

Acts 10: 1 - 48

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1. The Holy Spirit falling on the Gentiles

CAESAREA

It was originally a small Phoenician town known as Straton's Tower, and it was developed by Herod the great into a major port city.

Herod oversaw the construction of a massive artificial harbor, one of the largest in the world at the time, called Sebastos.

Both the city of Caesarea and the harbor of Sebastos were named after Herod's patron, Augustus Caesar.

After being built, it soon became the capital of the Roman Province of Judea (Palestine) and the place where troops were headquartered.

CAESAREA

1. Philip shared the gospel in Caesarea after a “great persecution” expelled many believers from Jerusalem (Acts 8: 1; 40).
2. Philip settled down in Caesarea, living there with his family and hosting other believers at his home (Acts 21: 8).

CAESAREA

3. Paul traveled through Caesarea several times. Early in his ministry, when his life was threatened in Jerusalem, the believers there helped him escape through Caesarea to Tarsus, aboard a Caesarean ship (Acts 9: 29-30).

4. After his second missionary journey, Paul passed through Caesarea on his way to Syrian Antioch, using his time in Caesarea as an opportunity to visit Jerusalem, about 52 miles away (Acts 18: 22).

CAESAREA

5. Paul stayed in Caesarea with Philip the Evangelist for several days, meeting with Agabus the prophet and enjoying fellowship with local believers (Acts 21: 8-16).
6. Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea for years, facing several trials there before various Roman officials, with whom he was able to share the Gospel numerous times (Acts 23-26).
7. Peter shares the Gospel message with Cornelius, a Centurion and a Gentile (Acts 10: 24-48).



New Testament Churches

Caesarea

Joppa

Samaria

Lydda

J U D E A

Jerusalem

Idumea

Galilee

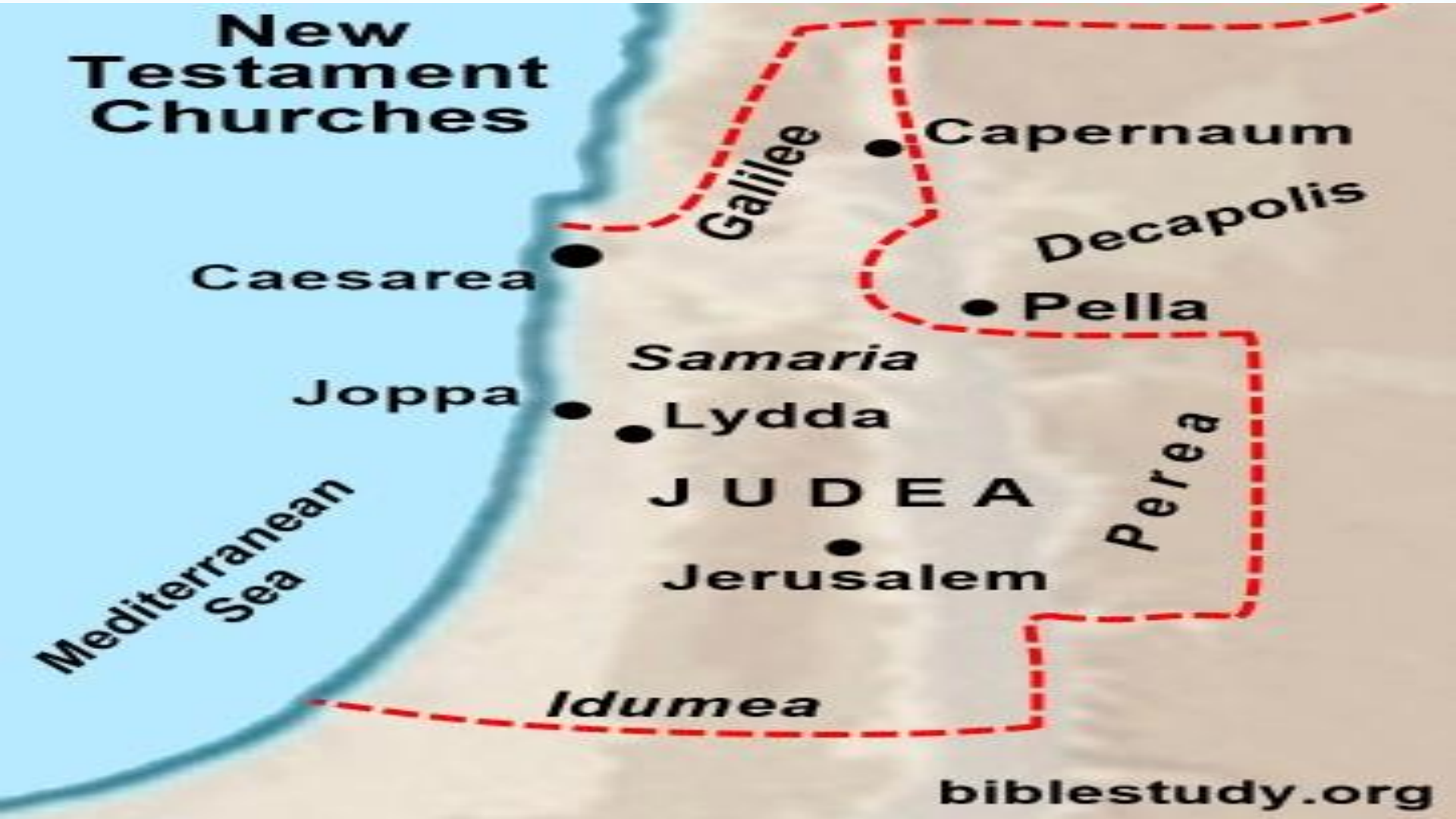
Capernaum

Decapolis

Pella

Perea

Mediterranean Sea



A. A Centurion displays Faith in Jesus
(Luke 7: 1-10).

B. A Centurion affirms Jesus' power at the
Cross.

Mk. 15: 39

39 When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

C. Cornelius the Centurion

Cornelius had a reverence for God.

He was:

1. A devout man: one who worshiped the true and living God.
2. A God-fearing man: one who sensed the presence of God in the world and knew **he was responsible to God to live righteously, justly, and morally toward all men.**
3. A benevolent and charitable man: one who gave to charity.
4. A praying man.

1. What did the angel in Cornelius' vision instruct him to do?

Acts 10: 5-8

5 “Now *dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter;*

6 *he is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea.*”

7 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,*

8 *and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.*

A. 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.”

B. Cornelius summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were his personal attendants.

C. After he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

2. What did Peter see in his trance?

Acts 10: 11-16

11 and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground,

12 and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air.

13 A voice came to him, “Get up, Peter, kill and eat!”

14 But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.”

15 Again a voice came to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.”

16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

1. The sky opened up
2. An object like a great sheet coming down
3. Lowered by four corners to the ground
4. There were in it all *kinds of* four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air.

5. A voice came to him, “Get up, Peter, kill and eat!”

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7. A voice came to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.”

8. This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

3. While Peter was reflecting on the vision, what did the Spirit tell him to do?

Acts 10: 19-20

19 While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you.”

20 “But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself.”

A. Three men are looking for you.

B. Get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings for I have sent them Myself.

Peter's Vision

1. An angel from God has sent these men to call Peter into the house of a Gentile, to preach the gospel to him.
2. Peter's vision of clean and unclean beasts is explained. God has cleansed the Gentiles, and Peter is no longer to call them unclean.
3. The Spirit has commanded Peter to go with these men, without doubting.
4. The authority of God, of an angel, of the Holy Spirit, all influence Peter to go to Cornelius' house.
5. His prejudice is gone, and he feels a new thrill of joy.

Acts 10: 23

23 So he invited them in and gave them lodging...

A. Peter invited the men in and gave them lodging. It was too late for them to return to Caesarea that day, so Peter invited them to spend the night there.

B. No self-respecting Jew would have given lodging to Gentiles—especially to a soldier of the hated Roman occupation army.

C. Peter gave his unexpected guests the red carpet treatment, showing the work of God in his heart had broken down the typical Jewish prejudice.

4. Who accompanied Peter to Caesarea?

Acts 10: 23-24

23 ...And on the next day he got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

24 On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

The brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

5. Why did they accompany Peter? Where can we find examples of using others as witnesses in the Scriptures?

They were to be witnesses.

Deut. 19: 15

Matt. 18: 16

2 Cor. 13: 1

1 Tim. 5: 19

Heb. 10: 28

6. What did Cornelius do when he met Peter? How did Peter respond?
Can you think of another similar reaction in the Scriptures?

Acts 10: 25-26

25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped *him*.

26 But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am *just a man*."

A. Cornelius met him and fell at his feet and worshiped *him*.

B. Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am *just a man*."

7. How was it unlawful for a Jew to associate with a foreigner?

Acts 10: 27-29

27 As he talked with him, he entered and found many people assembled.

28 And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.

29 “That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So, I ask for what reason you have sent for me.”

Lev. 20: 26

26 'Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

Ye know it is ... unlawful ... for ... a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation, &c.—There was no express prohibition to this effect, and to a Certain extent association was certainly kept up. But intimate social fellowship was not practiced, as being adverse to the spirit of the law.

Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, vol. 2

A. Peter begins by telling them that he should not be there, since it is **unlawful for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him.**

B. By that standard Peter had lived his life.

C. God, however, had taught him, and he had accepted that he was no longer to consider Gentiles **unclean.**

Acts 10: 30-33

30 Cornelius said, “Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments,

31 and he said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.

32 ‘Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon *the* tanner by the sea.’

33 “So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

- A. Four days ago, to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour.
- B. A man stood before me in shining garments, and he said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.
- C. ‘Therefore, send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon *the* tanner by the sea.’
- D. “So, I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

8. In what way was Peter's understanding of God changed by his vision?

Acts 10: 34-35

34 Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality,

35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

A. "God is not one to show partiality."

B. "Every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him."

Acts 10: 35-39

36 “The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)—

37 you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed.

38 “*You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

39 “We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.

Acts 10: 40-43

40 “God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,

41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is,* to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

42 “And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

43 “Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

9. How was Peter's message interrupted?

Acts 10: 44-46

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

45 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God....

A. The Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

B. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed.

C. The gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

D. They were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.

10. How did Peter sum up what happened and what did he command them to do?

Acts 10: 46-48

46 ...Then Peter answered,

47 “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?”

48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

A. “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?”

B. Peter ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

11. What do we learn from this event?

- A. That Christ had abolished the distinction between Jew and Gentile
- B. That Christ had abolished the wall of partition between Jew and Gentile
- C. That Christ had abolished *all* distinctions between men, whether racial or social.

Gal 3: 27-29

27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.