

Acts 11: 1 - 18

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CHAPTER 10

Part 1: (Acts 10: 1–33)

1. Obedience
2. Humility
3. Eliminating economic, racial and social prejudices

CHAPTER 10

Part 2: (Acts 10: 34–43)

1. Preaching Jesus
2. Providing salvation to everyone who believes
3. Forgiveness of sins

Part 3: (Acts 10: 44–48)

1. The Holy Spirit falling on the Gentiles

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Part 4: (Acts 11: 1-18)

- 1. Peter is challenged by Jewish Christians (vs. 1 - 3).**
- 2. Peter recounts the Gentiles' conversion (vs. 4- 15).**
- 3. Peter interprets these events by remembering the words of Jesus (vs. 16-18).**

New Testament Churches



Caesarea

Joppa

Mediterranean Sea

Samaria

Lydda

J U D E A

Jerusalem

Idumea

Galilee

Capernaum

Decapolis

Pella

Perea

1. What did the Apostles and Christians in Judea hear about Peter?

Acts 11: 1

1 The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

Heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

2. Why did the circumcised believers criticize Peter?

Acts 11: 2– 3

² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him

³ and said, “**You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.**”

“You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

There are 2 significant points in Chapter 10:

1. The Gentiles don't have to become Jews first and put themselves under the Law of Moses first. Repent and believe, and you can come to Jesus.
2. The Jewish followers of Jesus should receive their Gentile brothers and sisters as full members of the family of God. The Gentiles aren't inferior to the Jews in any way.

3. How did Peter defend his actions?

1. Peter did not flaunt his apostolic authority.
2. Peter humbly explains the events.
3. Peter is accompanied by 6 brethren.
 - a. Believers from Joppa (Acts 10: 23)
 - b. Circumcised believers (Acts 10: 45)
 - c. 6 brethren accompanied Peter (Acts 11: 12)

4. What did Peter include in his brief explanation?

- a. The vision
- b. The command of God
- c. The religious struggle
- d. The lesson learned
- e. The Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles
- f. The door of salvation is open to the world (Gentiles).

a. The vision

Acts 11: 5-10

5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was.

6 I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds.

7 Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘**Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.**’

8 “I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! **Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.**’

9 “The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘**Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.**’

10 This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

Peter thought the vision was about food. However, Peter came to understand that the vision of the sheet and clean and unclean animals had to do with people, not food.

We can see that the sheet represents the church, having both clean (Jews) and unclean (Gentiles) in it, with no distinction or dividing line between the two (Eph. 2: 11-18).

b. The command of God

Acts 11: 11-12

11 “Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying.

12 The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house.

c. The religious struggle

Peter admitted entering the home of a Gentile, something prohibited by Jewish custom and tradition (though not by the Law of Moses).

Peter was careful to add that before he ever **entered the man's house**, he already knew that an **angel** had been **standing in Cornelius' house**.

If it was permitted for an angel of God to go into Cornelius' house, it must be permitted for Peter also (Acts 10: 30).

d. The lesson learned

i. There were six witnesses to what happened, each one verifying that the event was all of God.

ii. God tells Peter in no uncertain terms, “Go with them [the Gentiles] making no distinctions.”

d. The lesson learned

iii. Luke stresses this event more than any other in the book of Acts.

Acts 15 deals with the same subject. The importance of this event becomes even more significant.

God's plan that the gospel be preached to the whole world can never be overstressed.

e. The Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles

Acts 11: 15

15 “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning.

This conclusion was important. It showed that God’s stamp of approval was on this work towards the Gentiles. Peter’s point to these Christian Jews (those of the circumcision, Acts 11: 2) was clear: they could not withhold their acceptance when God had given His.

f. The door of salvation is open to the world (Gentiles).

1. God grants repentance to all men.

2. Repentance is the gift of God and of the Holy Spirit. Men have the privilege of repenting and turning from their sins to God.

f. The door of salvation is open to the world (Gentiles).

3. Repentance leads to life. Abundant life and eternal life are the results of repenting from your sins.

4. God's plan of salvation is for all people, both men and women.

Both the Gentiles and Jewish believers have in common the gifts of God:

1. The Holy Spirit
2. Repentance that leads to life
3. Salvation

5. How does this account differ from the one in Chapter 10?

Acts 11: 12

12 The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house.

Acts 11: 14

14 He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.

Acts 11: 15

15 "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning.

6. Why did Peter's accusers have no further objection but instead praised God?

Acts 11: 16-18

16 Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

17 So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"

18 When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Mk. 1: 8

8 “I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Is. 49: 6

6 He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

7. What can we learn from the final reaction of Peter's accusers?

1. Salvation is for all men and women.
2. This is a powerful passage, demonstrating that the hearts of the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem were soft enough to be guided and corrected by God. It is a glorious thing when God's people will allow their prejudices and traditions to be overcome by God's Word and God's work.
3. The church in Jerusalem embraced these Gentile believers at first, but it would be a long time until all the objections of *those of the circumcision* were answered.

4. Christians need to be willing to be on the Lord's agenda and allow Him to lead them spiritually to new frontiers.

5. Christians need to be open to what God is teaching them and be willing to receive it without argument, excuses or prejudice.