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By Dan Maines

Acts 10

Acts 10:1-2

Now there was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and made many charitable contributions to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually.

† Cornelius was a Roman centurion, yet described as a God-fearer, a Gentile who worshiped Israel's God without fully becoming a proselyte. His prayers and almsgiving reflected

genuine faith.

† Josephus (Antiquities 14.10.13) confirms the presence of Roman cohorts in Caesarea, showing historical accuracy.

Acts 10:3-6

About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!" And he looked at him intently and became terrified, and said, "What is it, lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and charitable gifts have ascended as a memorial offering before God. Now dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter; he is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea."

† God accepted Cornelius' prayers and almsgiving as memorial offerings. The gospel was about to cross the barrier to Gentiles.

Acts 10:7-8

When the angel who spoke to him left, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier from his personal attendants, and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

† Cornelius' immediate obedience showed his readiness for God's word.

Acts 10:9-10

On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. But he became hungry and wanted to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance.

† God orchestrated events so Peter would receive a vision just as Cornelius' men arrived.

Acts 10:11-13

And he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet

coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, and on it were all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the sky. A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!"

† The vision of unclean animals symbolized God's acceptance of Gentiles. What was once unclean would now be cleansed in Christ.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (CD 12.11-15) highlight Jewish concern for clean and unclean foods, showing the radical nature of this vision.

Acts 10:14-16

But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." Again a voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy." This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

† Peter resisted, but God insisted. The threefold repetition emphasized certainty. The barrier between Jew and Gentile was being removed.

Acts 10:17-20

Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might mean, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius had discovered Simon's house and appeared at the gate; and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. And while Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself."

† The Spirit confirmed the meaning: God Himself sent Gentiles to Peter.

Acts 10:21-23

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?" 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." So he invited them in and gave them lodging.

† Peter showed hospitality to Gentiles, already breaking Jewish custom.

Acts 10:24-26

On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter helped him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am just a man."

† Cornelius' reverence turned into misdirected worship, which Peter quickly corrected. Only God is to be worshiped.

Acts 10:27-29

As he talked with him, he entered and found many people assembled. And he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is forbidden for a Jewish man to associate with or visit a foreigner; and yet God has shown me that I am not to call any person unholy or unclean. That is why I came without raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask, for what reason did you send for me?"

† Peter recognized the vision's meaning: Gentiles were no longer to be considered unclean. The wall of separation was being broken down.

Acts 10:30-33

Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my

house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining clothing, and he said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your charitable gifts have been remembered before God. Therefore send some men 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 sea.' So I sent men to you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear everything that you have been commanded by the Lord."

† Cornelius repeated his vision, showing his eagerness for God's word. His household was prepared to receive the gospel.

Acts 10:34-35

Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him."

† Peter declared the universality of the gospel. God accepts people from every nation through faith, not ritual or lineage.

Acts 10:36-38

"The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)-you yourselves know the thing that happened throughout Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him 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."

† Peter summarizes Jesus' ministry as widely known. His works proved He was God's anointed.

Acts 10:39-41

"We are witnesses of all the things that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to

death by hanging Him on a cross. God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He be revealed, not to all the people, but to witnesses who had been chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead."

† The apostles' witness centered on Christ's death and resurrection. They testified as firsthand witnesses of the risen Lord.

† Tacitus (Annals 15.44) confirms Christ's execution under Pilate.

Acts 10:42-43

"And He ordered us to preach to the people, and to testify solemnly that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify of Him, that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

† Christ reigns as Judge of all. The prophets pointed to Him as the source of forgiveness.

Acts 10:44-46

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had also been poured out on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.

† The Spirit's outpouring on Gentiles mirrored Pentecost, proving full inclusion of the nations.

Acts 10:47-48

Then Peter responded, "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" And he ordered them to be baptized in the

name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay for a few days.

† The Gentiles' baptism sealed their covenant entrance. There was no distinction between Jew and Gentile in Christ.

How it applies to us today

† God shows no partiality. All nations and peoples are accepted in Christ through faith.

† The Spirit breaks down cultural and ritual barriers, uniting all in one body.

† Our mission remains to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord of all, Judge of the living and the dead, and the source of forgiveness.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 14.10.13 – Roman cohorts in Caesarea

† Dead Sea Scrolls, CD 12.11-15 – Purity laws and food restrictions

† Isaiah 56 – Promise of inclusion of foreigners

† Tacitus, Annals 15.44 – Christ's execution under Pilate

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