

COMPOSITE ACCOUNT OF CORNELIUS' CONVERSION

Acts 10:1-24 (Caesarea/Joppa); 10:25-48 (Caesarea); 11:1-18 (Jerusalem)

(wording found in more than one segment)

[generalization] [*italics viewpoint adjustment*]

(presented as from Peter's defense in Jerusalem)

^{11:1}The apostles and brothers in Judaea heard that Gentiles had received God's message. ²When Peter went up to Jerusalem, members of the Circumcision took issue with him, ³"You went in and ate with uncircumcised men."

Peter explained step by step. ^{10:1}"A centurion in Caesarea named Cornelius, from the Italian cohort, ²is a devout God-fearer along with his whole house. ³⁰He gave considerable charitable gifts to the people and prayed to God constantly. *He* was keeping three p.m. prayer in *his* house. ³In a vision he saw clearly an angel of God coming and standing in front of *him*, 'Cornelius.'

⁴"Cornelius looked at him and was afraid, 'Yes, Sir?'

³¹"God has heard your prayers and remembered your charitable gifts. ³²Send men to Joppa and summon Simon, called Peter. He's staying with Simon, a tanner, whose house is next to the sea. ^{11:14}He'll tell you what will save you and your household. ^{10:7}When the angel left, right away he called two household servants—his personal assistants, and a devout soldier. ⁸He went through everything with them and sent them to Joppa.

⁹"The next day, while they were getting close to the town, *I* went up on the housetop about noon to pray. ¹⁰*I* was getting hungry. While they were fixing lunch, *I* saw a vision in a trance. *I* watched the sky open and a container like a big sheet was lowered to the earth by four corners. ^{11:5}It came to me. *I* stared into it, and saw four-footed animals, wild animals, reptiles, and birds in it.

"*I* heard a voice, 'Kill and eat them, Peter.'

"No, Sir, I've never eaten anything unclean.'

"The voice spoke out of heaven a second time, 'Don't you consider unclean what God has cleansed.'

"That happened three times, and the container went back up into the sky.

^{10:17}"While *I* was wondering what the vision could possibly mean, right then Cornelius' three men from Caesarea were standing at the gate of the house where we were. ¹⁸They called out, asking if Simon, called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹The Spirit said, 'Three men are looking for you. ²⁰Go down and go with them, without scruples. I've sent them.'

²¹"*I* went down and said to them, '*I'm* the one you're looking for. Why are you here?'

²²“They said, ‘Cornelius is a centurion, a good God-fearer, with a good reputation in the Jewish nation. A holy angel directed him to invite you to his house to hear what you have to say.’ ²³So I invited them in and put them up for the night.

“The next day I went with them, ¹²and these six brothers from Joppa went along. ²⁴On the second day at about three o’clock we came into Caesarea ¹²and went into the man’s house.

²⁴“Cornelius was expecting us and had called his relatives and close friends. ²⁵When I came in, he met me and fell down and worshiped me. ²⁶I raised him up, ‘Please stand up; I’m just a man too.’ ²⁷As we talked, I went on in and found a large group gathered.

²⁸“I told them, ‘You know a Jew’s not supposed to associate in a home with a foreigner.’ But God has shown me not to consider anybody unclean. ²⁹So without objecting, I came when you called. Why did you send for me?’

“Cornelius said, ‘Four days ago . . . a man in bright clothes told me to summon you. ³³Thank you for coming. We’re here now in front of God to hear what the Lord’s commanded you.’ ³⁴I said,

‘I perceive that God doesn’t play favorites with people. ³⁵But, in every nation he accepts the ones that respect him and live the way he wants them to. ³⁶He sent the message to the sons of Israel, preaching good news about peace through Jesus the Messiah, who is Lord over everybody. ³⁷You know what took place all over Judaea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. ³⁸God anointed Jesus the Nazarene with the Holy Spirit and power. He went around doing good and healing people the devil oppressed, because God was with him. ³⁹We’re witnesses of what he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. The One they killed on a tree ⁴⁰God raised up the third day and presented him clearly, ⁴¹not to everybody, but to witnesses he previously handpicked—to us who ate with him after his resurrection. ⁴²He sent us to testify to the People that he’s the One God appointed to judge the living and the dead. ⁴³The prophets testify that through him everybody who trusts in him receives forgiveness of sins.’

⁴⁴“While I was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on ^{10:15}them as on us in the beginning. ⁴⁵The believers from the Circumcision who came with me were surprised that God poured out the Holy Spirit on Gentiles too. ⁴⁶They heard them speak in languages and praise God. ¹⁶I remembered what the Lord said, ‘John immersed in water, but you’ll be “immersed” in the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If God gave them the same gift he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus the Messiah [Christ], who was I to oppose God?

“I responded, ⁴⁶‘Nobody can forbid water, can they, for baptizing these who have received the Holy Spirit like we did?’ I ⁴⁸commanded to baptize them into Jesus the Messiah. They asked *me* to stay for several days.”

^{11:18}When the apostles and brothers heard this, they backed off and glorified God. “Then to Gentiles too God has offered repentance to life.”

Conflated from The Conversational Version of Acts of the Apostles

For a parallel layout in the Greek, see elsewhere on this site the supplement to “The Witness of Acts to the Keygma.”

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