

July 5, 2025

# The Way

*West Valley End-Time Ministries*

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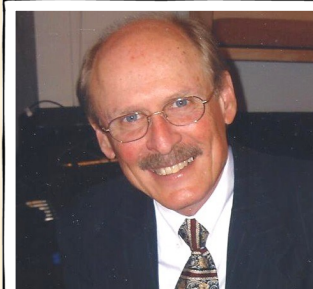
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# Acts of the Apostles

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# Bible Study

## Acts 15

### Conflict over Circumcision

1¶And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

2Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.

3¶So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.

4And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them.

5But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”

### The Jerusalem Council

6¶Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.

7And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: “Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.

8“So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us,  
9“and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

10“Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11“But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”

12¶Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.

13And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men and brethren, listen to me:

14“Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.

15“And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:

16‘After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up;

17So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.’


18¶“Known to God from eternity are all His works.

19“Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,

20“but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.

21“For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”





# Bible Study

## **The Jerusalem Decree**

22¶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.

23¶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.

24Since 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 such commandment—

25it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth.

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

29that 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.

## **Continuing Ministry in Syria**

30¶So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter.

31When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement.

32Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.

33And after they had stayed there for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren to the apostles.

34¶However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there.

35Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

## **Division over John Mark**

36¶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.”


37Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark.

38But 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.

39Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;

40but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.

41And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.



# Honest Questions

July 5, 2025

## Honest Question:

How can we invite God daily into our lives?

## Bible Answer:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, **I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.**" Revelation 3:20.

## Comment:

One of the best habits a Christian can develop is to invite God to be present and active in our life every morning as we open our eyes and begin our day. He waits for that invitation, according to the text above, and is anxious for us to live every moment of our day with an awareness of His presence.

Throughout the day, as we are reminded of His care for us, we should thank Him for His protection, provision and providence in our lives. When we need His guidance in any matter, we can send up a short prayer, asking Him to give us His direction. When our thoughts or actions misrepresent our life of faith in Him, a brief prayer acknowledging our failure, claiming His grace and asking for Him to live out His life through us brings immediate peace with Him. Talking to God throughout the day enables us to experience His active presence in our life, for if you have placed your faith in Him, **He is present in your life, verily living within you!**

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.**" John 14:23.

"In Him you also trusted, after you **heard** the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having **believed**, you were **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory." Ephesians 1:13, 14.

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you**, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who **dwells in you**. ...Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:11, 26, 27.

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## Honest Question:

Some Christians don't act any different from non-Christians. So why should I want to be one – it's just more hypocrisy?



# Honest Questions

## Bible Answer:

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven [**the church**] is like a man [**Jesus**] who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy [**the devil**] came and sowed tares [**the unconverted**] among the wheat [**the converted**] and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, first gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Matthew 13:24-30.

## Comment:

The devil's greatest strategy for turning people away from Christ has been to infiltrate the church with people who are hypocrites! The church of Jesus' day claimed to be the chosen of God, but its leaders put Jesus on the cross.


Jesus said to the leaders of the Church of His day, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For ... a pretense [you] make long prayers. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. ... Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. ... Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so **you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.**" Matthew 23:13-15, 25, 27, 28.

Before the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, all the apostles had to deal with people who professed to be Christians but were unconverted and who only brought grief to the Church. The stories and admonitions of the apostles are numerous in regard to the problem of professed Christians misrepresenting the Christ faith. Don't forget the story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). Jesus told us in the first passage above to expect the Church to have hypocrites – and to recognize it as the work of the devil. Paul tells us to have nothing to do with people in the Church who misrepresent Christ!

"But now I have written to you **not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner – not even to eat with such a person.**" 1 Corinthians 5:11.

He also voices the very concern of the question submitted above – why should anyone want to be a Christian when there are so many professed Christians who are "hypocrites"!?

"The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles [non-Christians] because of you [hypocrites in the Church]" Romans 2:24.



# Honest Questions

And finally, Paul tells us to expect there to be people professing to be Christians in the last days, the days in which we live, who have the outward appearance of a religious person – even a Christian – but who do not show the fruit of a faith and walk with Jesus Christ. Expect it, don't be deceived by it, and know that this is a prevalent characteristic even now among many **[not all]** involved in the current worldwide phenomenon of “revival” – a sign of the soon return of Jesus!

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**” 2 Timothy 3:1-5

**But do not abandon your faith, even though there are many “hypocrites” bearing the name you bear as a Christian! Jesus is worth following, regardless of how many others profess to follow Him but don't! Being a believer in the One who saves us has nothing to do with how many “tares” are among us! We are not saved as groups, but as individuals, and to follow Christ and inherit eternal life is personal. No one should ever be allowed to steal your inheritance**, just because they claim to be something they're not! Jesus said,

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Matthew 7:21-23.

I once heard a story of a Cadillac dealer who offered a free Cadillac to the first ten people to show up at his dealership on a particular day. People camped out overnight in front of the dealership in order to be first in line for a free luxury car. But when morning came and the line was formed, one man saw his greatest enemy standing in line ahead of him, and he was infuriated to think that man was going to get one of the free Cadillacs! As he stood there in line and literally seethed over the unworthiness of his enemy to receive “the prize,” he became so angry that he stalked away and went straight home. Ponder the sense of that decision for a moment!

**Don't let “those who say they are [Christians] and are not” (Revelation 2:9; 3:9) to ever steal your crown!**

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## Honest Question:

Can evolution be true ... given God could start life using any process He chooses?

## Bible Answer:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1.





# Honest Questions

## Comment:

The **theory** of evolution and the **story** of creation as told in the Bible are mutually exclusive. It's true that God **could** have chosen any process He wished to start life on earth. But He didn't. The theory of evolution is just that – a theory – a theory which requires more “faith” to believe than the biblical story of a God who, six thousand years ago (according to biblical chronology), spoke the heavens and earth into existence. David says, “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the hosts of them by the breath of His mouth. For He spoke and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast.” Psalms 33:6, 9.

The theory of evolution denies the very existence of God – it has to in order to postulate that the complexity of life and all of its intricate miracles of function all came out of nothing, billions of years ago! The theory of evolution denies the deluge (“Noah’s flood”) of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. which resulted in the topography and geography of the earth as we now know it to be. Instead, it tells of various “ages” during which the earth, and the life upon it, was formed over millions of years – something which took only “forty days and forty nights”! And by denying God as the Creator of heaven and earth, man and beast, evolution denies the existence of “sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8). And without there being such a thing as sin, there is no need of a Savior, for there is no judgment. The greatest story of the Bible – the story of Jesus – is thus a needless myth of just a nice man who once walked the earth!

No, though God could have chosen to bring the world into existence over eons of years, He didn't. He created the heavens and the earth, and all that is in it, in six literal days, resting on the 7<sup>th</sup> day and making it holy – giving it to us as a gift and a symbol of both His work of creation and redemption – one more precious reality that disappears in this demonic lie that is so commonly taught to our children and believed by some of the most intelligent ignorant people on earth!

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Please send you “Honest Questions” to [Pastor@wvetm.com](mailto:Pastor@wvetm.com) — then watch for them to be answered in this newsletter. To subscribe, send an email to the above email address with “Subscribe” in the subject box.

# Prophecy In the News

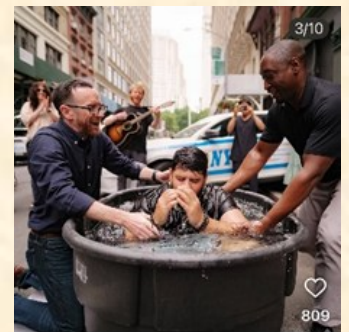
## Prophecy In the News – Update

July 5, 2025

### Looking Back

In this 60<sup>th</sup> issue of the West Valley Ministries newsletter, “The Way” – I can’t help but look back over this past year and think about where we’ve been together. We’ve studied and shared so much together! So much has happened in this past year – a presidential campaign, **again** entailing the cheating maneuvers of an absolutely corrupt, socialistic party, seeking to **again** steal an election; the near assassination of our current, resilient president; the rapid 180 degree turnaround of a country previously disrespected, barely tolerated, and completely **used** and laughed at by the rest of the world – to a nation that now, after only five months, has **the full attention of the world and a healthy respect and fear of a president and team whose decisions and actions demand respect, dictate international trade policies, and the military actions of the entire world!** This is absolutely prophetic and a prelude to the final showdown between good and evil.

Then there is an amazing “Great Awakening” – an enormous revival around the world – people being baptized, celebrating by the tens of thousands a form of Christianity that is rapidly sweeping the world. What’s happening in the religious realm has never happened like this before! While the news doesn’t cover it to any degree, social media is packed with videos, pictures, and accounts of a revival that knows no limits – no boundaries of social status, or cultural or national heritage. There are frequent worship services at the White House; President Trump is shown (on the left) as “surrendering his life to Jesus Christ” as Paula White prays over him, and then as he publicly speaks of his faith; Christian ministries are boldly proclaiming Jesus Christ in the most unusual places – like the streets of New York City (on the right)! This too is prophetic and a prelude to the final showdown between good and evil.



The rise of America as the dominant power of the world and the massive revival of a Christianity that embraces the Church of Rome and is characterized by signs, wonders, loud music, dancing, and techno-hype similar to the rock concerts of our culture – these two great movements are the stage on which government and the religion of America will soon unite under one banner to call a subdued world to worship the beast and receive his mark on their hand or forehead as prophesied in Revelation 13:11-18. **We are well on our way to the last 3 ½ years of prophetic time on earth before Jesus returns.**



# Prophecy In the News

## Looking Forward

Over the past year, we have studied the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation in a way which should give any sincere follower of Christ an accurate and fairly comprehensive view of what is ahead for the world and the Church. I encourage each of you to become familiar with these two books, Daniel and Revelation, and to review what has been written concerning these prophecies in the newsletters you have received over these past months. And if you would like a single source for review, the following link will take you to the entire list which can be downloaded or viewed on our website:

### **West Valley Ministries Newsletters -- "The Way"**

Looking forward, I feel impressed to spend my time seeking to help prepare this little "cell" of God's last church spiritually for the coming of Jesus, encouraging an active walk with Christ, noting the developing waymarks leading to the coming of Jesus, and answering your questions on any topics of interest which may be relevant to your understanding of the Bible or a life guided by its teachings. "The Way" will reflect these objectives in the coming weeks. It is important that each of us not only know the prophecies so we can "watch," but that we also develop a walk with Jesus Christ which makes us "ready" for His return and all that will precede it in our world. If you have questions of a particular nature that are personal or otherwise, I encourage you to send me an email ([Pastor@wvetm.com](mailto:Pastor@wvetm.com)), and if you wish, we can even set up a time to talk on the phone or on Webex face-to-face. I want to be your pastor to the degree you would like me to be, and I will do all I can to encourage you along the way to the coming of Jesus! **We are living in the season of Christ's return!**

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