

**The Formal Decree of the Council:
The Great Decree on Salvation
Acts 15:23–35**

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| <p>1 <i>There was the attitude that brought about the decree: Humility</i></p> | <p>23 With them they sent the following letter:
The apostles and elders,
your brothers,
To the Gentile believers in Antioch,
Syria and Cilicia:
Greetings.</p> |
| <p>2 <i>There was the declaration of the decree: Ritual and law are not necessary to salvation; the disputers were rebuked</i></p> | <p>24 We have heard
that some went out from us
without our authorization
and disturbed you,
troubling your minds by what they said.</p> |
| <p>3 <i>There were the men chosen to proclaim the truth</i></p> <p>a. Men loved, proven and experienced:
Paul and Barnabas</p> <p>b. Men chosen as worthy supporters:
Judas and Silas</p> | <p>25 So we all agreed to choose some men
and send them to you
with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul —</p> <p>26 Men who have risked their lives
for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>27 Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas
to confirm by word of mouth
what we are writing.</p> |
| <p>4 <i>There were the few rules that were necessary</i></p> | <p>28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us
not to burden you with anything
beyond the following requirements:</p> <p>29 You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols,
from blood,
from the meat of strangled animals
and from sexual immorality.
You will do well to avoid these things.
Farewell.</p> |
| <p>5 <i>There were the glorious results</i></p> | <p>30 The men were sent off
and went down to Antioch,
where they gathered the church together
and delivered the letter.</p> |

<p>a. Brought about great gladness</p> <p>b. Brought about great encouragement</p> <p>c. Brought about the discovery of a great missionary — Silas</p>	<p>31 The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.</p> <p>32 Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers.</p> <p>33 After spending some time there, they were sent off by the brothers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them.</p> <p>34 *</p>
<p>d. Brought about a great teaching and preaching ministry within the church</p>	<p>35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.</p>

* v. 34 *But it seemed good to Silas to remain there,* is found only in certain manuscripts.