

Acts 10 Journey into Joppa

- Gentiles not included in OT plan, they could become proselytes
- Dividing wall came down theoretically at Calvary, practically at Caesarea or in the mind of God in Luke 23 and in the mind of men in Acts 10.

1. Peter Sent for – v. 1-8

- 1: God approaches Gentile first; Caesarea HQ of Rom. Gov't; band: between 600-1000 soldiers, 1/10 of a legion (6000); recruited in Italy; Cornelius a common Latin name.
- 2: God-fearer: Gentile who believed in Jehovah, embraced Law, not circumcised to become proselyte; an all around "good guy"
- 3: 3pm, Jewish hour of prayer; not imagined
- 4: lit. afraid, like rising smoke of a sacrifice, God had seen Cornelius' actions
- 5,6: given specific instructions
- 7,8: some today would be offended they were told they needed to be saved! Soldiers offer protection; 30mi journey, avg person 20/25 mi/day; sinner was ready; God has to get the preacher ready.

2. Peter's Vision – v. 9-23A

- 9: noon next day, travelled all night to make it; houses had flat roof, low edge wall around
- 10: Peter very hungry, God uses to teach him; trance: ecstasy: heightening of Peter's senses
- 11: imagine the sight
- 12: represents every kind of animal on earth, mixing clean & unclean (Lv. 11) would make the clean unclean. Noah's ark in the world's largest bedsheet!
- 13: "I know you're hungry – eat!"
- 14: "I never have, and I never will!"
- 15: God speaks again
- 16: repeated 2x, 3x total; getting the preacher ready took 3x, sinner only 1x
- 17: God's remarkable timing
- 18: Gentiles had to stop at gate and be welcomed in
- 19,20: mystery deepened in Peter's mind
- 21: curious to know why all is happening
- 22: Gentile sent for him; purpose of vision to change his direction, not his diet

- 23A: hospitality a way of Jewish life, yet shocking Jew invited Gentiles in.

3. Cornelius' Conversion – 23B-48

- 23b: Ch. 11 reveals 6 people went back w/ Peter, probably anticipating criticism, 3 from Cornelius = 10 total
- 24: an influential inviter
- 25: Cornelius overwhelmed, worshipped
- 26: only God should be worshipped, Mt. 4:10, proof Peter not Pope, all bow to him *sadly*.
- 27: 3 days before, Peter thought it impossible to be where he is now!
- 28: benefit for the 6 & Gentile audience
- 29: gainsaying: to speak against
- 30: 4 days: Day 1: angel appeared to C; D2: Peter's vision; D3: day of travel; D4: arrival
- 31-33: preacher's dream: large crown came to hear God's commands
- 34,35: open his mouth: important statement to follow; respecter of persons: *face + to take or receive*, lit. "to take at face value," judging solely by face; Micah 6:8.
- 36: began by outlining life & works of Jesus
- 37: audience knew: 1. 70mi from Jerusalem; 2. Jesus travelled widely; 3. Philip preached in Caesarea; similar outline to Mark
- 38: anointed Him: "God made Him the Messiah," emp. on teaching than actions
- 39: "You've heard, we've seen!"
- 40: visible: He will be visible again to all upon His return
- 41: phantom/ghost can't eat or drink
- 42: wraps up sermon at Great Commission
- 43: Jesus is the fulfillment of OT scriptures
- 44: ready to tell audience what to do to be saved & he gets interrupted
- 45: all amazed: HS outpouring was to convince the preacher of the audience approval by God
- 46: tongues: same gift apostles had at Pentecost
- 47: Rhetorical question: not asking for permission, HS came on them; they had already believed > not saving them!
- 48: commanded them to be saved; probably the 6 that accompanied Peter did the baptizing. They wanted to learn more so Peter stayed a few days.

Lessons:

- Cornelius was by all definitions a good person – yet he was still lost when we meet him. One must do more than be a good person to be saved!
- God removed the barrier between clean and unclean. Yes, we can now eat all kinds of animals, but more importantly all can truly be one in Christ.
- The HS falling on Cornelius did not save him from his sins, and we cannot expect some direct operation from God to save us, either. He has already done His part, and we must do ours: we must be baptized!

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