

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 10:1-33 | LESSON SUMMARY

Cornelius

ACTS 10:1, "At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort..." (ESV)

- Roman Centurion
 - Described as "God-fearing"
 - Sympathetic and even supportive of the Jewish faith, but never able to be fully part of Judaism
- Devout
 - Generous
 - Similar greeting used in Daniel 9:21-22
 - In prayer when visited: called by name
- 3pm
 - Traditional Jewish time of prayer
 - The time of evening incense
 - "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God." (Acts 10:4)
- Vision
 - Clear angelic visitation, fitting of a Jewish Saint
 - Requiring no interpretation



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Peter

ACTS 10:15, "And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." (ESV)

- Vision
 - Allegorical: requires interpretation
 - Speaker is unknown
 - Imagery unexplained
 - Command seemingly improper
- Peter's vision leaves him confused
 - "And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you." (Acts 10:19, ESV)

ACTS 10:26, "But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man." (ESV)

- Humility
 - Cornelius is still figuring out what following the God of Israel means
 - Ironically, so is Peter



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- “And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean...” (Acts 10:28, ESV)
- Peter is realizing that his dream is about more than food
 - Scholars debate “abolitionist” views
 - Halakha
 - Not Mosaic Law
 - Man-made law

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: John R.L. Moxon, Peter's Halakhic Nightmare, John B. Miller, Convinced That God Had Called Us, C. Hemer, The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History

