

Is it necessary to circumcise the Gentiles when they become Christians? And now he goes on and says after they held their peace James answered and saying, Men ~~and~~ brethren hearken unto me. Simeon (which we all know is the same as Peter) hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets as it is written, "After this I will return and will build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen down and I will build again the ruins thereof and I will set it up that the residue of men might seek after the Lord and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called saith the Lord who doeth all these things known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world wherefore my sentence is that we trouble not them which from among the Gentiles are turned to God. This then seems to be the climax and conclusion of the debate. James makes this quotation from the Old Testament well. Look at the quotation.. After this I will return and build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen down that the residue of men may seek after the Lord. Well, the residue of men are coming. The Gentiles are coming. They are coming to accept the Lord. God is building again the tabernacle of David. What has this got to do with any future return of Christ? Well you say it starts with the word, "after this I will return and in response to this, the answer is given that the words "I will return" are often used in the Old Testament, to me I will do something again I will return and do it (6½) to me I will do it again. And so this is said to mean I will build again. The return being simply that idea is to be done again. After this I am going to do this. I am going again build up this tabernacle that has fallen. Well now isn't the tabernacle a beautiful figure for the church of Christ? What could be a better figure for a church? than the tabernacle? But stop a minute. This is Old English. Before you build anything on Old English you should take a few years studying Shakespeare and studying the various Elizabethan writings so that you know Old English words mean. What does the word tabernacles mean in Old English?