

THE REACTION OF THE JEWS: PETER EXPLAINS HIS ACTIONS

(Acts 11:1-18)

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)

A. CHARGES ARE BROUGHT AGAINST PETER BY THE JEWS IN JUDEA (11:1-3)

1. Saved orthodox Jews had _____ of the Gentiles _____ the Word of God. (v. 1)
2. These Jews "*contended*" (Gk. *diakrino*) Peter's _____ in Caesarea while he was with the uncircumcised _____. (v. 2)
3. The same _____ issue that had bothered Peter (10:28), bothered these Jews; they criticized the apostle for having _____ with the Gentiles, and especially for _____ with them. (v. 3)

B. PETER PRESENTED THREE PIECES OF EVIDENCE IN HIS PERSONAL DEFENSE (11:4-17)

1. The evidence of the vision from God. (vv. 4-11)

- a. Up to this point in the story, _____ but Peter was aware of this vision; so, he retold the events just as they happened under the _____ of the Holy Spirit. (vv. 4-6)
- b. In particular, Peter emphasized God's _____ and the repetition of God's _____ despite his protests. (vv. 7-9)
- c. Not by coincidence, this vision happened _____ times, and at that moment _____ Gentiles stood at his door. (vv. 10-11)

2. The witness of the Spirit of God. (vv. 12-15, 17)

- a. Peter explained that even before he went down to greet the visitors, the Holy Spirit had _____ him “to go with them, _____.” (v. 12a)

- b. Peter’s three visitors retold Cornelius’ vision of the angel, which was _____ that he should travel with these Gentiles to the home of Cornelius. (vv. 12b-14)

- c. With six Jewish brethren traveling with him (v. 12b), at Cornelius’ house all of them were _____ that as Peter was preaching, “the _____ fell upon them, as upon _____ at the beginning.” (v. 15)

3. The testimony of the Word of God (vv. 16-17)

- a. Apparently while Cornelius and his household were being Spirit-baptized, Peter _____ what _____ had told him 8 or 9 years earlier in Acts 1:4-5. (v. 16)

- b. Peter’s defense did _____ rest on what he did, but on what _____ did; from beginning to end, the conversion of the Gentiles was entirely the _____ gracious work. (v. 17)

C. THE FINAL VERDICT (11:18)

1. Thankfully, these saved Jews _____ in the salvation of the Gentiles, and the _____ of the Church was preserved.

2. The acceptance of the Gentiles by the _____ Jews would not be well received by the _____ Jews; consequently, they would become the fiercest persecutors of the Church.

* What can you learn from this passage?