

Acts 10:1-48

- 1 Caesarea – most important city from Roman standpoint; headquarters of Roman government.
Rebuilt by Herod the Great, named for Caesar Augustus.
Cohort – between 600-1000 men
Cornelius – common Italian name
- 2 He was a God-fearer
- 3 3pm
- 4 Literally he was afraid
1. Ascended – OT Hebrew sacrifice literally means an “ascending”
2. Memorial – grain offering burned on the altar called a “memorial”
- 7, 8 Humility – true soldier fashion he immediately obeyed
Soldier may have been sent to protect servants
Late in the day but they still leave on 30-mile journey. At best, they could make 20-25 miles a day.
- *** The sinner was ready; now God had to get the preacher ready.
- 9 Exhausted men = had to travel all night.
Houses had a flat roof and a low wall around the edges, used to dry fruit, place to sleep in summertime and a place for privacy.
- 10 God used Peter when he is very hungry.
Trance – Greek – ecstasy – compound word combining “out” & “to put or place,” literally “a displacement, like turning a radio to get a clearer signal.”
- 12 Clean – Lev. 11, Deut. 14 – 4 footed animal; had to have split hooves and chew the cud
What a sight! Noah’s Ark dumped into the world’s largest bed sheet!
- 13 God is spoken in 3rd person (V.15), probably an angel speaking
Basically: “Peter, you’re hungry – take your pick!”
- 14 Peter never would just “rise and eat” – never eat unclean and the clean had been defiled by close association with unclean animals.
Animals had to be killed in a certain way to be considered kosher (“proper”)
So engrained in Peter that he reacts without thinking.
Peter was not the first to argue with God – Ananias did in Ch. 9 and Saul did in Ch. 22
- 16 God gave Cornelius instructions one time and he obeyed – it took Peter 3x!

Acts 10:1-48

- God didn't reveal all His wisdom at once – He revealed it “as needed”
- 17 Angel provided instructions to general vicinity
Great timing on God's part – cf. 11:11
- 18 Gentiles could not get past the gate until they were welcomed
- 22 “Purpose of the vision not so much to change his diet as his direction.” Roper
- 23 Hospitality a way of life – interesting – this is not Peter's house
Ch. 11 tells us 6 men go; possibly anticipated criticism so he brings credible witnesses
10 men make 30-mile North journey, 2 servants, 1 soldier, Peter, 6 men of Joppa
- 24 Influential inviter
- 25 OT: walking in a Gentile house was unclean
Conqueror bowing before the conquered.
- 26 No wrong impressions left
- 28 Foreign – Septuagint – uncircumcised Philistine [3:1, 31]
Audience probably all God fearers
- 29 Gainsay – Old English – “speak against”
- 30 4 days earlier – Jewish mindset: a part of the day equals the whole day: 1 – angel appears; 2 – Peter had vision; 3 – travelled; 4 – arrived in Caesarea; prayed and fasted
- 34 Opening his mouth – NT: weighty utterance about to be made
No favoritism – literally by one's face
- 36 Outlines the life and works of Jesus
- 37 Began with what they already know – messengers may have shared info on the journey
May have general knowledge: (1) 70 miles from Jerusalem; (2) Jesus travelled widely; (3) Philip had surely been preaching in Caesarea.
Peter's sermon mimics Mark's outline of the Gospel account.
- 38 Emphasis in sermon on what He did over what He taught – like Mark
- 39 “You have heard but we have seen! And they are true!”
- 41 Appears to people who already knew Him – easier to verify if He was truly Jesus
Spirits cannot eat or drink
- 44 Sermon interrupted by men crying out – cf. 2:37.

Acts 10:1-48

Sermons at Temple, cf. Ch. 3, interrupted by men trying to arrest him.

45 Peter probably also amazed.

6 men convinced

46 Spoke contemporary languages – what they spoke was understandable.

Probably rejoicing and praising God!

47 Not asking for a vote but as a rhetorical question

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit did not save Cornelius and his home just like it didn't save the Apostles in Ch. 2. If they were to be saved by a direct operation of God there would be no need to send Peter.

Saved by the Words spoken – see Ch. 11:14

Point: God was willing to accept Gentiles – Peter tells this 3x: 10:47-47; 11:17; 15:8-9.

48 Finished his words

May have delegated baptism duties to 6 men

Cornelius baptized for the same reason as the people in Acts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9 were baptized!

New Christians wanted them to stay a couple of days.

Gleaned from commentaries on Acts by David Roper, Wayne Jackson, Don Iverson.

© 2020 Justin D. Reed
P. O. Box 292 · Woodbury TN 37190
thejustinreedshow.com/bibleresources