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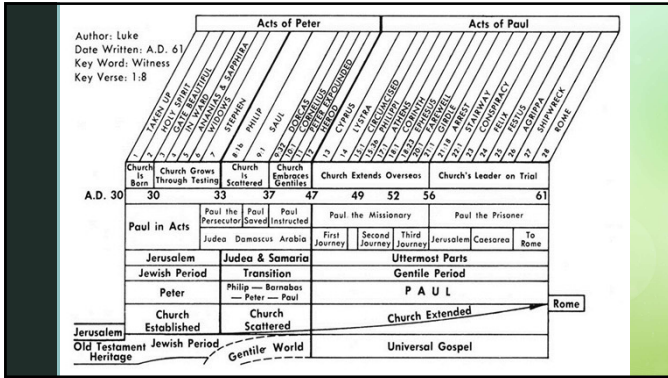
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Acts 15:22-23 <sup>22</sup>Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, *namely*, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. <sup>23</sup>They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren. To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. Lord Jesus Christ.

- Who is Silas (Silvanus)?
- Who is Barsabas (Judas)?
- What is the impact of this greeting?

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Acts 15:24-29 <sup>24</sup>Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law"—to whom we gave no commandment. <sup>25</sup>It seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, <sup>26</sup>men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>27</sup>We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. <sup>28</sup>For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: <sup>29</sup>that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

- Was the original delegation composed of Judaizers sent by the church in Jerusalem?
- How was this decision made?
- What was the context of the four instructions?

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Acts 15:30-35 <sup>30</sup>So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. <sup>31</sup>When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement. <sup>32</sup>Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words. <sup>33</sup>And after they had stayed there for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren to the apostles. <sup>34</sup>However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there. <sup>35</sup>Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

- Why were Judas and Silas sent with Paul and Barnabas?
- What was the reaction of the Church with the arrival of the letter?
- What role did Silas and Judas play in Antioch following the delivery of the letter?

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Acts 15:36-41 <sup>36</sup>Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing." <sup>37</sup>Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. <sup>38</sup>But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. <sup>39</sup>Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; <sup>40</sup>but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. <sup>41</sup>And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

- What was laid upon Paul's heart after a time in Antioch?
- Who was John Mark to Barnabas and Paul?
- Why was the contention sharp?
- What was the outcome of the contention?

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◀ Wrap up and Closing Prayer

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