

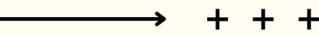
A blurred landscape photograph featuring a path that leads through dense, green and yellowish bushes on the left side. The path curves towards the right, leading to a body of water in the background. The entire image has a strong motion blur effect, with diagonal streaks across the scene. The word "Acts." is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Acts.

Bentonville, Arkansas

2022 AD





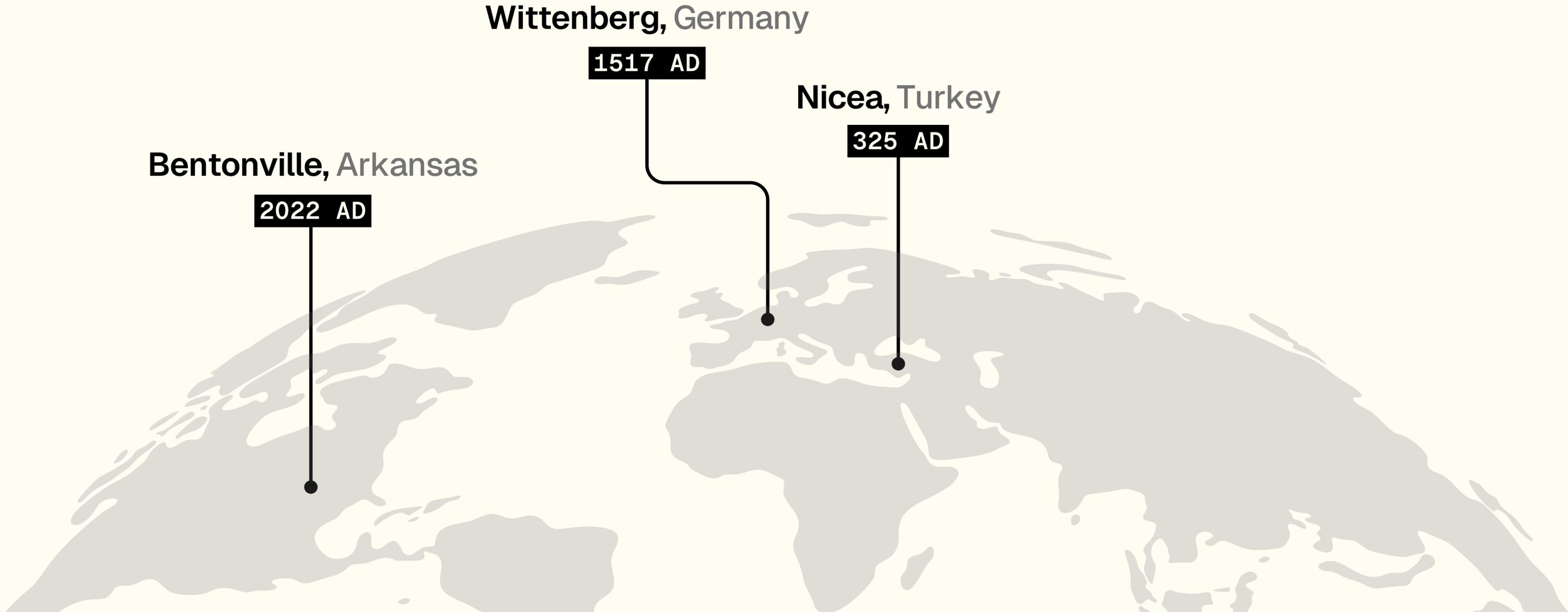
Wittenberg, Germany

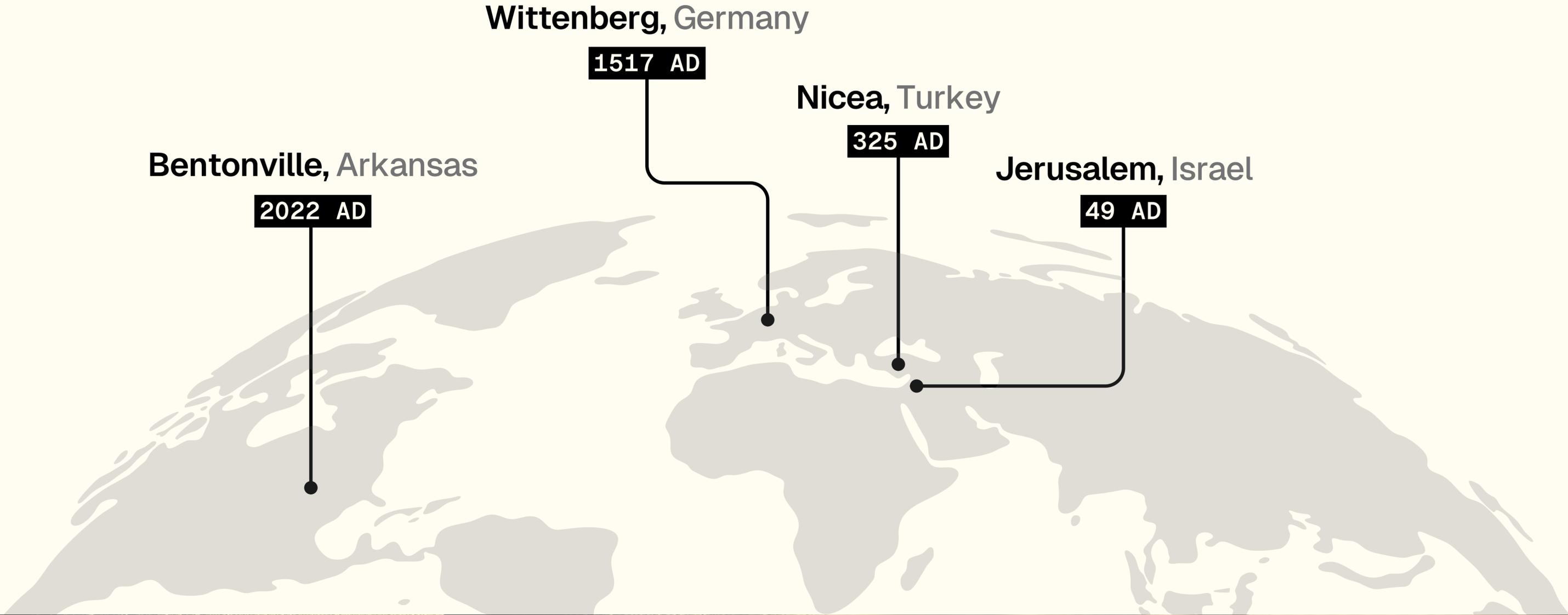
1517 AD

Bentonville, Arkansas

2022 AD



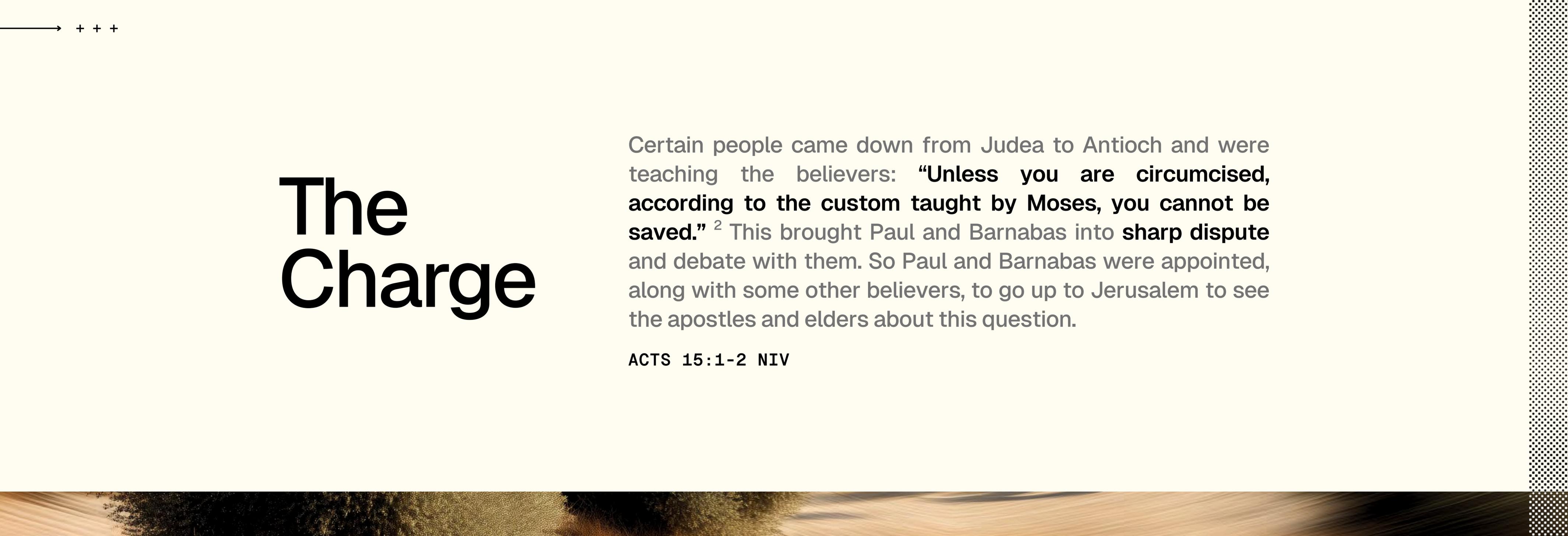




On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported **all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.** ²⁸ And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

ACTS 14:27-28 NIV





The Charge

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: **“Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”**² This brought Paul and Barnabas into **sharp dispute** and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

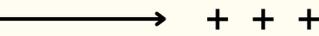
ACTS 15:1-2 NIV

The Debate

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.⁵ Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “**The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.**”⁶ The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

ACTS 15:4-6 NIV



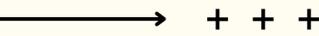


The Debate

After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago **God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.** ⁸ God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.”

ACTS 15:7-8 NIV





The Real Issue

“He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? ¹¹ No! **We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.**”

ACTS 15:9-11 NIV



- + **“Nothing. Couldn’t pay it off. Just stay orphaned.”**
- Fatalism

How would you
remove your debt?



How would you **remove** your debt?

- + “Nothing. Couldn’t pay it off. Just stay orphaned.”
- Fatalism
- + **“Try to work off debt.”**
- World Religions: Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism...



How would you **remove** your debt?

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- + **“Ask you to reduce debt to level I can pay.”**
- Humanism



How would you **remove** your debt?

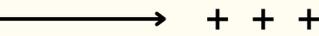
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- Humanism
- + “Borrow it from someone else so I can pay you.”
- Traditionalism
- + **“Ask you to pay debt for me.”**
- Christianity/Grace



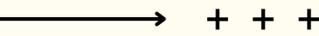


The Real Issue

“He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? ¹¹ No! **We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.**”

ACTS 15:9-11 NIV





The Gospel

+ “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)



The Gospel

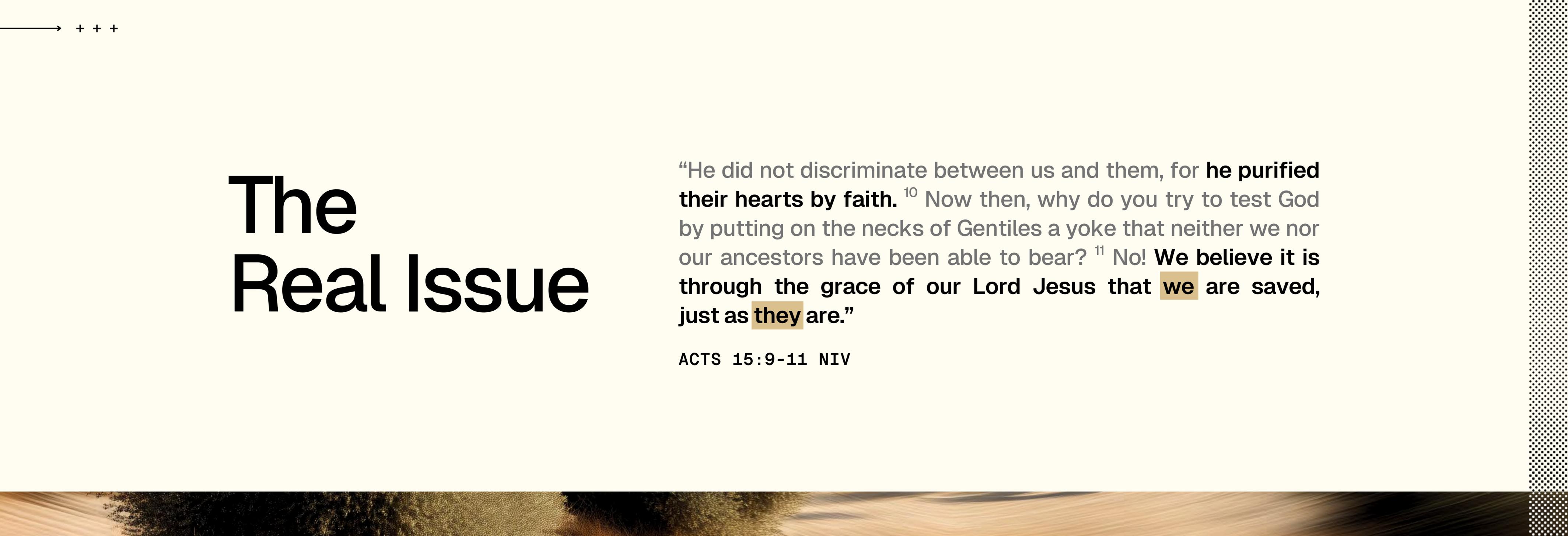
- + “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)
- + “For the wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus.” (Rom. 6:23)



The Gospel

- + “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)
- + “For the wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus.” (Rom. 6:23)
- + “It is by grace that you have been saved... through faith. It is the gift of God, not by your works.” (Eph. 2:8-9)





The Real Issue

“He did not discriminate between us and them, for **he purified their hearts by faith.** ¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? ¹¹ No! **We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that **we** are saved, just as **they** are.”**

ACTS 15:9-11 NIV

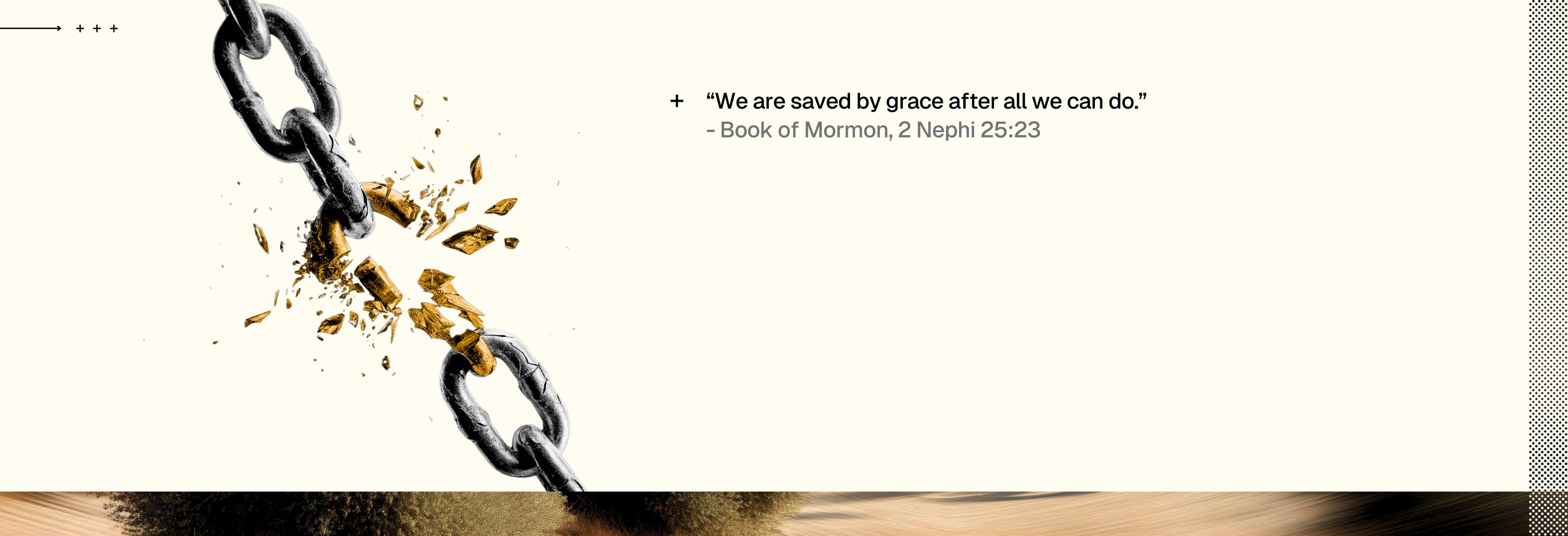
¹⁶ Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because **by the works of the law no one will be justified...**

²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for **if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!**”

GALATIANS 2:16, 21 NIV







+ “We are saved by grace after all we can do.”
- Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 25:23



- + **“We are saved by grace after all we can do.”**
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- + **“Krishna states that a person performing all duties while taking refuge in Him attains the eternal state by His grace.”**
- Bhagavad Gita:18.56, 66





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- + **“Krishna states that a person performing all duties while taking refuge in Him attains the eternal state by His grace.”**
- Bhagavad Gita:18.56, 66

- + **“God helps those who help themselves.”**
“I’m saved because I prayed the prayer, walked the aisle...”
“In the end, I hope my good outweighs my bad.”
- Cultural Christianity

JESUS + NOTHING =

EVERYTHING



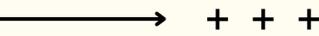


God knows people's hearts, and He accepts us by giving us the Holy Spirit, for He cleansed our hearts **through faith...**

We believe that we are all saved the same way, **by the undeserved grace** of the Lord Jesus.

ACTS 15:8-11 NIV



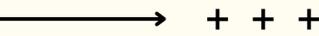


The Ruling

When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me.¹⁴ Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles.¹⁵ **The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:**¹⁶ ““After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,¹⁷ that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things’—¹⁸ things known from long ago.

ACTS 15:13-18 NIV





The Ruling

“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should **not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.**

ACTS 15:19 NIV

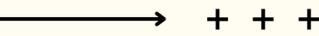


The Ruling

Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. ²¹ **For the law of Moses has been preached in every city** from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

ACTS 15:20-21 NIV



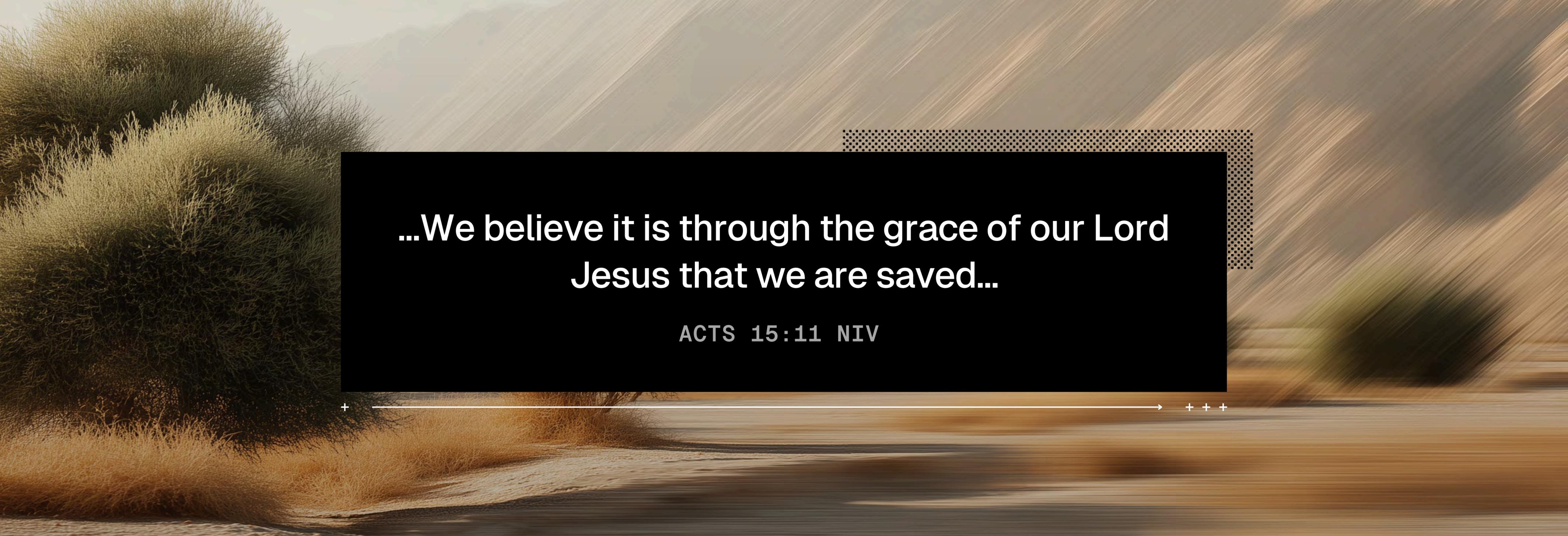


The Ruling

So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. ³¹ **The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.**

ACTS 15:30-31 NIV





**...We believe it is through the grace of our Lord
Jesus that we are saved...**

ACTS 15:11 NIV

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