

THE CASE FOR GENTILE INCLUSION

Peter Responds to Jewish Objection

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Acts 11:1-18

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Outline:

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| 1) The Witness to Jerusalem | Acts 1:1-8:3 |
| 2) The Witness to Judea and Samaria | Acts 8:4-12:24 |
| 3) The Witness to the Ends of the Earth | Acts 12:25-21:14 |
| 4) From Jerusalem to Rome | Acts 21:15-28:31 |

Theme of Acts: Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Key Verse: Acts 11:17 “Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as *He gave* to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”

Theme: The expansion of the gospel to the Gentiles is confirmed by direct revelation, by human witnesses, by the Holy Spirit and by the Word of God.

I. The Objection

11:1-3

1. The Gentiles _____ was reported to the church in Jerusalem.
2. Peter, although recognized as an apostle, was _____
3. The Jewish Christians were concerned about Peter's _____

II. The Defense

4-17

- ## 1. The Direct Revelation
- a. God told Peter to no longer consider unholy that _____
 - b. God told the Gentile to _____ to speak the gospel to them.
 - c. The Spirit told Peter to accompany _____ to Caesarea.
- ## 2. The Human Witnesses
- a. _____ travelled with Peter and the Gentiles.

b. The Jewish Christians also, _____ with Peter.

3. The Holy Spirit

a. Peter spoke _____ the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ.

b. The Holy Spirit indwelt _____, just as the Jewish believers.

4. The Word of God

a. Peter remembered the words _____ to the disciples.

b. Jesus' said, "You will be baptized _____."

III. The Verdict

18

1. The Jewish Christians stopped confronting Peter.
2. The Jewish Christians started glorifying God.
3. The Jewish Christians observed that God has chosen to include Gentiles in His church.

V. Application

1. Believers are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and therefore are reconciled with one another.

Galatians 3:26-28

2. We are to respond to those who confront us in humility and with a Biblical defense of our position.

James 4:1 James 4:6 Proverbs 27:17

3. Praise God for His plan of salvation for the Gentiles and including them in the ministry of the church.

Romans 11:11-12 Romans 11:19-20

Matthew 10:5-8 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; 6but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 8“*Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.*

John 14:11-12 11“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because **of the works themselves**. 12“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and **greater works** than these he will do; because I go to the Father.

John 15:26-27 26“**When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, 27and you will testify** also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

Luke 24:43-49 43and He took it and ate *it* before them. 44Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which **are written about Me** in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the **Christ would suffer and rise again** from the dead the third day, 47and that **repentance for forgiveness of sins** would be proclaimed in His name **to all the nations**, beginning from Jerusalem. 48“*You are witnesses of these things.* 49“*And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.*”

Acts 15:1-12 1Some men came down from Judea and *began* teaching the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” 2And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, *the brethren* determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. 3Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren. 4When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. 5But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.” 6The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. 7After 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; 9and 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.” 12All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

Acts 15:13-19 13After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, “Brethren, listen to me. 14“Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name. 15“With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written, 16‘AFTER THESE THINGS I will return, AND I WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT, 17SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,’ 18SAYS THE LORD, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM LONG AGO. 19“Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles,