

The Book of Acts

Chapter 11

Growth of the New Testament Church

Quiz

2

- Cornelius lived in what city?
 - Caesarea
- Who told Cornelius to contact Peter?
 - An angel
- What caused Peter to believe God loved Gentiles as well as Jews?
 - God gave him a vision of unclean things and told him to kill and eat
- With whom was Peter lodging when Cornelius call for him?
 - Simon the tanner

Quiz

3

- Who went from Joppa to Caesarea with Peter?
 - Cornelius' servants and several Jewish Christian friends
- What is included in the Gospel message?
 - Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again (1Co 15:1-4)
- What happened as Peter preached to Cornelius?
 - The Holy Spirit came upon them as soon as they believed.
- What was Peter's first command to the new believers?
 - Be baptised

Jewish Christians Confront Peter, v.1-3

4

- News of Gentile conversions spread quickly, v.1
- When Peter returned to Jerusalem, the Jewish Christians contended with him.
 - To **contend** means to separate one's self in a hostile spirit, to oppose, or to strive with dispute.
 - Peter was branded as a “black sheep” for entering a Gentile’s house and eating with Gentiles.
 - Sharing a meal with a person was a sign of fellowship. Good Jews did not have such fellowship with unholy Gentiles.

Peter Related His Vision to Them, v.4-10

5

- God is emphasising the importance of this event by having Luke record it a second time in this book.
- At first, Peter thought God was speaking about food. But Peter came to understand the vision of the sheet and kosher and unkosher animals has to do with people, not food (Ac 10:28).
- God also showed Peter the vision three times for emphasis.
- Accepting Gentiles as equals in Christ was a **very** difficult concept for First Century Jews.

Peter Reviewed His Trip to Caesarea, v.11-12

6

- Peter mentions the three men sent from Cornelius, two servants and a devote soldier (Ac 10:7).
- Peter reported how the Holy Spirit bade (i.e., told) him to go.
- The Holy Spirit told Peter not to doubt.
 - **Doubt** is the same word translated “**contend**” in v.2.
 - He was not to separate himself from Cornelius in a hostile spirit.
- Peter had wisely taken **six** Jewish Christian men with him who were witnesses of all that took place.

Peter Review Cornelius' Vision, v.13-14

7

- Cornelius' angelic vision also added proof to Peter's defense.
 - This Gentile heard from a heavenly angel
 - The angel told him where to locate Peter
 - The angel told him Peter's **specific** name
- The angel told Cornelius that Peter would tell him words that would lead to his salvation.
 - The **angel** said that Cornelius and his household would be saved.
 - Saving Gentiles was not Peter's idea. It was God's idea!

Peter Reviewed His Sermon Results, v.15-18

8

- The Holy Spirit came upon the Gentile believers.
- Peter remembered John the Baptist's words regarding believers being baptised with (lit. in) the Holy Spirit.
 - Remember, the Holy Spirit does not do the baptising. He is the "water" in which Christians are baptised at salvation.
 - This does not replace water baptism which Peter commanded.
- Because God gave the Spirit to Gentiles, Peter accepted it.
- The Jewish Christians accepted Peter's testimony, v.18
- The door of salvation was now open to Gentiles! **Amen!**

Scattered Christians Preach, v.19-21

9

- God used persecution to spread the Gospel, v.19
 - It does not say they were trained preachers. They were witnessing Christians. That is what God expects from each of us.
- Grecians at Antioch heard the Gospel of Christ, v.20
- As these men preached the Gospel, note what happened.
 - The hand of the Lord was with them.
 - A great number believed
 - Believers turned unto the Lord.
 - The word “turned” means, to turn to the worship of the true God.



The New Testament World

in the Time of the Roman Empire

0 Miles 300



Jerusalem Church Sent Preachers, v.22-26

11

- The church sent Barnabas to Antioch to check and to exhort, v.22-23
- God tells us about Barnabas, v.24
 - He was a good man
 - He was full of the Holy Spirit
 - He was used of God in evangelism
- Barnabas went up to Tarsus to seek Saul, v.25
- He brought Saul back to Antioch to teach and preach, v.26
 - Believers are called **Christians** first at Antioch.

Famine Relief Sent to Jerusalem, v.27-30

12

- In those days, while Saul and Barnabas preached, prophets came to Antioch from Jerusalem, v.27
 - One prophet named Agabus predicted a famine in the known world.
 - The famine happened in the days of Claudius Caesar (41-54 AD).
- Antioch Christians gave to help Judean Christians, v.29
 - They gave according to their ability
 - They gave with determination to help fellow Christians
- They sent their collection with Barnabas and Saul, v.30
 - Sent to the elders of the church, not to a government agency.

Applications for us today

13

○ God had Peter repeat the story of his vision for emphasis.

- As you study the Bible, watch for topics which God repeats.
- God's repetition of a topic is to get our attention and let us know that it is important to God.
- We find many examples of this in the book of Proverbs. Every Christian should read some of Proverbs EVERY day.

○ Peter took 6 witnesses.

- Witnesses help with controversial issues.

○ God saving Gentiles was difficult for Jews to accept.

- When witnessing to a person steeped in a religion, be patient. Pray for him. Keep giving Bible evidence.

○ Barnabas was a godly example to us.

- He was a good, Spirit-filled, witness
- If you are a Christian, you can have a good testimony, be Spirit-filled, and be a witness for Christ. Put your **heart** into it.
- Why settle for anything less?