



Peter Reports to Jerusalem

Acts 11:1-18

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Gentiles Welcome God's Word

Acts 11:1 (HCSB)

The apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles had welcomed God's message also.

- "Welcomed" is *dechomai* which is also used about Samaria in Acts 8:14
- *dechomai* is also used of the Bereans in Acts 17:11
- The following repetition shows how important this is in the overall message of Luke/Acts

Christian Jews in Jerusalem Object

Acts 11:2, 3 (LEB)

So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision took issue with him, saying, "You went to men who were uncircumcised and ate with them!"

- "Took issue" is *diakrino* which is the same word only in participle form was used by the Spirit telling Peter what NOT to do. (same term is in Acts 15:9)
- They did not mention that they had been baptized (Acts 10:48)
- Jesus ate with sinners (Lk 5:30; Lk 15:2; Lk 19:7)

Peter's "Orderly Sequence"

Acts 11:4 (LEB)

But Peter began and explained it to them in an orderly sequence, saying,

- The term translated "orderly sequence" is only found in Luke/Acts
- This does not mean "in the exact same order" because here Peter tells this from his perspective
- Peter's speech is designed to persuade his audience

Peter Mentions “Wild Beasts”

Acts 11:5,6 (NASB)

“I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me, and when I had fixed my gaze on it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air.”

- “Wild Beasts” is used in Acts 28:4, 5 (*the_rion*)
- This is used of antichrist in Revelation

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‘Kill’ Implies for Sacrifice

Acts 11:7, 8 (NASB)

I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I said, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

- “Kill” is *thuo_* which means ‘slaughter for sacrifice’
- This would be shocking!
- “Common” is *koinos* and means ordinary or profane
- “Unclean” is *akathartos* which means impure and ceremonially unclean

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What God Cleanses is Clean

Acts 11:9-10 (NASB)

But a voice from heaven answered a second time, ‘What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.’ This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky.

- This testimony is key to understanding what it means to be acceptable to God and His people
- This cleansing is not through OT ritual
- “Cleansed” *katharizo_* and “unholy” is *koinos*

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Peter’s Account of His Trip

Acts 11:11-13 (NASB)

“And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man’s house. And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;’”

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Peter Testifies and the Spirit Falls

Acts 11:14-15 (NASB)

and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning.

- From Acts 10:34-43 we know that Peter preached Christ
- The Holy Spirit worked through the words of the Gospel to save Gentiles

Holy Spirit Baptism

Acts 11:16 (NASB)

“And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”

- This is from Luke 3:16, Acts 1:5
- Joel 2:28, 29 promises the outpouring of the Spirit
- See 1Corinthians 12:13. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is normative and not a “second” blessing.

Hindering God Was No Option!

Acts 11:17 (LEB)

“Therefore if God gave them the same gift as also to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to be able to hinder God?”

- Clearly these Gentiles had the same saving faith
- On “hindering” in reference to God’s purpose in Luke/Acts: Luke 9:49; 11:52; 18:16; Acts 8:36; 10:47

God is Sovereign in Conversion

Acts 11:18 (NASB)

When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”

- “Granted” is *dido_mi* in aorist active indicative
- Yet we learn in Acts 15 that the issue is not fully resolved
- We are always to give glory to God when He saves!