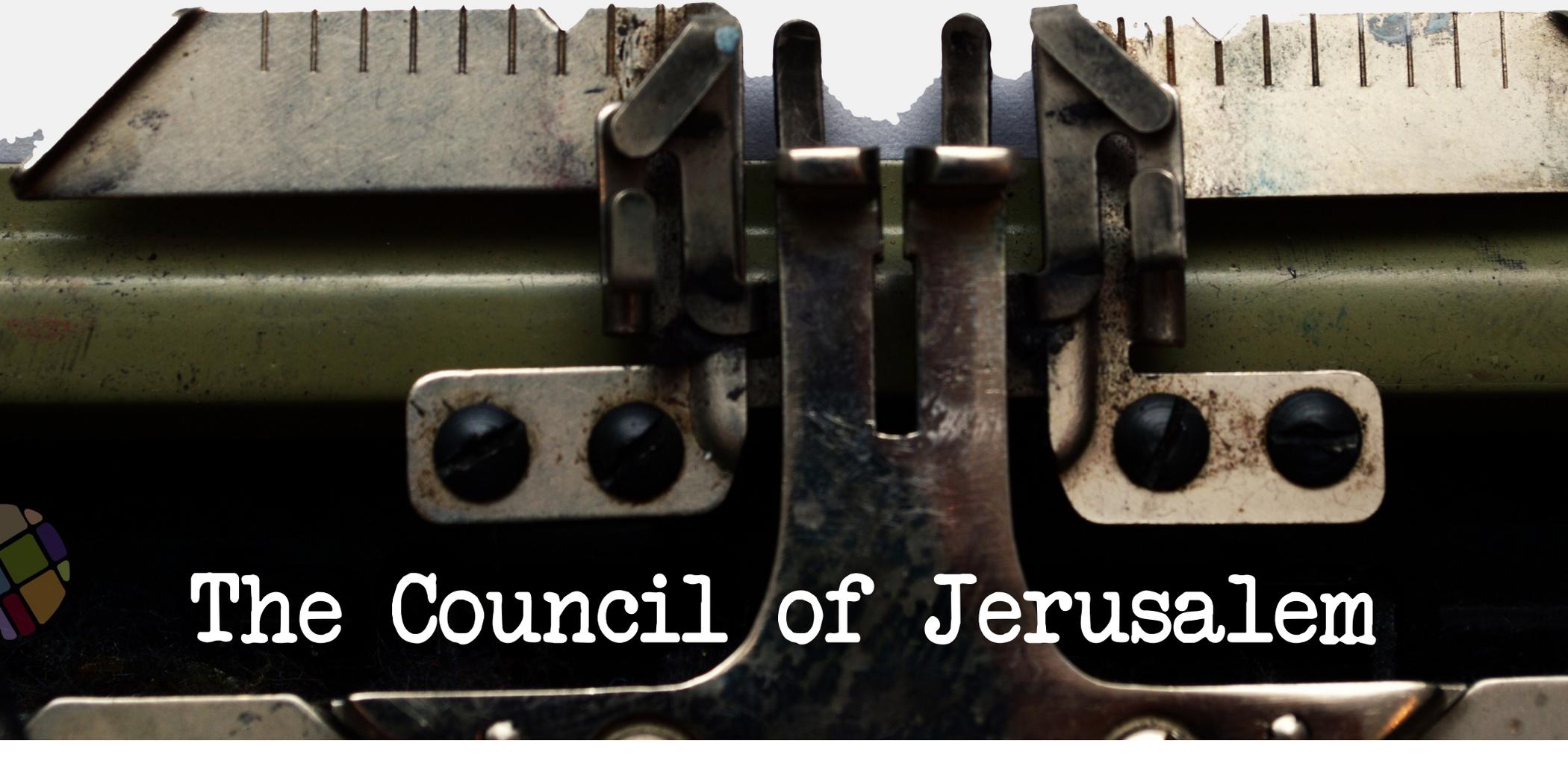




Galatians

No Other Gospel



The Council of Jerusalem

When we study the Pauline Letters
(all the letters) of the New
Testament we must remind ourselves
that we are listening to one side
of the conversation



Great Moments in Biblical History

Abrahamic Covenant

Christmas

Easter

Day of Pentecost

Council of Jerusalem



Galatians is written in
light of Acts 15, Paul wrote
it right afterwards

Paul visited Galatia between
46AD-49AD on Paul's first
missionary journey which
occurred in Acts 13-14 (Iconium,
Lystra and Derbe)



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.” Acts 15:1



The core of the problem is that up until Paul, Christianity was a messianic movement within Judaism. The people accepting Christ in Jerusalem (and even Antioch) were not rejecting the Law. They remained fully “Jewish” in every sense. They maintained ritual purity as they always had, they ate only clean foods, and may have continued the practice of circumcision for converts to the faith. For many of the earliest followers of Jesus, Christianity was not a “new religion” as much as a **reform movement within Judaism.**



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.

Acts 15:2



The issue at hand was whether or not someone who was not a Jew could be saved. How does a gentile become a **covenant** member with Israel and share in the blessings of a **covenantal** relationship?



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.**” **vs 5**



The Law of Moses

The Law of Moses is the list of rituals, moral laws, and guidance that are recorded in the the Books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Remember the **law of my servant Moses**, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

Malachi 4:4

When the time came for the purification rites required by the **Law of Moses**, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

Luke 2:22



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. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. vs 7-9



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? **vs 10**

“It is my judgment, therefore, that we
should **not make it difficult** for the
Gentiles who are turning to God.”
James the Brother of Jesus vs 19



“After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things’—things known from long ago.”
vs 16-18 (quote from Amos)



“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.” vs 20



Pagan

Love only their friends (Matt 5:47)

Love promoting themselves (Matt 6:7)

Refuse to listen to the church (Matt 18:17)

Prefer not to go to church regularly (Heb 10:25)

Love to party (Luke 12:30)

Sexually promiscuous (1 Cor 5:1)

Loves money and the values of the world (1 Pet 4:3)

Live by their own rules (1 Thess 4:5)



Polluted by Idols
Sexually Immorality
Meat of Strangled Animals
Blood



Old
Life

James was giving the Gentiles the
“Law” in a form that **separated** them
from their former life



Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.

1 Corinthians 10:18-20



The four requirements James bound upon the Gentiles are **halakah** based on commands found in the Mosaic Law. In Hebrew, halakah literally means "**the path one walks.**" Each of these commandments was based on ancient requirements found in the Law of Moses for a "stranger" who desired to live among the tribes of Israel.



For the law of Moses has been
preached in every city from the
earliest times and is read in the
synagogues on every Sabbath. vs 21



Lessons From Acts 15

Our faith is an ancient belief that has thousands of years of history and culture

The struggle between the law and life is thousands of years old

When we encounter Christ our lives are transformed, we do not act or think the way we used to

