

Acts 12

- A violent persecution at the Hands of Herod broke out
- James the brother of John is martyred in the year 42
- Peter is arrested

Acts 12: 6-17

“Then he departed and went to another place”

Where?

- Luke does not tell us
- However, we know from other sources that Peter made extensive missionary journeys himself

Peter went to Rome in 42 AD

- From there made many missionary trips to found other communities
- He was Martyred by Nero in 67-68

Origen (+254) tells us Peter founded the Church at Antioch,

- he laboured a long period there,
- and then appointed Evodrius, the first of the line of Antiochian bishops, head of the community

19 years after Jesus died, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven

- St. Paul makes his first missionary journey in 49 AD

Acts 14:24-28

Paul returns from his first missionary journey in Galatia,

- reversing their route they go by way of
- Antioch in Pisidia, Pamphylia, Perga Attalia and
- from there they sailed to Antioch in Syria where they began their journey.

When they arrived there they gathered the Church and declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. And they remained no little time with the disciples

Acts 15:1-5 goes with Acts 14:28

Once Mark departed from Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13:13

- He probably went back to Jerusalem
- and reported that Paul and Barnabas have been preaching to the Gentiles
- and they are converting and becoming Christians

A group of the circumcision party that criticized Peter in Acts 11 immediately goes to Antioch teaching: Unless you are circumcised you cannot be saved

There erupts “no small debate” between Paul, Barnabas and the rest.

So Paul, Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go to Jerusalem

- to lay this question as the feet of the Apostles,
- the Pope and the first bishops to solve this problem.

Why not Rome? An ancient Tradition has it that

- all of the Apostles were recalled to Jerusalem by the Holy Spirit to be with Mary before and during her glorious Assumption
- In 1950 in honor of the 1900 year anniversary of the Assumption the Church declares the dogma of the Assumption of Mary

They do not turn to the Bible to solve the problem

- The New Testament does not exist yet
- Maybe only the Gospel of Matthew

They turn to the teaching authority instituted by Christ

Matthew 10

Matthew 16

The Power to Bind and Loose includes:

1. The Power to forgive sins
2. to make doctrinal judgments
3. to make disciplinary descisions

Matthew 18:18

Matthew 28: 18-20

Before Paul goes to Jerusalem in Acts 15:3

- He writes to the his letter to the Galatians

Paul writes to them because

- the circumcision party who have been following Paul everywhere he goes, contradicting him,
- have gone to all the places he preached and
- they are trying to turn the converts away from Christ away from the Church and **back to the synagogue**

At Paul sends a letter to the Galatians

- Because he can't go back there right now
- He has to go to Jerusalem for the Council
- Because that is where the Church is going to decide the issue officially

Galatians 1:6 “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and returning to a different Gospel”

Galatians 1:12 Revelation, Unveiling, Apocalypse

- God's plan has been revealed in Christ
- It is here, it is now

Gal 1:15 “when he who had set me apart before I was born”

- Isaiah 49:1
- Is 49:6 I will make you a light to the nations

Galatians 1:18-2:2

1st time Paul went to Jerusalem for two-weeks

Galatians 2:1

- 2nd time Paul goes to Jerusalem
- I went up by “revelation”

What revelation?

- Acts 11:22-30

Acts 11:27

- In AD 45 the Nile floods and ruins all the corn crops
- The Nile valley was the Bread-Basket of the Roman Empire
- Result – Famine

Acts 11:29

- Paul and Barnabas are sent to Jerusalem to tell them of the private revelation from Agabus: The famine is coming, better get the people prepared

Acts 11: 30 correspond to

- Paul’s second trip to Jerusalem that he mentions in Galatians 2:1
- That second trip wraps up in Acts 12:25

Galatians 2:4

- Paul says some of the circumcision party are actually Pharisees who have come to spy on this new sect in order to infiltrate and destroy it
- Just as the Pharisees spied on Jesus in Matthew 12

They are the ones stirring up the trouble saying

- Don’t let the Gentiles come in without first becoming full converts to Judaism

Galatians 2:5-10 But we did not yield

Galatians 2:11-21 Corresponds to Acts 15:1-3

- But it was not resolved
- So they all go to Jerusalem for the Council in Acts 15: 4

Acts 15: 6-11 Peter speaks

- Peter reminds them that the prophets foretold that all the Gentiles would come into the covenant
 - Amos 9:11-12
 - Jeremiah 12:15
 - Isaiah 45:21

Acts 15: 12 Paul and Barnabas give their story

Acts 15:13 James, the cousin of Jesus and Bishop of Jerusalem (+62)

- He seconds the motion

Acts 15:19-25 The first Encyclical Letter

Galatians is Paul's first letter

- Not 1 and 2 Thessalonians which doesn't come until Paul's 2nd missionary journey
- Because there is no Church in Thessalonica yet

Many Scholars place Paul's letter to the Galatians later

- After the Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15
- Why?
- To deny the authority of the Peter and the Pope

Galatians 2 conflict

Acts 15 resolution and peace

Throughout history there have been 22 Councils

1. Council of Nicaea (325) The Creed Of Nicaea, defining against Arius the true Divinity of the Son of God (homoousios), and the fixing of the date for keeping Easter (against the Quartodecimans).

2. First Council of Constantinople (381), against those who fought against the divinity of the Holy Spirit.

3. Council of Ephesus (431), defined the true personal unity of Christ, declared Mary the Mother of God (theotokos) against Nestorius, Bishop of Constantinople, and renewed the condemnation of Pelagius.

4. Council of Chalcedon (451) Pope Leo the Great defined the two natures (Divine and human) in Christ against Eutyches, who was excommunicated

- Leo writes his letter resolving the issue
- All the Bishops cry out "Peter has spoken"

22. Vatican Council II Gaudium et Spes 51 against contraception