



Acts 15:15-21 The Rebuilt Tent of David

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May 24, 2020

The Prophets Predict a Rebuilt Tent

Acts 15:15,16 (ESV)

And with this **the words of the prophets agree**, just as **it is written**, 'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it,

- James cites Amos 9:11-12 mostly from LXX
- "The prophets" is stated 14 times in Luke and 14 times in Acts. Prophecy fulfillment is thematic
- Acts 7:46 mentions David and a tent for God

Chiasm in Acts 15:16

"After this **I will return**, and **I will rebuild** the tent of David that has fallen; **I will rebuild** its ruins, and **I will restore** it,"

- A I will return
- B I will rebuild
- B' I will rebuild
- A' I will restore

- Robert Tannehill identified this chiastic structure
- Jesus is reigning on the throne of David (Psalm 110:1) and will return at a future, fixed time to fully restore the kingdom (Acts 1:6, 7)

Gentiles Will Seek the Lord

Acts 15:17, 18 (ESV)

'that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things known from of old.'

- That some Gentiles are called by God's name picks up James' statement in Acts 15:14
- Both the "remnant" idea and "called by His name" are typically associated with Israel
- God is bringing Gentiles under the rule of David's greater Son, Jesus (Luke 20:41-44)

Don't Trouble the Repentant

Acts 15:19 (ESV)

Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the **Gentiles who turn to God**

- "Turn" is *epistrepho*, which is used as a synonym for "repent" 12 times in Luke/Acts
- The noun form is used in Acts 15:3 "conversion"
- "Trouble" is an intensified form of "*enochle_o*" which means, "disturb or annoy"
- When we change the terms of coming to God and serving Him we create serious trouble

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5

Avoid Pagan Pollutions

Acts 15:20 (ESV)

but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood.

- Literally, "the pollutions of idols," which included various sins including immorality, idolatry, and sacrifices to false gods
- Why James mentions strangled and blood is debated to this day. It likely was to not unduly "trouble" the Jewish Christians

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6

No Needless Offense

Acts 15:21 (ESV)

For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.

- Luke has narrated gospel preaching in synagogues (Acts 13:1; 14:1) and there will be more (Acts 17:1; 18:4; 19:8)
- According to Acts 16:1-5, Paul had Timothy circumcised and the decisions of the apostles and elders in Jerusalem are mentioned

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7

Give No Offense

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 (NASB)

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.

- There are two imperatives:
 - 1) Do all for the glory of God
 - 2) Give no offense
- Key principle: the good of one's neighbor (1 Cor. 10:23, 24)

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8