

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

<sup>2</sup> And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him,

**Acts 11:2 (ESV)** So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party **criticized him**, saying, **(NIV)** also uses “criticized him”  
**Acts 11:2 (NASB)** And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised **took issue with him**.

<sup>3</sup> saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"

<sup>4</sup> But Peter explained *it* to them in order from the beginning, saying:

<sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me.

<sup>6</sup> When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air.

<sup>7</sup> And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.'

<sup>8</sup> But I said, 'Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.'

<sup>9</sup> But the voice answered me again from heaven, 'What God has cleansed you must not call common.'

<sup>10</sup> Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven.

See **Acts 10:9-16**

<sup>11</sup> At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea.

<sup>12</sup> Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these **six brethren** accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

“And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter ...” **Acts 10:45**

<sup>13</sup> And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter,

<sup>14</sup> who will **tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.**'

Remember --- **Romans 1:16 & 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:22-23**

ALSO note **Acts 15:9 (NKJV)** and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. (**Romans 10:17**)

<sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.

<sup>16</sup> Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

See Acts 1:4-5

<sup>17</sup> If therefore God gave them the same gift as *He gave* us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"

<sup>18</sup> When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

<sup>19</sup> Now those who were **scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen** traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.

Stephen's death /Acts 7 ----- church scattered/Acts 8

<sup>20</sup> But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to **Antioch**, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.

**Antioch** In 64 BC the country was definitely annexed to Rome by Pompey, who granted considerable privileges to Antioch, which now became the capital of the Roman province of Syria. In the civil wars which terminated in the establishment of the Roman principate, Antioch succeeded in attaching itself constantly to the winning side, declaring for Caesar after the fall of Pompey, and for Augustus after the battle of Actium. A Roman element was added to its population, and several of the emperors contributed to its adornment. Already a splendid city under the Seleucids, Antioch was made still more splendid by its Roman patrons and masters. It was the "queen of the East," the third city, after Rome and Alexandria, of the Roman world. -----

In the early history of Christianity, Antioch occupies a distinguished place. The large and flourishing Jewish colony offered an immediate field for Christian teaching, and the cosmopolitanism of the city tended to widen the outlook of the Christian community, which refused to be confined within the narrow limits of Judaism. Nicolas, a proselyte of Antioch, was one of the first deacons ([Acts 6:5](#)). Antioch was the cradle of Gentile Christianity and of Christian missionary enterprise. It was at the instance of the church at Antioch that the council at Jerusalem decided to relieve Gentile Christians of the burden of the Jewish law ([Acts 15](#)). Antioch was Paul's starting-point in his three missionary journeys ([Acts 13:1ff](#); [Acts 15:36ff](#); [Acts 18:23](#)), and thither he returned from the first two as to his headquarters ([Acts 14:26ff](#); [Acts 18:22](#)). Here also the term "Christian," doubtless originally a nickname, was first applied to the followers of Jesus ([Acts 11:26](#)). -----

**The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.**

<sup>21</sup> And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.

<sup>23</sup> When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with **purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.**

**Acts 11:23 (ESV)** When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to **remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose,**

**Acts 11:23 (NASB)** Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all **with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord;**

**Acts 11:23 (NIV)** When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to **remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.**

<sup>24</sup> For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

<sup>25</sup> Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul.

**Tarsus** The chief city of Cilicia. It was distinguished for its wealth and for its schools of learning, in which it rivalled, nay, excelled even Athens and Alexandria, and hence was spoken of as "no mean city." It was the native place of the Apostle Paul ([Acts 21:39](#)). It stood on the banks of the river Cydnus, about 12 miles north of the Mediterranean. It is said to have been founded by Sardanapalus, king of Assyria. It is now a filthy, ruinous Turkish town, called Tersous.

**Easton's Illustrated Bible Dictionary: And Treasury of Biblical History, Biography, Geography, Doctrine, and Literature.**

<sup>26</sup> And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

**Acts 26:28 (NKJV)** Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

**1 Peter 4:16 (NKJV)** Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

<sup>27</sup> And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch.

<sup>28</sup> Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

<sup>29</sup> Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.

<sup>30</sup> This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

## Questions Acts 11

1. Who contended with Peter? Why?

Questions Acts 11

2. How did Peter respond to those who contended with him?
  
3. Where does it state, *“Who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved”*?
  - a. Why is this important to remember?
  
4. After the persecution of Stephen what happened?
  
5. What did Barnabas do when he came to Antioch?
  
6. How is Antioch described by the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia concerning the early history of Christianity?
  
7. Why did Barnabas go to Tarsus and what do we know about Tarsus?
  
8. Where were the disciples first called Christians?
  - a. List two other scriptures that the word Christian is used.
  
9. How long did Paul and Barnabas assemble with the church at Antioch?
  
10. Who was Agabus and what message did he bring to Antioch?
  
11. What will you remember from this chapter?

