

# The Book of Acts

## Chapter 10

Growth of the New Testament Church

# Quiz

2

- What direction was Damascus from Jerusalem?
  - Northeast
- On the road to Damascus, what did Jesus tell Saul that it was hard for him to do?
  - Kick against the pricks (goads)
- Who prayed that Saul would receive his sight again?
  - Ananias
- After regaining strength in Damascus, what did Saul do?
  - Preached that Christ **is** the Son of God.

# Quiz

3

- How did Saul escape being killed in Damascus?
  - Christians let him down over the wall in a basket at night
- Who introduced Saul to the fearful Jerusalem Christians?
  - Barnabas
- Where did Saul go to escape being killed in Jerusalem?
  - Believers took Saul to Caesarea and sent him to Tarsus
- Who was healed in Lydda? Who was raised from death in Joppa?
  - Aeneas
  - Dorcas or Tabitha

# Cornelius, v.1-2

4

- Cornelius lived in Caesarea
- He was a centurion (captain of 100 Roman soldiers)
- He led an Italian band
- He was a devout man
- He feared God as did all in his house
- He was a generous alms giver
- He prayed to God always



# Cornelius' Vision, v.3-8

5

- It was about the 9<sup>th</sup> hour (3:00 in the afternoon)
- An angel came to him and called his name.
- His prayers and alms were a memorial to God (i.e., reminder, record)
- He was to send to Joppa and call Simon Peter, v.5-6
  - Peter lodged with Simon a tanner
  - Peter would tell him what he ought to do
- Cornelius called two devout (God-fearing) servants and sent them to get Peter, v.7-8.

# Peter's Vision, v.9-13

6

- The next day, Peter went to the housetop at noon to pray.
- He became hungry and fell into a **trance**, v.10
  - This word means a throwing of the mind out of its normal state; bewilderment, amazement or ecstasy (a state of being carried away by overwhelming emotion).
  - He saw heaven opened and saw a great sheet tied on the four corners and filled with “unclean” creatures coming down, v.11-12.
    - See **Deuteronomy 14:6-19** for unclean creatures.
  - He heard a voice saying, Rise, Peter, kill and eat, v.13

# Peter's First Response, v.14-16

7

- Peter refused to obey because he had never eaten unclean foods, v.14
- Read what the voice said to him next, v.15
- Evidently, three times Peter heard the voice tell him to rise, kill and eat.
  - All three times he refused to do this.
  - Then the strange sheet returned to heaven.

# Peter Pondered the Vision, v.17-20

8

- While Peter doubted what he saw.
  - The word translated “**doubted**” means to be entirely at loss, to be in perplexity.
- Cornelius’ servants stood at the gate asking for Peter.
- While Peter pondered the vision, the Holy Spirit told him that three men were seeking him and that he was to go with them, doubting nothing, v.19-20
  - This word “**doubting**” means to discriminate, to separate one's self in a hostile spirit.
  - This Peter was not to do, thought they were Gentiles!



# Peter talked with the Servants, v.21-23

9

- Peter introduced himself, v.21
- The men told him of Cornelius, v.22
  - Note the description they give of him.
  - Was warned of God by an angel to send for Peter and listen to him.
- Peter called them in and lodged them (no doubt as Gentile visitors, not as fellow-Jews).
- The next day, Peter went with the men, but he took several Jewish Christians with him

# Peter Met Cornelius, v.24-33

10

- From Joppa to Caesarea is about 45 km
- Cornelius gathered people to hear Peter.
- Cornelius fell down and worshipped Peter.
  - Note Peter's response, v.26
  - The two men then talked, v.27
- Peter reviewed his Jewish hesitations and God's instructions, v.28-29
- Cornelius reviewed God's message to him, v.30-33



# Peter's First Sermon to Gentiles, v.34-43

11

- He perceived that God did not respect persons, v.34-35
  - **Perceive** means to detect. **Peter may still have had uncertainties!**
- Peter introduced Jesus, of whom they had heard, v.36-38
- Peter said he was a witness of the life, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus, v.39-40.
  - He had seen and shared meals with the resurrected Christ, v.41
  - Jesus had commanded Peter and others to testify of Him, v.42
  - Peter declared that all the prophets witnessed of Jesus, and that whosoever believes on Him shall receive forgiveness of sins, v.43

Peter began saying that God preached peace through Jesus Christ. He then described a bit of His earthly ministry. He said that Jesus was killed by crucifixion and raised to life three days later. He explained that Jesus showed Himself openly to some who were His witnesses. It is Jesus whom God planned to be the Judge of living and dead. It is Jesus to whom all the prophets witnessed [as Messiah]. It is through His name that whosoever believes in (i.e., into, towards) Him shall receive remission (i.e., forgiveness) of sins. That is the Gospel (1Co 15:1-4).

Those ignorant of the Bible will need more explanation.

## The Gospel

12

# Gentiles Trusted Christ, v.44-48

13

- While Peter spoke the Holy Spirit fell on them, v.44
  - This time the Spirit came on them without laying on of hands.
  - The new believers spoke with tongues (languages) to prove to the Jewish Christians that they had been saved, v.46
- The believing Jews were astonished (i.e., amazed), v.45
- The receiving of the Holy Spirit proved to the amazed Jewish believers that these Gentiles were saved, v.47
- Peter commanded (i.e., appointed) them to be baptised, v.48

# Applications for us today

14

- God was at work in Cornelius' heart. He simply needed to hear the clear Gospel.
  - The same may be true of people you meet. Your witness can lead to their salvation.
- God had to do a work in Peter's heart before He would witness to a Gentile.
  - We know that Gentiles can be saved, but God wants to do a work in my heart and yours to motivate us to witness for Him.
- What does it mean, Peter went to see Cornelius "doubting nothing"?
  - He was not to discriminate.
- What did Peter command Cornelius to do after he got saved?
  - To get baptised.
  - If you are positive you are saved, but you have not been baptised, you need to do so.
- What is the Gospel?
  - Death, burial & resurrection of Christ for our sins and forgiveness.