

## God's Visitation Makes a People

### Acts 15:13, 14 (NKJV)

And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: Simon has declared how God at the first **visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.**

- The dispute came from those who wanted to make Gentile converts obey Moses (vss 1, 5)
- This is not James the brother of John (Lk 5:10) but James the half brother of Jesus

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## Testimony of the Mighty Deeds of God Stopped the Debate

### Acts 15:13 (NKJV)

And after **they had become silent**, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, **listen** to me:

- "Silent" was also used in Luke 9:36 where God stopped a discussion with a definitive answer!
- When God acts to make a people for Himself, we must listen (Deuteronomy 27:9)
- It is not time for dissention (Acts 15:2, 7) when God has clearly spoken and acted

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## Peter Explained a Visitation of God

### Acts 15:14a (NKJV)

Simon has **declared** how God at the first **visited** the Gentiles...

- "Declared" is *exe\_geomai* which is used 5 times in Luke/Acts out of 6 in NT (other is John 1:18)
- "Visited" is *episkeptomai* which is used in Luke 1:68; 1:78; and 7:16 (previews of salvation)
- Luke 19:44, uses the noun in "day of visitation"
- Genesis 50:24, 25 promise that God will "visit"
- Exodus 3:15, 16 link the Name and visitation

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## A People for The Name

### Acts 15:14b (NKJV)

to take out of them a people **for His name.**

- This is an Exodus motif: Luke 9:31 speaks of Jesus' "exodus" that He would accomplish!
- See Exodus 6:7 where God takes a people
- Ezekiel 34:11 LXX God promises to seek out His sheep and "visit" *episkeptomai*
- In Acts 18:10 God told Paul "I have many people in this city"
- Now Gentiles are included in the visitation

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## Echoes From the Burning Bush

### Exodus 3:14-15 (NKJV)

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. **This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.**'"

- Context: the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-13)

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## The Exodus Visitation

### Exodus 3:16 (NKJV)

Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "**I have surely visited you** and seen what is done to you in Egypt;

- God's visitation meant salvation for Israel and judgment on Egypt
- The visitation of God in Christ makes a new Exodus which means salvation for all who welcome Him and judgment on all who reject Him

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