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**The Acts of the Apostles I**  
***The Salvation of Cornelius***  
**Acts 10:1-48**

I. THE VISION IN CAESAREA (Acts 10:1-8)

A. The Seeking Sinner (Acts 10:1-2; 2 Kings 5:1)

- i. An officer in the army (Acts 10:1; Luke 7:1-10) – Centurion: captain over 100 men.
- ii. A devout man (Acts 10:2)
- iii. A God-fearing man (Acts 10:2)
- iv. A leader of his household (Acts 10:2, 24)
- v. A giver of alms (Acts 10:2)
- vi. A man of prayer (Acts 10:2)
- vii. But a lost man (Acts 11:12-14)

B. The Revealing God (Acts 10:3-6)

- i. The appearance of the angel (Acts 10:3-4; Jeremiah 29:13; see Romans 1:19-20; Acts 14:17; Matthew 5:45)

**Jeremiah 29:13** And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

- ii. At about the ninth hour (if this is according to Jewish standards it would be about 3 o'clock) (3pm – vision)
- iii. The instructions of the Lord (Acts 10:5-6; Acts 9:43) – Send men to Joppa (Joppa [modern day Tel-Aviv] approx. 30 miles south of Caesarea).

C. The Obedient Seeker (Acts 10:7-8)

- i. The messengers chosen (Acts 10:7)
- ii. The messengers sent (Acts 10:8)

II. THE VISION IN JOPPA (Acts 10:9-22)

A. The Vision on the Housetop (Acts 10:9-16)

- i. The circumstances on the vision (Acts 10:9-10)
  1. On the housetop (Acts 10:9)
  2. About the sixth hour (noon – Jewish standards) (Acts 10:9)
  3. At lunchtime (Acts 10:10)

ii. The content of the vision (Acts 10:11-16)

1. A certain vessel (Acts 10:11) – “as it had been a great sheet”
2. The unclean animals (Acts 10:12; Leviticus 11:4-8, 9-11, 13)

**Leviticus 11:4** Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: *as* the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. **5** And the coney, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. **6** And the hare, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. **7** And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he *is* unclean to you. **8** Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they *are* unclean to you.

**Leviticus 11:9** These shall ye eat of all that *are* in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat. **10** And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which *is* in the waters, they *shall be* an abomination unto you: **11** They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcasses in abomination.

**Leviticus 11:13** And these *are they which* ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they *are* an abomination: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray,

3. The unusual command (Acts 10:13-15; see Acts 8:26; Acts 9:11)
4. The vessel returned (Acts 10:16, 28)
5. Brought down to Peter three times (Acts 10:16)
  - a. The significance of the number three in scripture
    - ii) A complete witness (Deuteronomy 19:15; 1 Timothy 5:19; 2 Corinthians 13:1)
    - iii) 3 times “*it is written*” spoken by Christ to Satan (Matthew 4:1-11)
    - iv) 3 times the Father (God) speaks from heaven in the gospels (Mark 1:11; Matthew 17:5; John 12:28)
    - v) 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12:40)
    - vi) The 9<sup>th</sup> hour (3x3=9) (Acts 10:3)
    - vii) Three men (Acts 10:7, 19) (Two servants and a soldier)
    - viii) Three times the action is committed (lowering of the vessel) (Acts 10:16)

ix) Three persons of the Godhead (Acts 10:38; 1 John 5:7)

x) Christ risen the third day (Acts 10:39-40)

B. The Servants of Cornelius (Acts 10:17-22)

i. Their arrival in Joppa (Acts 10:17-18)

ii. Peter's revelation concerning them (Acts 10:19-20)

iii. Peter's reception of them (Acts 10:21-22)

III. THE MEETING BETWEEN PETER AND CORNELIUS (Acts 10:23-33)

A. The Arrangements of the Meeting (Acts 10:23-27)

i. The trip to Caesarea (Acts 10:23-24)

ii. The worship of Cornelius (Acts 10:25)

iii. The refusal of Peter to receive worship (Acts 10:26-27; Revelation 22:8-9; John 9:38)

**Revelation 22:8** And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. **9** Then saith he unto me, See *thou do it* not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

B. The Circumstances of the Meeting (Acts 10:28-33)

i. God's message to Peter (Acts 10:28-29, 15; Colossians 3:11)

ii. God's message to Cornelius (Acts 10:30-32)

iii. The presence of both parties (Acts 10:33, 24)

IV. PETER'S MESSAGE TO THE GENTILES (Acts 10:34-43)

A. The Character of God (Acts 10:34-35)

i. Respecting no person (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11)

ii. Accepting all righteous (Acts 10:35)

iii. Accepting the Gentiles (Romans 10:19-21)

iv. Jew and Gentile made one (Acts 10:35b; Ephesians 2:11-18)

1. Being preached by Peter (Acts 15:7)

2. Requirements contested by the Pharisees (Acts 15:1-6)

3. Made clear by Peter, the other apostles and elders (Acts 15:7-25)

- B. The message of Christ (Acts 10:36-41) – (Compare the preaching of Peter to that of Paul’s declaration in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8)
    - i. His earthly ministry (Acts 10:36-38)
      - 1. Preaching peace (Acts 10:36)
      - 2. Baptized by John (Acts 10:37; Luke 3:21-23)
      - 3. Anointed by the Spirit (Acts 10:38; Luke 4:17-21; John 3:34)
    - ii. His crucifixion (Acts 10:39)
    - iii. His resurrection (Acts 10:40-41; John 21:12-14)
  - C. The Responsibility of the People (Acts 10:42-43)
    - i. To be judged (Acts 10:42; Acts 17:31)
    - ii. To believe (Acts 10:43; John 3:16-18)
- V. THE SALVATION OF THE GENTILES (Acts 10:44-48)
- A. The Gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 10:44-46)
    - i. The coming of the Spirit (Acts 10:44; Acts 11:15)
    - ii. The surprise of the Jews (Acts 10:45)
    - iii. The speaking in tongues (Acts 10:46; Acts 2:4)
  - B. The Baptism with Water (Acts 10:47-48)
    - i. No hindrance to baptism (Acts 10:47)
    - ii. Baptized in the name of the Lord (Acts 10:48; Matthew 28:19)
      - 1. The Father (Joshua 5:14; Joshua 6:2; Psalm 110:1; Luke 2:26)
      - 2. The Son (Acts 10:36; Luke 2:11; Acts 11:17)
      - 3. The Holy Ghost (Isaiah 61:1; 2 Corinthians 3:17)