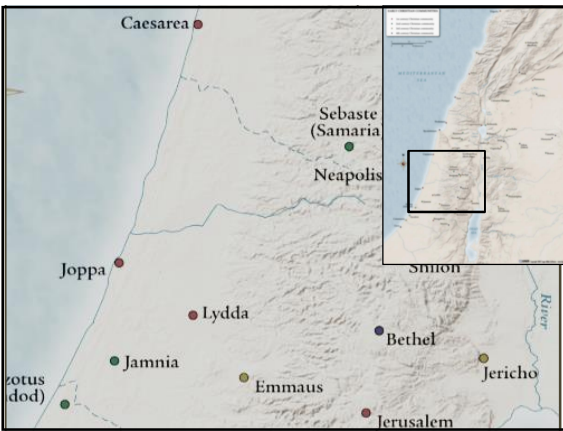

Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

Two Important Visions

Acts 10:1-16
by Bob DeWaay
April 16, 2017



Cornelius Is Described Favorably

Acts 10:1-2 (NASB)
Now there was a man at 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 gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually.

- “Devout” is *eusebe_s* which means “pious” in a good sense. He is also “God-fearing”
- A centurion in Luke 7:1-10 is described favorably
- See Luke 2:25-32 (predicts Gentile mission)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 3

An Angel Speaks to Cornelius

Acts 10:3-4 (NASB)

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 fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God."

- Cornelius will be a key person in this narrative
- "alarmed" is "in fear" *emphobos*
- His prayers and righteous deeds cause a "remembrance"

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 4

God Is Going to Use Peter

Acts 10:5-6 (NASB)

"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 intervenes supernaturally to fulfill His purpose revealed earlier (Luke 2:32; 24:47; Acts 1:8; 2:39)
- Peter still needs further prompting to understand that God will save unclean Gentiles
- See Isaiah 49:6

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 5

Cornelius Obeys

Acts 10:7-8 (NASB)

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

- This is the beginning of resolving a key problem: for the Jerusalem church to receive redeemed Gentiles into fellowship
- Many supernatural events will achieve this purpose

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 6

God Will Prepare Peter for Visitors

Acts 10:9-10 (NASB)

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 was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance;

- Noon was not a normal time of prayer
- “Trance” is *ekstasis*

Peter’s Vision

Acts 10:11-13 (NASB)

and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. A voice came to him, “Get up, Peter, kill and eat!”

- This would be clean and unclean creatures
- Peter is given two imperatives and the first could be translated “slaughter” (as for sacrifice)

God Tells Peter to “Stop”

Acts 10:14-16 (NASB)

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.

- There will be a lesser to greater application: if God can cleanse all food, how much more people!
- There is a negated imperative: lit. “stop making unclean”
