

Circumcision

According to Paul

- Why it's important to know what Paul taught
- The role of circumcision for God's People
- Hebrew / Greek terms
- What Paul actually taught
- Historical Evidence

Why is this important?

^{NKJ} **2 Peter 3:15-16** ¹⁵ . . . consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation -- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

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NKJ Hebrews 13:8 ⁸ Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

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NKJ Deuteronomy 12:32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

NKJ Malachi 4:4 ⁴ "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, *With the statutes and judgments.*

Why is this important?

KJV Matthew 5:17-18 ¹⁷ " Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

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kataluo (Strong's 2647)
"dissolve, disunite
(what has been joined together)

Circumcision's Role

^{NKJ} **Romans 4:11** And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had while still* uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe . . .

Circumcision's Role

^{NKJ} **Genesis 17:10-14** "This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised (*muwl*); ¹¹ "and you shall be circumcised (*malal*) in the flesh of your foreskins (*orlah*), and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. ¹² "He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. ¹³ "He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ "And the uncircumcised (*arel*) male child, who is not circumcised (*muwl*) in the flesh of his foreskin (*orlah*), that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

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^{NKJ} **Genesis 18:3** . . . "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.

Understanding the Terms

- *malal* – מָלַל – Strong's 5243 – (verb) circumcise, wither, cut down
- *muwl* – מוּל – Strong's 4135 – (verb) to circumcise, cut,
- *orlah* – עֲרֻלָּה – Strong's 6190 – (noun) foreskin , uncircumcised
- *arel* – עֲרֵל – Strong's 6189 – (adjective) having foreskin, uncircumcised

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“arel” (עֲרֵל – 6188)

Understanding the Terms

^{NKJ} **Leviticus 19:23-24** ²³ ' When you come into the land, and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as uncircumcised. Three years it shall be as uncircumcised to you. *It shall not be eaten.* ²⁴ 'But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, a praise to the LORD.

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arel - עָרֵל - Strong's 6189
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Understanding the Terms

^{NKJ} **Exodus 12:48** "And when a stranger dwells with you *and wants* to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised (*muwl* – מוּל), and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised (*arel* - עֵרֵל) person shall eat it.

Understanding the Terms

^{NKJ} **1 Samuel 17:26** Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who *is* this uncircumcised (*arel* - foreskinned) Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

Understanding the Terms

^{NKJ} **Jeremiah 9:26** "Egypt, Judah, Edom, the people of Ammon, Moab, and all *who are* in the farthest corners, who dwell in the wilderness. For all *these nations are* uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel *are* uncircumcised (*arel* - foreskinned) in the heart."

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^{NKJ} **Ezekiel 44:9** 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "No foreigner, uncircumcised (foreskinned) in heart or uncircumcised (*arel* - foreskinned) in flesh, shall enter My sanctuary, including any foreigner who *is* among the children of Israel.

Understanding the Terms

- peritemno – Strong’s 4059 – (verb) circumcise, wither, cut down
 - Hebrew equivalent - “muwl” (מִוַּל) – Strong’s 4135 – (verb) circumcise
 - peritome - Strong’s 4061 – (noun) circumcision

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Used as a label to refer to the Jewish people as
“the circumcision”
13 out of 36 times used

Understanding the Terms

- **KJV Galatians 2:7** But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as *the gospel* of the circumcision was unto Peter;
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- ^{ESV} **Galatians 2:7** On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised
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 - Aperitmetos – Strong’s 564 (adjective) uncircumcised

^{NKJ} **Acts 7:51** " You stiff-necked and uncircumcised (*aperitmetos* – Strong’s 564) in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so *do you*.

Understanding the Terms

- akrobustia – Strong’s 203 – (noun) , extreme end or tip of the male organ, foreskin
 - Adjective form meaning - foreskinned
 - Hebrew equivalent –
 - “orlah” (עֲרֵלָה) – Strong’s 6190 – (noun) foreskin
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^{NKJ} **Ephesians 2:11** Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh -- who are called Uncircumcision (akrobustia) by what is called the Circumcision (peritome) made in the flesh by hands . . .

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TLK version of Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh -- who are called the "cast off foreskins" by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands . . .

Paul and Circumcision

^{NKJ} **Romans 2:25** For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision (peritome) has become uncircumcision (akrobustia).

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Paul and Circumcision

^{NKJ} **Romans 3:29-30** ²⁹ Or is *He* the God of the Jews only? *Is He* not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, ³⁰ since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised (peritome) by faith and the uncircumcised (akrobustia) through faith.

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Historical Evidence

^{1:1} Next after these come the Nazoraeans. . . .^{1:2} . . . these people did not give themselves the name of Christ or Jesus' own name, but that of 'Nazoraeans.' ^{1:3} But at that time all Christians alike were called Nazoraeans. They also came to be called 'Jessaean' for a short while, before the disciples began to be called Christians at Antioch. ^{5:4} . . . They were Jewish, were attached to the Law, and had circumcision. ^{7:4} They are perfectly versed in the Hebrew language, for the entire Law, the prophets, and the so-called Writings, I mean the poetic books, Kings, Chronicles, Esther, and all the rest - are read in Hebrew among them, as of course they are among the Jews. ^{7:5} They are different from Jews, and different from Christians, only in the following ways. They disagree with Jews because of their belief in Christ; but they are not in accord with Christians because they are still fettered by the Law—circumcision, the Sabbath, and the rest.

the Foreskinned

NKJ Hosea 9:16-17 ¹⁶ Ephraim is stricken, Their root is dried up; They shall bear no fruit. Yes, were they to bear children, I would kill the darlings of their womb." ¹⁷ My God will **cast them away**, Because they did not obey Him; And they shall be wanderers among the nations.

שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם

Shalom Leichem

Peace be Unto You