

מעשי השליחים Ma'asei HaShlichim

[ACTS OF THE APOSTLES]

Acts 15 "Jerusalem Council"

Discussion Questions:

1. Put yourself in the shoes of the “men from Judea” who charged that Gentiles had to be made Jewish (through circumcision). What was their reasoning? How have you, or others you know, used presumably well-intentioned reason to the detriment of others?
2. How does the Jerusalem Council provide a model for resolving disagreements or making rulings within a congregation? How is the model structured?
3. James’ use of Amos 9:11-12 as a proof text is quite fitting. What he does in his quoting, though, is a brief midrash on the passage—so brief you might miss it. His opening and closing words connect the passage to other prophecies regarding the Messianic era and Gentiles. Read through those and discuss.
 - a. “And after these things” - Hosea 3:5; Jeremiah 12:15-16
 - b. “Says the Lord, who makes these things known from long ago” - Isaiah 45:20-22

