

to scriptural teaching. Well, when so much stress is made upon it by some individuals, and many people have been led to give up pre-ellenism as a result of plainly regarding the passage it becomes necessary that we look at it and that we ask the question, Does this passage teach that. Does this passage show that the kingdom of the Old Testament is raised to a higher level ~~than~~ ⁱⁿ the ^{New} Testament and is a description of the church of God. Well, what is the passage talking about? You should ~~know~~ never try to interpret ~~it~~ a passage of Scripture without seeing does the context show us what the ~~text~~ theme is under consideration. There may be a sharp break and the context may prove nothing. But there is always the possibility that the context proves a good deal.. So lets look at the context. What is the question under consideration? here? Well the question is Should the Gentiles be circumcised ? Is it necessary? Verse #5 Certain of the Pharisees said it is necessary to circumcise these converts and ~~to~~ command them to keep the law of Moses and so they had a dispute. they had a great council there in Jerusalem. The leaders were there. Peter rose up and said: in verse 7, Men and brethren, ye know that a good while ago, God made choice among us that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the Gospel and believe and God who knows the hearts bears the witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us, and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore why tempt ye God to put the yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither of our fathers nor we were able to bear but we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we shall be saved even as they. Then all the multitude kept silent, and gave audience to Barⁿabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. And now we reach the conclusion of the debate and since it is the conclusion of the debate it is very important that we have in mind what the debate is about. Is the debate about the question shall Gentiles be allowed to become Christians? Is that the subject? Now that is usually assumed to be the subject. But it isn't ~~at~~ at all. The subject is: