after the Lord and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called. Well suppose this is just a tent. CAn a tent stand for the church? The tent of David picture of the church? God is going to establish this wonderful church in order that the Jews ans Gentiles may come together. James is talking here they say not about some future coming of Christ, that is not what he is talking about, He is talking about the question, can we receive these Gentiles into our church and so he quotes who says that God, when he builds up this tent df David is going to have Gentiles and Jews both in it and therefore you can bring them in. Well, you'll find that siad often, but stop a minute. Are they discussing whether Gentiles can come in? No. They are discussing whether Gentiles need to be circumcised. when they are brought in. There is not a hint in the passage that there is any consideration of whether Gentiles could come into the church. That there is any consideration of whether Gentiles could come into the church. As a matter of fact Peter has said previously that God has brought Gentiles into the church and the Holy Ghost has brought/ clumb upon them and made no difference between us and them. Gentiles are already in the church and you look earlier in Acts and you find a big discussion on it and you find that they had agreed some years before this that it was right and proper that Gentiles should come into the church. There is no objection to the Gentiles coming into the church. That is not the question at all. The question is do they need to be circumsised. WEll what on earth does this passage then prove about whether they need to be circumsised or not. If this building hate the tent of David means simply building a church and Gentiles and Jews come into it what on earth has it got to do with circumxision? Well absolutlely nothing. Well it is true that in many/churches you can get up and quote any verse of scripture and if you give an argument and then say well here is a verse and some people will think that verse proves it whether it has anything to do with it or not. But I hardly think that is what James did in this apostolic council. (Laughter from audience) It would seem to me that we must look

Survey and

- 5 -

2