



A MAGNIFICENT MOMENT

The Conversion of Cornelius — Acts 10

CONTEXT OF ACTS 10

- Jesus ascends to Heaven — Acts 1
- Kingdom opened; Gospel preached — Acts 2
- Servants appointed in the church — Acts 6
- Stephen is murdered — Acts 7
- Simon and the Ethiopian Eunuch — Acts 8
- The conversion of Saul of Tarsus — Acts 9

WHO WAS CORNELIUS?

- Centurion in the Italian Regiment/Cohort
 - “Centurion” — captain of 100
 - Italian Regiment — volunteer band of Roman soldiers.
- A devout man who feared God
 - “Devout” — pious, godly
 - “Feared” — awe, respect, and terror combined
 - “With all his household” — family leader
 - “Gave many alms... prayed to God continually”

TIMES ARE CHANGING:

- A significant shift taking place in the book of Acts:
 - Law of Moses active in Gospel accounts (Mt. 5.17).
 - Law of Moses was fulfilled and something new was being enacted (Lk. 24.44-49). **note v47**
 - Forgiveness through faith in the crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ now proclaimed as a reality to the Jews (Acts 2.32-38).
 - The same forgiveness extended to the Samaritans and proselytes (Acts 9.14ff).

JEWISH VIEW OF THE WORLD

HUMANITY

GENTILES

JEWS /
HEBREWS /
ISRAELITES

Consider: Acts 26.17,23; Romans 3.29; 1 Corinthians 1.23

A SIGNIFICANT VISION

- Cornelius speaks with an angel in a vision (10.3ff).
 - God had regarded his alms and prayers.
 - He was instructed to send for Peter.
 - Cornelius and his family would “hear a message” that had been “commanded by the Lord” (10.22,33).
- Cornelius gathered his friends and family together to hear the message God gave Peter.

A VISION UNDERSTOOD

- Peter realized what God had been showing him.
 - Peter had been given his own vision (10.9-20)
 - The Jew/Gentile distinction was no more — God would accept anyone who submitted to Jesus (36ff).
- Peter rehearsed some things Cornelius already understood (37-43).
- The Holy Spirit descended on the Gentiles (44ff).
 - This called Peter's mind back to Pentecost (47; 11.15-17).
 - The proper conclusion? — 10.48; 11.18

WHAT WAS SO MOMENTOUS?

- God was finishing the work He had revealed throughout the Old Testament (10.43).
- God was demonstrating His impartiality (10.34f).
 - God was uniting Jew and Gentile (10.45-47).
 - The Gentiles were amenable to the same law as the Jews were — not Moses, but Christ!
 - The Gentiles were saved in the same manner as the Jews were — grace, faith, baptism!
- God was revealing the insufficiency of sincerity apart from Christ in the face of sin (10.35-36).