

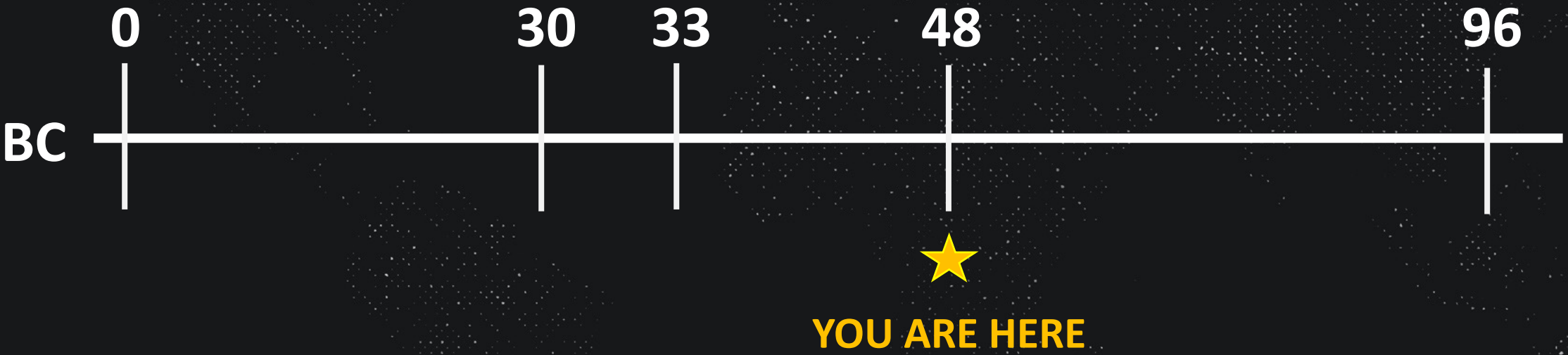
# ACTS

THE MOVEMENT BEGINS

GOD is doing something far bigger  
than we can see or imagine

And that changes everything

# ACTS 15



**ACTS**  
THE MOVEMENT BEGINS

## **The Question:**

**Do Gentiles need to follow the law  
and customs of Moses?**

The Gospel advances to Gentiles

Dispute arises, the church gathers

Emotional escalation

**BREAKTHROUGH**

Peace and unity is restored

Dispute settled, the church goes forth

The Gospel advances to the world



# Christian Pharisees

“Unless you are circumcised you cannot be saved.”

All devout men must honor this custom  
This is the covenant of Abraham & Moses  
As a sign of belonging in God's family  
God's chosen people will be saved

## **The Question:**

Do Gentiles need to follow the law  
and customs of Moses?

## **The Real Question:**

Who is salvation for?

What does it take to be saved?

# Peter

“The Holy Spirit made no distinction between the Gentiles and us, purifying their hearts by faith.”



# Paul & Barnabas

Declared the many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles

*(the story of Acts 13-14)*

# James

Acknowledged Peter  
Quoted Amos

“We should not trouble those among  
the Gentiles who are turning to God.”

# The Elders & Church

*“Became Silent”*

*“Listened”*

*“Were Pleased”*

# HOW TO HANDLE CONFLICT

- They came together to talk
- Each side had their chance to speak
- Each person became silent and listened
- The solution was found by seeking God
- Everyone accepted the resolution



**James**

Acknowledged Peter  
Quoted Amos

Recognized the breakthrough  
moment

“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, 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.”

**Amos 9:11-12**

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“I will give you as a light to the Gentiles,  
that you should be my salvation to the  
ends of the Earth.”

**Isaiah 49:6**

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“Arise, shine, for your light has come!  
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.  
Behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
deep darkness the people,  
but the Lord will arise over you,  
His glory will be seen upon you.  
Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings  
to the brightness of your rising”

**Isaiah 60:1-3**



## **The Question:**

Do Gentiles need to follow the law  
and customs of Moses?

## **The Real Question:**

Who is salvation for?

What does it take to be saved?

**The Answer**

Requires Refocus

**Don't focus on**  
What should someone else do

**Don't focus on**  
What I think is right

**FOCUS ON KNOWING GOD**

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than we can see or imagine

And that changes everything



# The Answer

God is keeping His promises  
Salvation does not come through works  
The Gentiles don't need to become Jews  
Salvation is not for one group of people  
God offers every one of us his love  
We are saved through faith

**THE BREAKTHROUGH IS  
KNOWING GOD**

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THE MOVEMENT BEGINS