

“God Shows No Partiality, Calling All Into His Family!”

Acts 10:1-16

There was a certain man in Caesarea called **Cornelius**, a **Centurion** of what was called the **“Italian Regiment”**, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ...About the **ninth hour** of the day, he saw clearly in a **Vision an Angel of God** coming in and saying to him, **“Cornelius!”** And when he observed him (**an Angel of God – Gabriel**), he was afraid, and said, **“What is it, lord?”** So, he (Angel) said to him, **“Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He (Simon Peter) will tell you what you must do.”** And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. So, when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa. The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, **Peter** went up on the housetop to pray, about the **sixth hour**. Then **he (Peter)** became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a **Trance** and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a **Voice (from Heaven)** came to him, **“Rise, Peter; kill and eat!”** But Peter said, **“Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean!”** And a **Voice (from Heaven)** spoke to him again the second time, **“What God has cleansed you must not call common!”** This was repeated a third time. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

Acts 10:1-16 (NKJV)

Q: “Who Was Cornelius?”

A: There was a certain man in Caesarea called **Cornelius, a **Centurion** ... Acts 10:1a**

Q: “What Did He Command In The Roman Army?”

A: ... of what was called the “Italian Regiment” ... Acts 10:1b

Q: “How Many Men Was The Average Centurion Responsible For?”

A: An Average Centurion had 1/60th of a Legion or 100 men out of 6,000 Total!

Q: “Were There Any Exceptions To The Rule?”

A: Yes!

A1: A Cohort Centurion had 1/10th of a Legion or 600 men out of 6,000 Total!

A2: An Overstrength Cohort Centurion had 1/6th of a Legion or 1,000 men out of 6,000 Total!

A3: These Overstrength Cohorts – Often Referred To As Imperial Regiments Were Often Replacements For Whole Legions In Different Regions Of The Empire Experiencing A Time Of Prolonged Peace Or Agreement With Other Vassal Subjugated Rulers & Nations!

A4: This Was The Case With Palestine - Modern Day Israel, from 6 – 66 A.D.

Where Cornelius Was In Line For Promotion To Tribune And Commanded His Overstrength Cohort, Entitled, ... the “Italian Regiment” in the year 37 A.D.

Q: “Why The Designation the ‘Italian Regiment’?”

A5: Originally Formed From All Roman Men From The Roman Mainland - Modern Day Italy. However, Over Time They Would Receive Replacements, Scouts, etc. From Among The Native-Born Populace As Well!

Q: “What Was Cornelius’ Disposition, Reputation, & Persuasion?”

A: ... a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always! ... Acts 10:2

Q: "Was His Faith & Actions Sincere When Judged By God?"

A: ... About the **ninth hour** of the day, he saw clearly in a **Vision an Angel of God** coming in and saying to him, "**Cornelius!**" And when he observed him (an **Angel of God/Gabriel**), he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So, he (Angel) said to him, "**Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.**" ... **Acts 10:3-4**

Q: "What Faith Did Cornelius Practice At This Time?"

A: Jewish Convert

Q: "What Did The Native Jews Refer To Him As A Gentile Convert To Judaism?"

A: A Fervent God-Fearer!

Q: "Why is the Ninth Hour of the Day So Important?"

A: "**The Angelus**" – An Ancient Piety Practice Of Praying A Minimum of 3x/Day!
(1st Hour – 6 AM, 9th Hour – 3 PM & 12 Hour – 6 PM of a Day)

Q: "Who In The Bible Had A Track Record Of Praying All The Time & Seeing Visions?"

A - Daniel

Who Often Prayed A "**Double Angelus**"

(1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th & 15th hour of the Day)

& Sometimes a 7th Time of "**Perfect Prayer**" on the 18th Hour of the Day!

Q: "What Kind Of Language Did The Angel of God Denote When Considering Cornelius's Actions & Faith?"

A - Sacrificial In Nature

"Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God."

Q: "What Command Did **An Angel Of God (Gabriel)** Give Him?"

A: ... "Now send men to Joppa, and send for **Simon whose surname is Peter.**

He is lodging with **Simon, a tanner**, whose house is by the sea.

He (Simon Peter) will tell you what you must do." ... **Acts 10:5-6**

Q: "What Kind Of Soldier Was Cornelius?"

A: Obedient & Prompt!

... And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. So, when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa ... **Acts 10:7-8**

FACT

This Is Now The Third Time We Encounter A Centurion In The New Testament!

Q: "What Kind Of Men, What Kind Of Encounters, & What Kind Of Responses Do We See In These Three Instances?"

A1 – 1st Encounter: Jesus & The Centurion Whose Son Was Dying!

Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10, & John 4:46b-54

"Truly I say to you, not even in all of Israel have I found such faith!" – **Jesus**

A2 – 2nd Encounter: Jesus & The Centurion Who Crucified Him!

Matthew 27:54, Mark 15:39, & Luke 23:47

"Truly this Man was the Son Of God!" – **Centurion at the Cross**

A3 – 3rd Encounter: Gabriel The Archangel of God & The Centurion – Cornelius!

Acts 10:3-8

So, when Cornelius had explained all these things to his men, he sent them to Joppa!

Q: "How Important Was This Encounter Between The Angel of God – Gabriel and Cornelius, and Peter & Cornelius In The History of the Christian Church?"

A: This Encounter Sets Future Doctrine & Theology

In Both Of The First Ever Two Church Councils ... See **Acts 11:4-17 & 15:7-11**

NOTE: There Are Two Interrelated Visions Sent By God's Spirit To Two Different Men:

1) The Seeker of God & Truth – Cornelius & 2) The Evangelist & Seeker of the Lost – Peter

... The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour, Then he (Peter) became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a Trance ... Acts 10:9-10a

NOTE: Peter Is Praying At Least A “Double Angelius”
(1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th & 15th hour of the Day)

... Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour ...

Q: “What Did Peter See In His Trance/Vision From Heaven?”

A: Animals Of All Kinds From The Created Order Of The Account of Genesis!

A: ... Peter fell into a Trance and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air ... Acts 10:10b-12

NOTE: Awaiting Food & Being Hungry Around The Noon Meal
Brings A Vision Of Animals As A Source Of Food In Three Divisions!

1) 4-Legged Animals, **2)** Reptiles, & **3)** Birds (Genesis 6:20)

See Levitical Code For Clean & Unclean Animals – Leviticus Chapter 11

Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them, “Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘These are the animals which you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth: Among the animals, whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves and chewing the cud, that you may eat. Nevertheless, these you shall not eat among those that chew the cud or those that have cloven hooves: the camel, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; the rock hyrax, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; the hare, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; and the swine, though it divides the hoof, having cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. They are unclean to you. These you may eat of all that are in the water: whatever in the water has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers, that you may eat. But all in the seas or in the rivers that do not have fins and scales, all that move in the water or any living thing which is in the water, they are an abomination to you. They shall be an abomination to you; you shall not eat their flesh, but you shall regard their carcasses as an abomination. Whatever in the water does not have fins or scales, that shall be an abomination to you. And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, the kite, and the falcon after its kind; every raven after its kind, the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the sea gull, and the hawk after its kind; the little owl, the fisher owl, and the screech owl; the white owl, the jackdaw, and the carrion vulture; the stork, the heron after its kind, the hoopoe, and the bat. All flying insects that creep on all fours shall be an abomination to you. Yet these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on all fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth. These you may eat: the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind. But all other flying insects which have four feet shall be an abomination to you. By these you shall become unclean; whoever touches the carcass of any of them shall be unclean until evening; whoever carries part of the carcass of any of them shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening: the carcass of any animal which divides the foot, but is not cloven-hoofed or does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. Everyone who touches it shall be unclean. And whatever goes on its paws, among all kinds of animals that go on all fours, those are unclean to you. Whoever touches any such carcass shall be unclean until evening. Whoever carries any such carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. It is unclean to you. These also shall be unclean to you among the creeping things that creep on the earth: the mole, the mouse, and the large lizard after its kind; the gecko, the monitor lizard, the sand reptile,

... the sand lizard, and the chameleon. These are unclean to you among all that creep. Whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until evening. Anything on which any of them falls, when they are dead shall be unclean, whether it is any item of wood or clothing or skin or sack, whatever item it is, in which any work is done, it must be put in water. And it shall be unclean until evening; then it shall be clean. Any earthen vessel into which any of them falls you shall break; and whatever is in it shall be unclean: in such a vessel, any edible food upon which water falls becomes unclean, and any drink that may be drunk from it becomes unclean. And everything on which a part of any such carcass falls shall be unclean; whether it is an oven or cooking stove, it shall be broken down; for they are unclean, and shall be unclean to you. Nevertheless, a spring or a cistern, in which there is plenty of water, shall be clean, but whatever touches any such carcass becomes unclean. And if a part of any such carcass falls on any planting seed which is to be sown, it remains clean. But if water is put on the seed, and if a part of any such carcass falls on it, it becomes unclean to you. And if any animal which you may eat dies, he who touches its carcass shall be unclean until evening. He who eats of its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. He also who carries its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. And every creeping thing that creeps on the earth shall be an abomination. It shall not be eaten. Whatever crawls on its belly, whatever goes on all fours, or whatever has many feet among all creeping things that creep on the earth, these you shall not eat, for they are an abomination. You shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creeps; nor shall you make yourselves unclean with them, lest you be defiled by them. For I AM the Lord your God. You shall therefore Consecrate Yourselves, and you shall be Holy; for I AM Holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. For I AM the Lord Who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be Your God. You shall therefore be Holy, for I AM Holy. This is the Law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth, to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.” [Leviticus Chapter 11](#)

Q: “What Was God’s Commandment To Peter Concerning The Vision?”

A1: ... And a [Voice \(from heaven\)](#) came to him , [“Rise, Peter; kill and eat!”](#)... [Acts 10:13](#)

Q: “What Was Peter’s Objection?”

A: ... But Peter said, [“Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean!”](#) ... [Acts 10:14](#)

Q: “What Was Peter’s Frame Of Reference & Understanding To This Point Concerning This Law Of Clean Vs. Unclean?”

A: See Mark’s Gospel (Peter’s Eyewitness Account To John Mark The Author)

When [Jesus](#) had called all the Multitude to Himself, [He said to them](#), [“Hear Me, everyone, and understand: There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!”](#) And when [He \(Jesus\)](#) had entered a house away from the crowd, [His Disciples asked Him](#) concerning the parable. So, [He said to them](#), [“Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?”](#) And [Jesus continued](#), [“What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man!”](#) [Mark 7:14-23 \(NKJV\)](#)

(Continued)

Q: *“How Did God’s Spirit Choose To Answer Peter’s Objection?”*

A2: ... And a **Voice** (from Heaven) spoke to him again the second time,
“What God has cleansed you must not call common!” ... **Acts 10:15**

A3: And Then God’s Spirit Repeated His Command A Third Time!

... This was repeated a third time. And the object was taken up into heaven again ... **Acts 10:16**

Q: *“What Did Peter Now Perceive To Be The Truth
That God Was Trying To Communicate To Him?”*

A: He Was Still Confused, But At The Same Time Determined To Understand!

A: He Was Also Determined Once He Was Enlightened
To Obey Immediately Because God Had Commanded Him 3x!

NOTE: Soon Peter Will Realize What We Today Always Need To Realize!
“God Shows No Partiality, Calling All Into His Family!”

Later At The 1st Church Council

Peter Will Come To This New
Doctrinal & Theological Understanding!

See Acts 11:1-18

Later At The 2nd Church Council

The Whole Church Council Will Affirm This Truth!

See Acts 15:1-21

Therefore, Let Us This Week, Be Like Peter & Be About Our Father’s Business:

1) Seeking All Who Are Lost & Telling Them The **Good News That:**

“They All Are Invited To Be Forgiven & Adopted Into God’s Family Forever!”

**2) Serving All In The Name Of Jesus Christ Our Lord,
Until He Comes Again In Glory!**