

Acts 10 - Handout

In the tenth chapter of Acts we see an official acceptance of the Gentile inclusion in salvation. Peter is taught by the Lord that what he has made clean is clean, thus the Gentiles would be made clean and the Peter and the other Jews had to accept it. Some have called this chapter the "Gentile Pentecost".

v.1-8 - Caesarea was the Roman administrative capitol of Judaea. Cornelius was a centurion (noncommissioned officer in charge of 100 men) over a century called the Italian Band. He had not converted to Judaism but he and his household believed in God (Jehovah) and prayed and gave alms to the Jews. Devout man and one that feared God. He saw a vision about 3pm of an angel telling him "Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God". God remembers our times of prayer and the good we do for others. The angel said send men to Joppa to bring Simon Peter to their house. He would be found in the house of Simon the tanner. Cornelius sends 2 servants and a soldier.

v.9-16 - The next day Peter was on the roof praying at noon (this was not the usually scheduled time of prayer, so Peter must have had of praying anytime) HE BECAME VERY HUNGRY AND WENT INTO A TRANCE. He saw a vision of a vessel like a great sheet coming down to earth with four footed beasts, creeping things and fowls, some clean and some unclean. Voice said RISE PETER; KILL, AND EAT. Peter said no I cant eat unclean things. Voice says WHAT GOD HATH CLEANSED, THAT CALL NOT THOU COMMON. This was said THREE TIMES (3 times emphasizes the importance of this)

v.16-22 - While Peter is trying to figure all this out the 3 men from Cornelius were before the gate asking about Peter. They stood outside the gate because they were gentiles and generally were not invited into a Jew's home. God spoke to Peter and told him to receive the men and go with them for I have sent them. The men told Peter that Cornelius was warned by an angel to send for Peter to hear words from him.

v.23-27 - Peter invites men in (uncharacteristic) and the next day goes with them, obeying the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost at times will instruct you to do things you never thought you would do. Just obey. The next day they travel to Caesarea and meets Cornelius who falls down at his feet and worships him. Peter says STAND UP; I MYSELF ALSO AM A MAN. Good lesson for us. Don't put people on pedestals; only worship God. Cornelius relates what angel told him. Cornelius has gathered his whole household and other relatives to hear (many).

v.28-43 - After an introduction in which he says normally it is unlawful for a Jew to keep company with a gentile, but God told him he should not call ANY MAN COMMON OR UNCLEAR. That is why he came. He then goes on to preach the gospel.

v.44-48 - The Gentile Pentecost - While Peter was preaching the Holy Ghost fell on them that heard. They spoke in tongues just like on Pentecost. Salvation is for the gentiles as well, officially.