

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 10:34-48 | LESSON SUMMARY

The Beginning

ACTS 10:34, "So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality..." (ESV)

- Church Growth: Semi-Jews
 - Samaria
 - Ethiopian eunuch
 - Paul
- Full-blown Gentile
 - Roman Centurian
 - "Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends." (10:24, ESV)

Ambiguity & Certainty

ACTS 10:34, "...but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him." (ESV)

- Luke is not "inferring"
 - Though Peter was confused about his vision, he is certain of the relations between Jews and Gentiles
 - Direct speech
 - Peter acknowledges a shared knowledge of events, "...you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea..."



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- Deliverance for all: responsibility on the chosen
 - "...not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." (Acts 10:41, ESV)

ACTS 10:44, "While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word." (ESV)

- The Holy Spirit serves as confirmation of Peter's interpretation of his vision.
 - God's presence is experienced by God-fearing Gentiles
 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1, ESV)
 - There may be debate around the cleanness of animals, but not of the unity between Jews and Gentiles

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

