

Acts Chapter 11 - Handout

After Peter ministers to the Gentiles in Caesarea and baptizes them after they have received the Holy Ghost, the church in Jerusalem hears about it and confront him about socializing with gentiles and receiving into the fold without requiring them to be circumcised.

v.1-4 - The believers in Jerusalem confront Peter about eating with the uncircumcised.

v.5-15- Peter recounts the happenings of chapter 10, from his seeing a vision on the rooftop in Joppa to his going to Caesarea to see Cornelius the centurion to his speaking to the gentiles gathered and they upon hearing receiving the Holy Ghost.

v.16-18 - Peter remembered what Jesus said about John baptizing with water but they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost. He noted that the gentiles were baptized with the Holy Ghost just as they were (Jews) in the beginning. So how could he go against what God ordained. The listeners then held their peace and glorified God. God has granted to the Gentiles repentance unto life (and they didn't have to become Jews to receive it).

Now the chapter actually goes back in time to the point after Stephen was martyred.

v.19-21- Those who scattered abroad upon the persecution of Stephen (as far as Phenice and Cyprus and Antioch) preached the gospel to the Jews only. But some when they went to Antioch preached to the Grecians and they received Christ, a great number.

v.22-26- The church in Jerusalem sends Barnabas to Antioch to work with the new believers there. Good man, full of the Holy Ghost and of faith. And many came to the Lord. He remembers Saul and goes to get him and bring him to Antioch. (Barnabas that had introduced Saul to the church in Jerusalem). Barnabas and Saul work in Antioch for one whole year. v.26 And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. Christian was probably a derogatory name which was later embraced by the believers. It means followers of Christ or little christs.

v.27-30-Prophets would come from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them by the name of Agabus phophesied of a famine that would take place during the days of Claudius Caesar (he came after Caligula) The disciples in Antioch decided to send relief to the brethren in Judaea and the elders (first time used in reference to the church of Christ) decided to send it by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

We see the beginnings of Antioch becoming a center of the church from which missionary journeys would eventually start. We also see the solidifying of the relationship between believers in Antioch and the church in Jerusalem with the presence of Barnabas and Saul, prophets coming from Jerusalem and the heartfelt desire of the believers in Antioch, gentiles, to do something kind for the believers, Jews, in Judaea. Walls had come down through Christ.