

Gentiles

1. All mankind was under the general moral laws God gave Adam and Eve and all humanity.
 - a. Men were to worship the one true God. Idolatry has always been wrong - wrong from the beginning of mankind.
 - b. It was wrong to lie, to commit adultery, to murder, steal, curse God, dishonor parents, etc.
 - c. The Ten Commandments, with the exception of the Sabbath commandment, were binding on mankind.
 - d. All men remained under these laws until God gave the written Ten Commandments and all the laws based on them to the Jews at Mount Sinai. (Exod. 20; Deut. 5).
2. At Mount Sinai God gave the Jews a special law to follow (Deut. 5), but the Gentiles remained under the same law they had from the beginning.

DEU 5:2 "The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Horeb.

DEU 5:3 "The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, with all those of us alive here today.

- a. They did not have a written law, but they had law and could sin. **See Book of Jonah** and Matt. 12:41,42.
- b. They could observe from creation that there was a God.

ROM 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

ROM 1:19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

ROM 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

ROM 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

ROM 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

ROM 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

- c. The Gentiles were lost because they rejected God and the revelation God had given them.

ROM 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them.

ROM 1:25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

ROM 1:26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

ROM 1:27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

ROM 1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,
ROM 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,
ROM 1:30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,
ROM 1:31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;
ROM 1:32 and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

d. **Acts 17:30** is often misunderstood.

ACT 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent,
ACT 17:31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. "

- The word "overlooked" does not mean they were not accountable.
- It is best explained by Acts 14:16.

ACT 14:16 "And in the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways;

- God turned away from most Gentiles because most Gentiles chose to turn away from Him and practice every kind of abomination.
- There were some exceptions. Some were saved.
 - **Rahab** was an exception.

HEB 11:31 By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.

JAM 2:25 And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

- The **men of Nineveh** were exceptions.

MAT 12:41 "The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

JON 3:4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

JON 3:5 Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.

JON 3:6 When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat on the ashes.

JON 3:7 And he issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water.

JON 3:8 "But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands.

JON 3:9 "Who knows, God may turn and relent, and withdraw His burning anger so that we shall not perish?"

JON 3:10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

- The **centurion** at Capernaum had great faith.

MAT 8:5 And when He had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, entreating Him,

MAT 8:6 and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering great pain."

MAT 8:7 And He said to him, "I will come and heal him."

MAT 8:8 But the centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

MAT 8:9 "For I, too, am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."

MAT 8:10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled, and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.

MAT 8:11 "And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven;

MAT 8:12 but the sons of the kingdom [unbelieving Jews] shall be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "

MAT 8:13 And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; let it be done to you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that very hour.

Some Additional Observations

1. **Romans 2:14, 15** indicates the Gentiles were accountable when they violated the law of the heart, that is, the things they knew were right and wrong.

ROM 2:14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,

ROM 2:15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

2. Romans 3:10, 11, 23 reveals all (Jews and Gentiles) have sinned.

ROM 3:10 as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;

ROM 3:11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God;

ROM 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

3. Romans 6:23 affirms all stand condemned without Christ.

ROM 6:23 For the wages of sin is death [spiritual death], but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. **Romans 15:9-12** manifests that God planned to save Gentiles through the gospel.

ROM 15:9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, "Therefore I will give praise to Thee among the Gentiles, And I will sing to Thy name." 2 Sam. 22:50; Psa. 18:49

ROM 15:10 And again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people." Deut. 32:43

ROM 15:11 And again, "Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, And let all the peoples praise Him." Psa. 117:1

ROM 15:12 And again Isaiah says, "There shall come the root of Jesse, And He who arises to rule over the

Gentiles, In Him shall the Gentiles hope." Isa. 11:10

Conversion of Cornelius

Acts 10:1-8

Part 1

The church had begun in Jerusalem, but now was spreading everywhere. (Lk. 24:47; Matt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8).

- **See Gen. 22:18; Isa. 2:1-4.**

GEN 22:18 "And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

ISA 2:2 Now it will come about that In the last days, The mountain of the house of the Lord Will be established as **the chief of the mountains**, And will be raised above the hills; And **all the nations will stream to it**.

ISA 2:3 And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways, And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

ISA 2:4 And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

- **Jesus had made reference to the Gentiles in John 10:16.**

JOH 10:16 "And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd.

1. The gospel had been preached to the Jews. (Acts 2:41). See Acts chapters 3-6.
2. The part-Jew Samaritans were first taken into the church. (Acts 8:5-25). See Matt. 10:5; Jn. 4:28-30.
3. Then a eunuch from Ethiopia was converted. (Acts 8:26-40).
 - a. As a eunuch he could not mingle in the Jewish congregation or enter the Jewish court of the temple. (Deut. 23:1).

Deut. 23:1 "No one who is emasculated [castrated], or has his male organ cut off, shall enter the assembly of the Lord.

- b. It did not keep him from the court of the Gentiles. Men of all nations were at liberty to worship there.
 - c. This eunuch was probably a circumcised Jew who had attain an eminent position in Ethiopia.
 - d. Luke certainly gives no indication he was an un-circumcised Jew or Gentile.
4. Saul's conversion [about 35 A.D.] demonstrated that the cause of Christ had reached to Damascus. (Acts 9:1-31).
 5. The labors of Peter at Lydda and Joppa revealed that the gospel had spread over Judea. (Acts 9:32-43).

6. The participation of the Gentiles in the blessings of Christ was one of the mysteries of the gospel which had not been known in other ages. (Eph. 3:1ff).
7. Paul was commissioned to be the apostle to the Gentiles. (Acts 9:15; 26;16-18).
8. Paul's conversion was about 35 A.D..
9. Paul escape from Damascus was about 37 A.D.
10. Peter was the first to break the barrier between Jews and Gentiles.
11. The conversion of Cornelius occurred about 40 A.D.. It was likely before the reign of Herod Agrippa I, 41-44 A.D..
12. Once again Peter used "the keys of the kingdom." (Matt. 16:19).
 - a. He had used them at Pentecost when he opened the door of salvation to the Jewish world. (Acts 2:14-38).
 - b. He is now given the privilege of being the first to open the door of salvation to the Gentiles.

Cornelius Prepared By Vision

Acts 10:1-8

ACT 10:1 Now {there was} a certain man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort [or battalion, Regiment],

1. "Caesarea" was located on the coast of the Mediterranean sea.
 - a. It was a beautiful harbor city which had a population of Greeks, Romans and Jews.
 - b. It was about 47 miles from Jerusalem.
 - c. Philip stopped at Caesarea at the close of his preaching tour. (Acts 8:40).
 - d. It was situated on the coast of Palestine on the great road from Tyre to Egypt, and about halfway between Joppa and Dora.
 - e. Paul had visited there as he escaped to Tarsus. (Acts 9:30)
 - f. Herod the Great named this city after Caesar Augustus.
 - g. It was known originally as Strato's Tower and it was given to Herod the Great by Caesar Augustus in about 30 B.C..
2. A centurion was a leader (captain) of a unit of 100 soldiers.
3. Greek "ek speires" - of cohort.
4. His cohort was probably made up of native Italians (rather than provincial troops) and hence called "The Italian band."

- a. The Roman army was divided into legions, the number of soldiers in a legion varying at different times; but its full strength was to be 6,000.
- b. These legions were commanded by six tribuni ("commander," (Acts 12:31), who commanded by turns.
- c. The tenth part of a legion, containing six hundred men, was called a "cohort," Acts 10:1)
- d. The cohort was divided into three maniples, and the maniple into two {centuries,} originally containing one hundred men but later varying according to the strength of the legion.
- e. These centuries were under the command of centurions (Acts 10:1, 22; Matt. 8:5; 27:54).

Description of Cornelius

ACT 10:2 a devout man, and one who feared God with all his household [family], and gave many [much] alms to the {Jewish} people, and prayed to God continually.

- Cornelius was a common name in Rome.
- He was probably an Italian born and reared in a heathen land.
- This is also probable by the fact he was a centurion of a Italian Cohort.
- He had acquired his religion from contact with the Jewish people who he was helping to keep in subjection to Rome.

1. **"a devout man"** - a very religious man. See Acts 10:31

ACT 10:31 and he said,' Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.

2. **"one who feared God"** - This was a technical term which meant that he had been introduced to the Jewish religion and had become a halfway proselyte (later called "a proselyte at the gate.")

- a. It denotes one who revered the one, true God. See Prov. 1:7; Eccles. 12:13.
- b. Such Gentiles often obliged themselves to keep certain aspects of the law, without receiving circumcision.
- c. As a God-fearer he attended the Sabbath worship services in the local synagogue and observed the Sabbath day as a day of rest.
- d. He likely observed the Jewish dietary laws.
- e. He kept the Ten Commandments.
- f. Later we learn he kept the Jewish hour of prayer. (Acts 10:3).
- g. Since he was a God-fearer and not a Jewish convert, he was barred from presenting offerings to God in the Jerusalem temple.

3 **"gave many alms"** - He remembered the poor.

4. "prayed to God continually"

- a. His prayers were being heard.
- b. He was likely praying for salvation, for information about accepting the Messiah.
- c. Prayer alone will not save.
- d. It is revealed in Acts 10 and 11 that at that time he was not a saved man.

Cornelius

1. **Cornelius was an outstanding moral and religious man.**

- a. It would be hard to find a better man.
- b. Consider all of the marvelous things said about him. (Acts 10:2).

2. He was a man who was lost. (Acts 11:13-15).

ACT 11:13 "And he [Cornelius] reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa, and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;

ACT 11:14 and he [Peter] shall speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

ACT 11:15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He did upon us [apostles] at the beginning.

3. The self-righteous of our world who believe they can be saved without Christ and the gospel are so deceived and need to carefully study the life of Cornelius.

4. Here is an example of a soldier becoming a Christian.

- a. The Bible does not teach that this presented a problem.
- b. It does not indicate Cornelius ceased being a centurion after his conversion.
- c. This does not mean or imply Cornelius did not face problems or conflicts as he applied Christian principles to the military.
- d. The Bible does not reveal how his superiors and how Rome viewed his conversion.

Angel Addressed Cornelius By Name

ACT 10:3 About the ninth hour [three o'clock] of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had {just} come in to him, and said to him, "Cornelius!"

1. Cornelius was keeping the Jewish hour of prayer. **Acts 3:1**
2. "Angel" - Acts 5:19; 12:7-10.
3. Even the appearance of an angel did not mean this excellent man was saved.

Note: The vision of Cornelius did not occur in a dream or trance. He was awake and engaged in prayer.

Angel Replies To Cornelius

ACT 10:4 And fixing his gaze upon him and being much alarmed [terrified], he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and [generous] alms [gifts] have ascended as a memorial before God.

1. "Lord" - Gr. "kurios"

a. **Jesus** (Acts 9:5).

ACT 9:5 And he said, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

b. **Here angel** (Acts 10:3). Lit. "an angel of the God"

2. "memorial" - His prayers and good deeds caused him to be remembered by God.

3. God remembers him by making provision for his salvation.

4. It is falsely affirmed that God does not hear the prayers of sinners.

a. **John 9:31** means God would not be working through a sinner. It has no reference to prayers of sincere sinners seeking God. These are the words of uninspired man who had been blind. (Jn. 9:1, 2).

b. **Prov. 28:9** means God will not hear the prayers of those who refuse to listen to him, but does not refer to those turning toward God to learn of His word.

5. It is correctly affirmed that sinners are not saved by prayer only.

ACT 10:5 "And now dispatch {some} men to Joppa [30 miles south of Caesarea], and send for a man {named} Simon, who is also called Peter;

1. Simon (Gr. simona) was his Hebrew name.

2. Cephas (rock) was his Aramaic name. (Jn. 1:42).

3. Peter (rock) was his Greek name. (Jn. 1:42). Peter [Gr. petros] was the Greek equivalent of his Aramaic name Cephas.

Peter At Joppa

ACT 10:6 he is staying [lodging] with a certain tanner [of hides] {named} Simon, whose house is by the [Mediterranean] sea."

1. Acts 9:43.

a. They would be able to locate the tanner's home, which was situated outside of the confines of the city. He lived near the seashore. See Acts 9:43.

b. Here he had a plentiful supply of water for flaying and soaking the hides.

- c. Here he removed the hair and dirt from the hides.
 - d. This tanner would have been shunned by the Jews in the local Synagogue.
2. It appears he was accepted by the Jewish Christians in the local church in Joppa. Peter was residing with him.

Cornelius Summons Two Servants And Devout Soldier

ACT 10:7 And when the angel who was speaking to him had departed, he summoned two of his servants [slaves] and a devout soldier [God-fearing] of those who were in constant attendance upon him,

1. Cornelius summoned 2 of his servants (slaves). Gr. "oiketon" - household slaves.
2. He also summoned a devout, or Godfearing soldier and, briefing them on what happened, he sent them to Joppa.
 - a. This soldier had been influenced by the faith of Cornelius.
 - b. It is not certain if he had influenced other soldiers to accept God.
3. This most likely was for the protection of the two servants - robbers, slave traders, etc.
4. See Acts 8:26 - An angel had been a part in the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch.
5. The part of the angels in both conversions was to bring the preacher and the lost sinner face to face.
6. An angel had also directed Ananias to go to the still unforgiven Saul.

ACT 10:8 and after he [Cornelius] had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

1. He sent the three men on a journey through it was late afternoon.
2. He was eager for the coming of Peter. (Acts 10:22).
3. He had most likely heard about Peter and knew some about his work at nearby Joppa and other places.

Peter's Preparation For His Mission Acts 10:9-16

ACT 10:9 And on the next day, as they were on their way, and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour [noon] to pray.

1. These three men set out one day. (Acts 10:8).
2. They came to Caesarea the next day. (Acts 10:9).
3. They returned with Peter the third.

4. They reached Cornelius on the fourth. (Acts 10:30).

Note:

- Pious Jews prayed three times a day. (Psa. 55:17; Dan. 6:1).
- Noon was not one of the appointed times, but pious Jews may have selected this as a time for prayer.

ACT 10:10 And he [Peter] became hungry, and was desiring to eat; but while they [his hosts] were making preparations [preparations for the meal], he fell into a trance;

“Object Like A Great Sheet”

ACT 10:11 and he *beheld the sky opened up, and a certain object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground,

1. God prepared Peter for his mission of preaching to Gentiles by a vision.
2. At this point Peter does not know the Gentiles are to be accepted as disciples of Jesus without becoming Jews through circumcision.

ACT 10:12 and there were in it [the sheet] all {kinds of} four-footed animals [quadrupeds] and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air.

- It was full of all sorts of quadrupeds, reptiles and birds, clean and unclean.

First Heavenly Voice

ACT 10:13 And a voice came to him, "Arise, Peter, kill and eat!"

1. Peter's upbringing as a Jew and loyalty to the law caused him to shrink back.
2. His response. (Acts 10:14).
3. Peter had heard God speak before to Jesus. (Matt. 3:17; 17:5).

ACT 10:14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."

1. The law of Moses made all beasts clean which had cloven hooves and chewed their cud. (Lev. 11).
2. All others were ceremonially unclean and forbidden for food.
3. Even clean animals must be slaughtered with ritual propriety before their flesh could be eaten.

Second Heavenly Voice

ACT 10:15 And again a voice {came} to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no {longer} consider unholy."

Third Heavenly Voice

ACT 10:16 And this happened three times; and immediately the object was taken up into the sky [heaven].

1. This message is repeated 3 times.
2. The shock of being told to make a direct violation of the law must have been great to Peter.
3. **Later Peter was to connect this example of the unclean made clean with the instruction to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. (Acts 10:28).**
4. See Matthew 15:11; Rom. 14:14; See Acts 15:29, 30

The Coming Of The Messengers To Joppa

Acts 10:17-23

Messengers From Cornelius At Gate

ACT 10:17 Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate; Acts 10:7

ACT 10:18 and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there.

Peter Reflecting Upstairs

ACT 10:19 And while Peter was reflecting on the vision, the [Holy] Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you.

ACT 10:7 And when the angel who was speaking to him had departed, he summoned **two of his servants** and a **devout soldier** of those who were in constant attendance upon him,

ACT 10:20 "But arise, go downstairs [perhaps by an outside stairway], and accompany them without misgivings [any doubts]; for I [the Holy Spirit] have sent them Myself."

Peter Goes Down Stairs And Asks Why They Have Come

ACT 10:21 And Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?"

Messengers Tell Peter About Cornelius

ACT 10:22 And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was {divinely} directed by a holy angel to send for you {to come} to his house and hear a message from you."

Reception And Departure

ACT 10:23 And so he [Peter] invited them in and gave them lodging [for the night]. And on the next day he arose and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

- Six "brethren" - Acts 11:12.

Peter's Visit To Cornelius

Acts 10:24-33

ACT 10:24 And on the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.

1. Cornelius gave us a great example to emulate - "called together his relatives and close friends."
2. We should share gospel with our loved ones.

ACT 10:25 And when it came about that Peter entered [Cornelius' home], Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped {him.}

1. Cornelius worshiped Peter.
2. The Greek "proskuneo" means "to do reverence, to worship." (Matt. 4:10; John 4:21-24).

Peter Enters A Gentiles Home Peter Refuses To Be Worshiped

ACT 10:26 But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am {just} a man."

1. Peter refused to be worshiped. (Acts 10:25).
2. It is sinful to worship any idol or human. (Exod. 20:3,4; Deut. 5:7,8).
3. It is sinful to worship even angels. (Rev. 19:10; 22:8,9).

Many People Assembled

ACT 10:27 And as he [Peter] talked with him [Cornelius], he entered, and found many people assembled.

Peter Speaks To Those Assembled In Cornelius' Home

ACT 10:28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and {yet} God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.

1. Mixing with Gentiles was forbidden because it made the Jew ceremonially unclean.
2. Peter suspected that the instruction about food being no longer unclean bore an analogy to social intercourse.

ACT 10:29 "That is why I [Peter] came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. And so I ask for what reason you have sent for me."

Cornelius Relates His Story To Peter

ACT 10:30 And Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour [three o'clock in the afternoon]; and behold, a man [angel] stood before me in shining garments, Acts 10:3.

ACT 10:31 and he [the angel]*said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.

ACT 10:32 'Send therefore to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon {the} tanner by the [Mediterranean] sea.'

ACT 10:33 "And so I [Cornelius] sent to you immediately, and you [being a Jew] have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

1. They had not assembled to hear Peter's opinions.
2. They had assembled to hear all that Peter had "been commanded by the Lord."
3. No preacher of the gospel ever had a more promising audience than this one assembled in Cornelius' home.

Peter's Preaching Of The Gospel

Acts 10:34-43

Part 3

ACT 10:34 And opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand {now} that God is not one to show partiality,

1. God is no respecter of persons. (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).
2. John 3:16; Titus 2:11-14.
3. **Refutes**
 - a. Predestination & universalism
 - b. Salvation - race, nationality, education, wealth, ability, arbitrary preference.
 - c. Christ died even for the most lowly.

LUK 14:21 "And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.'

Note:

- All can be saved is the meaning.
- It does not mean all have the same wealth, abilities, opportunities, honors, etc.

ACT 10:35 but in every nation the man who fears [reverences] Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.

1. Peter for the first time saw the universality of the gospel.
2. This is the fulfillment of the promise to made to Abraham. (Gen. 12:3).
3. The Great Commission had included Gentiles. (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:19,20; Lk. 24:47).
4. Acts 2:39 points to the Gentiles receiving the gospel.
5. All are saved on the same basis, **“the man who fears [reverences] Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him”**

ACT 10:36 "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace [with God] through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)--

1. "He is Lord of all" - both Jews and Gentiles.
2. Romans 10:12; Matthew 28:18; Romans 1:16.

ACT 10:37 you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. Matthew 3:2-6.

“Jesus Of Nazareth”

ACT 10:38 "{You know of} Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him [Jesus] with the Holy Spirit and with power, and {how} He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.

1. "anointed Him" - Isa. 61:1; Lk. 4:18.

ISA 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives, And freedom to prisoners;

LUK 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are downtrodden,

2. **See John 3:34, 35** - Jesus had full measure of the Holy Spirit.
3. **"He went about doing good"** - This a description of His whole life.
4. This should be the way we live our lives.
5. We should abound **“in the work of the Lord.”** (1 Cor. 15:58; Tit. 2:14).

Apostles-Witnesses

ACT 10:39 "And we [the apostles] are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. And they [the Jews] also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.

1. They had witnessed His entire ministry.
2. He places the responsibility of Christ's death on the Jews - "they also put Him to death."
3. The Jews had earlier accepted this responsibility.

MAT 27:25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

ACT 10:40 "God raised Him up on the third day, and granted that He should become visible, 1 Cor. 15:3-8; John 2:19-21.

1. "Visible"
 - a. "caused him to be seen" - NIV
 - b. "and allowed him to appear" - NRSV
2. All three members of Godhead participation in resurrection of Christ.
 - a. God raised up Christ. (Acts 10:40).
 - b. The Holy Spirit raised up Jesus. (Rom. 8:11).
 - c. Christ raised Himself. (Jn. 2:19-21, 10:18).

ACT 10:41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, {that is,} to us, who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

LUK 24:41 And while they still could not believe it for joy and were marveling, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

LUK 24:42 And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish;

LUK 24:43 and He took it and ate it before them.

ACT 10:42 "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

1. 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:12
2. 2 Tim 4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

ACT 10:43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name [Person] everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

1. This is probably a summary or outline of the sermon preached.

2. One can hardly imagine that Peter finished his speech within the few minutes needed to read what is recorded of it. **See Acts 2:14-37.**
3. Salvation (remission of sins) comes to those who believe in Jesus.
 - a. This faith leads one to repent. (Acts 2:36- 38; 3:19).
 - b. It leads one to be baptized. (Acts 2:38; 10:48; 1 Pet. 3:21).

The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

Acts 10:44-48

Part 4

Response

ACT 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

1. Cornelius and his family were baptized with the Holy Spirit.
- 2 This is made clear by Peter's report. (Acts 11:15,16).

ACT 11:15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He did upon us at the beginning.

ACT 11:16 "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

3. There are different measures of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The Holy Spirit is promised to all who obey the Lord. (Acts 2:38; 5:32; Rom. 8:9).
 - b. A miraculous measure of the Holy Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles hand. (Acts 6:6; 8:14-17; 19:1-6).
 - c. This baptismal measure was given to apostles and Cornelius.
 - d. By implication the Bible teaches Paul received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1) He had same powers. (Acts 19:1-6).
 - 2) See 2 Corinthians 12:11.

2CO 12:11 I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody.

4. Why the baptism of the Holy Spirit here?

- a. It did not save them. (Acts 11:14).

ACT 11:14 and he shall speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

b. It proved the Gentiles were subjects of salvation.

ACT 10:45 And all the circumcised believers [Jewish Christians] who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also.

ACT 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

ACT 2:2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

ACT 2:3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

ACT 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

ACT 10:46 For they [six brothers] were hearing them speaking with tongues [languages] and exalting God. Then Peter answered,

ACT 11:12 "And the Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. And these six brethren also went with me, and we entered the man's house.

1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit gave them the power to speak in languages they had not studied.
2. There is no evidence it gave them any other power and no evidence they had all the powers of the apostles.

Cornelius, Friends, Relatives Baptized

Acts 10:44

ACT 10:47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we {did,} can he?"

1. Eunuch asked the same basic question. (Acts 8:36).
2. See John 3:1-5; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38.

ACT 10:48 And he [Peter] ordered [commanded] them to be baptized in [by] the name [authority] of Jesus Christ.

1. Baptism is essential. (Acts 2:38; 22:16).
2. Baptism is "in [by] the name [authority] of Jesus. **Acts 2:38.**
3. **The words "in the name of Jesus Christ" are an abbreviation of Matthew 28:19.** See Acts 2:38.

Peter Questioned About His Conduct At Caesarea

ACT 11:1 Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

ACT 11:2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, ACT 11:3 saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and [even] ate with them."

Peter Explains Conduct

ACT 11:4 But Peter began speaking and proceeded to explain to them in orderly sequence [all the events], saying,

ACT 11:5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, a certain object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me,

ACT 11:6 and when I had fixed my gaze upon it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air.

ACT 11:7 "And I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Arise, Peter; kill and eat.'

ACT 11:8 "But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

ACT 11:9 "But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.'

ACT 11:10 "And this happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky.

ACT 11:11 "And behold, at that moment three men appeared before the house in which we were staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea.

ACT 11:12 "And the Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. And these six brethren also went with me, and we entered the man's house.

ACT 11:13 "And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa, and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;

ACT 11:14 and he shall speak words to you by which you will be saved [from eternal death], you and all your household.'

ACT 11:15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He did upon us at the beginning.

ACT 11:16 "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

ACT 11:17 "If God therefore gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

ACT 11:18 And when they heard this, they quieted down [and made no further objections], and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."

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