

GOD PREPARES TWO MEN FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE GOSPEL

(Acts 10:1-22)

- I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (1-2)**
- II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (3-7)**
- III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND SYRIA (8-12)**

* The significance of this event _____ be underestimated. The sheer _____ of narrative that Luke attributes to the entrance of the _____ into the Universal Church (Acts 10, 11, 15:7-9) underscores the paramount importance of Cornelius' conversion in the eyes of the Lord.

A. God Prepares the Gentile Cornelius (10:1-8)

1. Cornelius was a centurion, a Roman _____ in charge of _____ soldiers in the Italian Regiment, consisting of 600 soldiers, he was stationed in Caesarea. (v. 1)

2. For Luke, what was more important than Cornelius's military status was that he was a devout man who feared God; but while he was _____, he was not _____, he needed to be born again. (v. 2)

3. At 3:00 pm while praying, an angel appeared to Cornelius and addressed him _____ by _____. (v. 3)

4. Understandably this man was afraid; but after inquiring about the occasion of the visit the angel said that his _____ to _____ and his _____ towards _____, "*have come up for a memorial before God.*" (v. 4)

5. This Roman was given _____ instructions to send for the Apostle Peter in Joppa, and once the angel departed, Cornelius immediately _____ and sent men at once. (vv. 5-8)

B. God Prepares the Apostle Peter (10:9-22)

1. Even as Cornelius's messengers were on their way to get Peter, at lunchtime the apostle was having a _____ of his own. (vv. 9-10)
2. In order to prepare Peter, God gave him some preliminary _____ to change his perspective on "_____ and _____ foods," which was a major problem between the Jews and the Gentiles in that day. (vv. 11-12)
3. The Lord commanded Peter _____ to eat any (or all) of the animals, because there was _____ any distinction with kosher animals. (vv. 13-15)
4. More importantly, this vision was to teach Peter that there was also no distinction between _____ and _____; and he was now _____ to go into the home of a Gentile and eat the food set before him. (vv. 16-17a)
5. While the three men from Cornelius arrived, the Lord told Peter on the roof, that he was to go with them, doubting _____ because they had been _____. (vv. 17b-20)
6. God's timing is always perfect, Peter was now given the opportunity to _____ the vision from the rooftop; these visitors told him that Cornelius was a _____. (vv. 21-22)

* Salvation is certainly a divine work of grace, but does God work through human channels?

* Does He want to use you?