

Lesson X.

THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM

June 8, 1902

Acts 15: 22-33. Commit to memory vs. 30-32. Read Acts 15.

22 Then ¹pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to ²send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; ³namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren;

23 And they wrote letters ⁴by them after this manner: The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, ⁵saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no ⁶such commandment:

25 It seemed good unto us, ⁷being assembled with one accord, to ⁸send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barsabas and Paul,

26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revised Version.—1 It seemed good to: 2 The: 3 Choose men out of their company, to Antioch: 4 Called Barsabas; 5 Thus by them; 6 The elder brethren unto: 7 Greeting: 8 Omit as far as law: 9 Omit such: 10 Having come to: 11 Choose out men and send them: 12 Themselves also shall: 13 Word of mouth: 14 Things sacrificed: 15 It shall be well with you: 16 Down: 17 Having: 18 And: 19 It: 20 Spent some time there: 21 Dismissed: 22 Those that had sent them forth.

GOLDEN TEXT

Gal. 5: 1. Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Acts 15: 1-11.	Disputing among brethren.
T.—Acts 15: 12-21.	Words of peace.
W.—Acts 15: 22-33.	The council at Jerusalem.
Th.—Gal. 2: 1-10.	Paul's reference.
F.—Gal. 6: 7-18.	The new creature.
S.—Phil. 3: 1-11.	Loss for Christ.
S.—Gal. 5: 1-14.	Liberty to serve.

CATECHISM

Q. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?
A. Christ executeth the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links.—Shortly after our last lesson Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch in Syria, having been absent two or three years, and told the story of their missionary labors to the church there, ch. 14: 23-28. A little later a difficulty arose about receiving Gentiles into the church (ch. 15: 1). Certain troublers from Judea taught that they must be first circumcised, v. 10. Paul and Barnabas contended for wider liberty, and were sent to Jerusalem, with certain of the brethren, to lay the question before the apostles and elders there, v. 2. It was fully considered and our present lesson gives the decision.

I. A Deputation, 22.

V. 22. Then pleased it the apostles; to make public the decision above mentioned. None of the first Christians at once broke fully away from the forms of Jewish worship (ch.

27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by ¹³mouth.

28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

29 That ye abstain from ¹⁴meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ¹⁵ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

30 So when they were dismissed, they came ¹⁶to Antioch: and ¹⁷when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:

31 ¹⁸Which when they had read, ¹⁹they rejoiced for the consolation.

32 And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.

33 And after they had ²⁰tarried there a space, they were ²¹let go in peace from the brethren unto ²²the apostles.

TIME AND PLACE

Peloubet says "About A.D. 50, as generally agreed. But McGiffert shortens all dates and places it at 45, 46; Harnack and Blass in 47." The place, Antioch in Syria where the dispute arose, and Jerusalem where it was settled.

LESSON PLAN

- I. A Deputation, 22.
Two chief men from among the brethren.
- II. A Letter, 23-29.
Containing the decision of the council.
- III. A Visit, 30-33.
Which brought comfort and goodwill.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 226; 105 (Ps. Sel.); 218; 119; 532; 533.

3: 1). There were some among them who insisted that the Gentiles must observe these Jewish forms before they could become church members. The opposition is seen in ch. 11: 2, 3, but Peter's explanation removed it for the time being, 11: 4-18. The question having now again arisen, was referred to the parent church at Jerusalem for settlement. "The apostles" were the chosen twelve. Matthias took the place of Judas, ch. 1: 26. "The elders" were the local church officers, such as are found in Presbyterian churches now. The whole church. A vote of approval was perhaps taken. To choose men out of their company (Rev. Ver.); men from among themselves, who would return with Paul and Barnabas (v. 2) to Antioch, and there make known the decision of the council. Judas. Nothing more is certainly known of him, but perhaps he was a brother of Joseph Barsabas of ch. 1: 23. Silas; afterwards a