

Study Notes and Questions for Acts 15 (Part 1) :1-35

- What is going on in this chapter?
- How do you think Paul's background as a Pharisee prepared him for this challenge?
- Why did the Jews erroneously conclude that the Law was essential for salvation?
- What were the key points that Peter made to the group in 15:6–11?
- What evidence did Paul and Barnabas offer to defend their view that Gentiles could be saved without becoming Jews (see 15:4, 12)?
- Why was this discussion so critical for the early church?
- The council made four requirements regarding habits to which Gentiles were especially prone but which especially disgusted Jews. Why did they lay out these requirements?
- What are the most important lessons the Jerusalem council's decision can teach us?