

# The Acts of the Apostles

Lesson 11: “God is no Respector of Persons”

Acts 10:1 to 11:30

**At the end of Acts 9,**  
Peter “tarried many days in Joppa  
with one Simon a tanner.”



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*Meanwhile in Caesarea ...*





## Acts 10:1-3

- 1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian *band*,
- 2 A *devout man*, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.
- 3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, **Cornelius.**



**Acts 10:4**

And when he looked on him,  
he was afraid, and said,  
What is it, Lord?

And he said unto him,  
Thy prayers and thine alms are  
come up for a memorial before  
God.





### **Acts 10:5-6**

- <sup>5</sup> And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:
- <sup>6</sup> He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side:  
he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.





### Acts 10:5-6

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Simon – not Peter – was the apostle’s first name. Jesus changed his name from Simon Barjona to Simon Peter. “And Simon he surnamed Peter” (Mark 3:16).

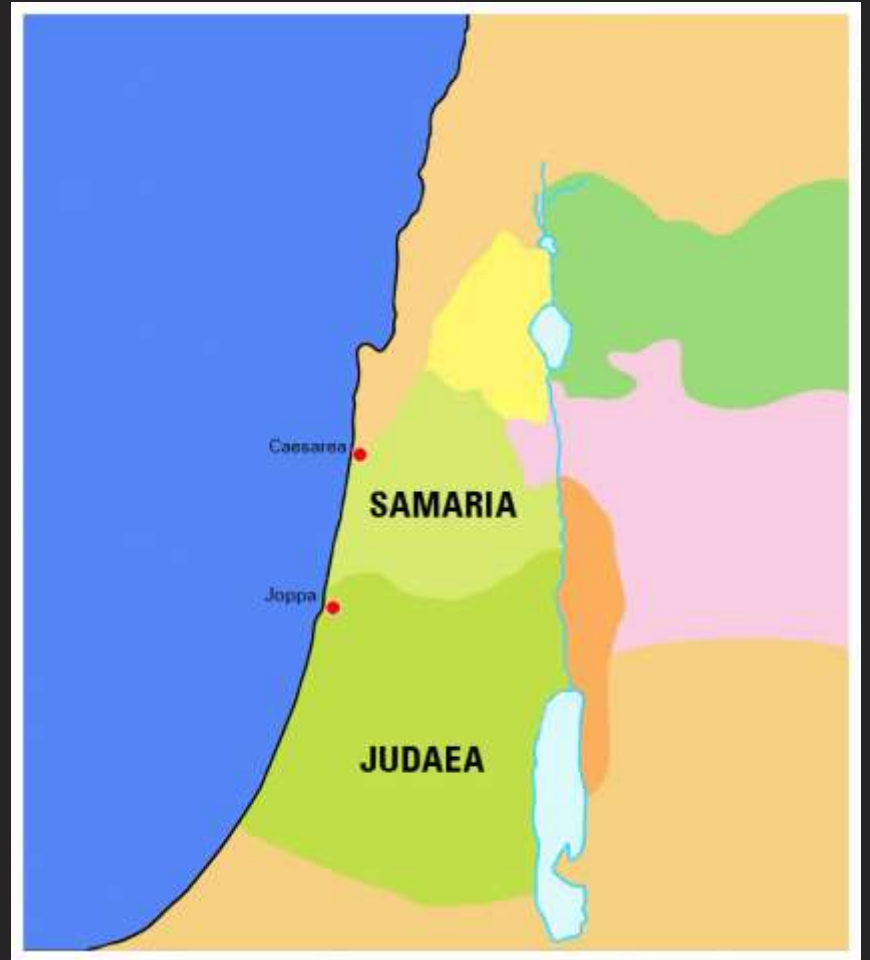
## **Acts 10:7-8**

- 7 And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;
- 8 And when he had declared all *these things* unto them, he sent them to Joppa.





Now the story returns to Peter in Joppa:



## Acts 10:9-10

- <sup>9</sup> On the morrow,  
as they went on their journey,  
and drew nigh unto the city,  
Peter went up upon the housetop to  
pray about the sixth hour:  
<sup>10</sup> And he became very hungry,  
and would have eaten:  
but while they made ready,  
he fell into a trance,



## Acts 10:11-12

- <sup>11</sup> And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:
- <sup>12</sup> Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.





**Acts 10:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

<sup>14</sup> But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.



**Acts 10:15**

And the voice *spake* unto him  
again the second time,

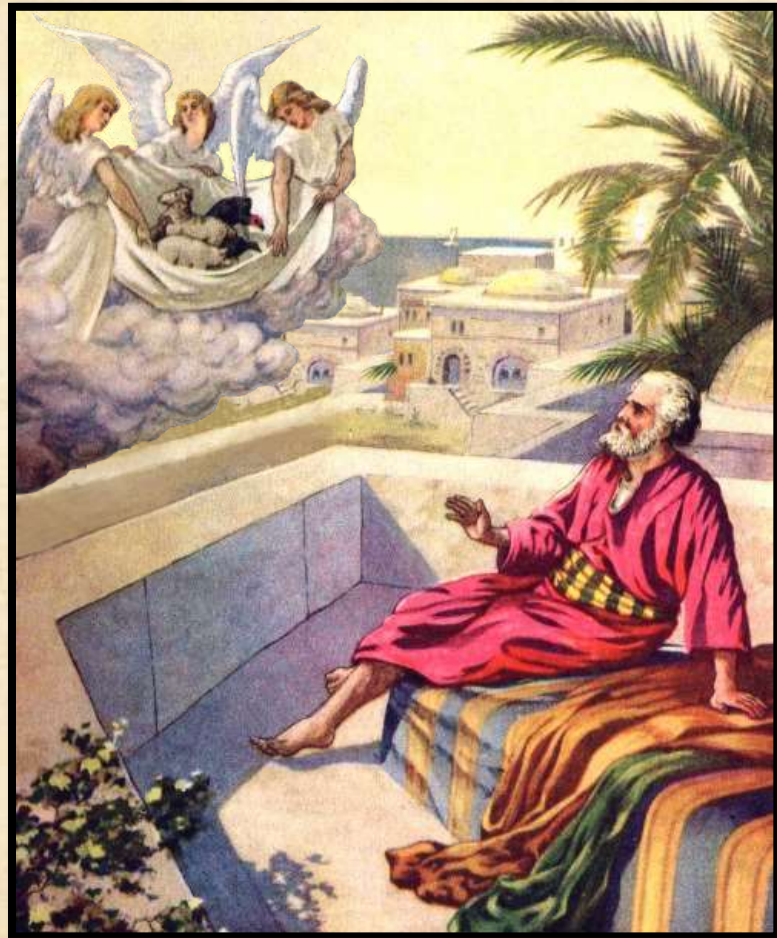
**What God hath cleansed,  
that call not thou common.**





**Acts 10:16**

This was done thrice:  
and the vessel was received up  
again into heaven.





## Acts 10:17-18

- <sup>17</sup> Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,
- <sup>18</sup> And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

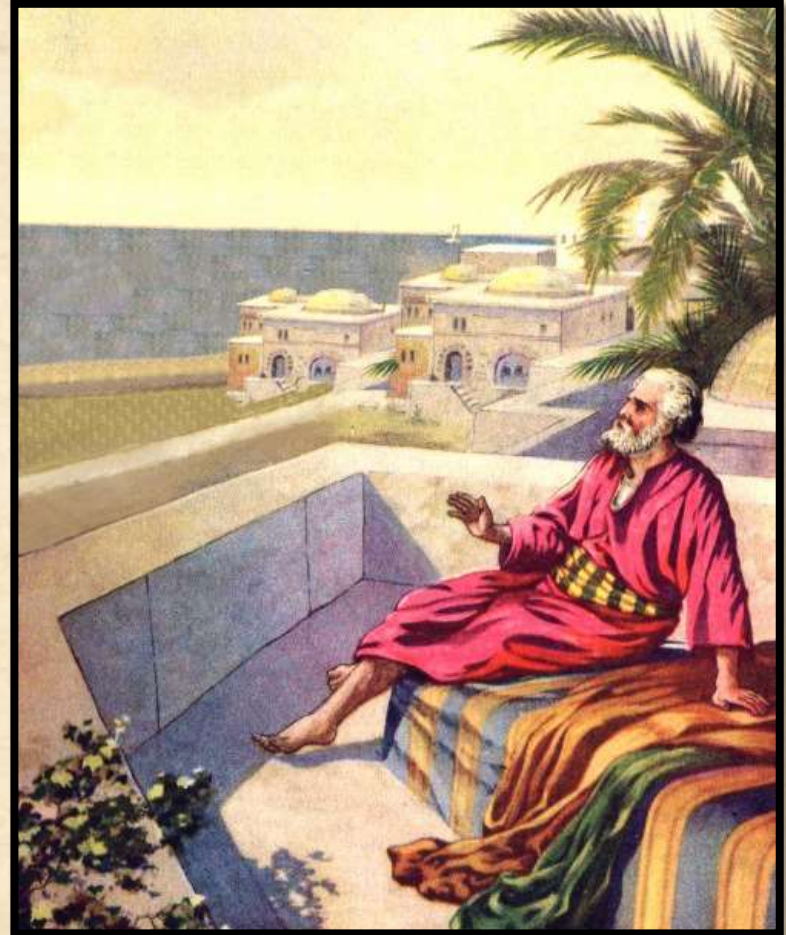


**Acts 10:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> While Peter thought on the vision,  
the Spirit said unto him,

Behold, three men seek thee.

<sup>20</sup> Arise therefore,  
and get thee down,  
and go with them, doubting nothing:  
for I have sent them.



## Acts 10:21

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what *is* the cause wherefore ye are come?





**Acts 10:22**

<sup>22</sup> And they said,  
Cornelius the centurion,  
a just man,  
and one that feareth God,  
and of good report among all the  
nation of the Jews,  
was warned from God by an holy  
angel to send for thee into his house,  
and to hear words of thee.



## Acts 10:23

<sup>23</sup> Then called he them in,  
and lodged *them*.

And on the morrow  
Peter went away with them,  
and certain brethren from Joppa  
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The wisdom of this be clear later in the story.



## **Acts 10:24**

<sup>24</sup> And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea.

And Cornelius waited for them,  
and had called together his kinsmen and  
near friends.



**Acts 10:25-27**

- <sup>25</sup> And as Peter was coming in,  
Cornelius met him,  
and fell down at his feet,  
and worshipped *him*.
- <sup>26</sup> But Peter took him up,  
saying, Stand up;  
I myself also am a man.
- <sup>27</sup> And as he talked with him,  
he went in, and found many  
that were come together.





## Acts 10:28-29a

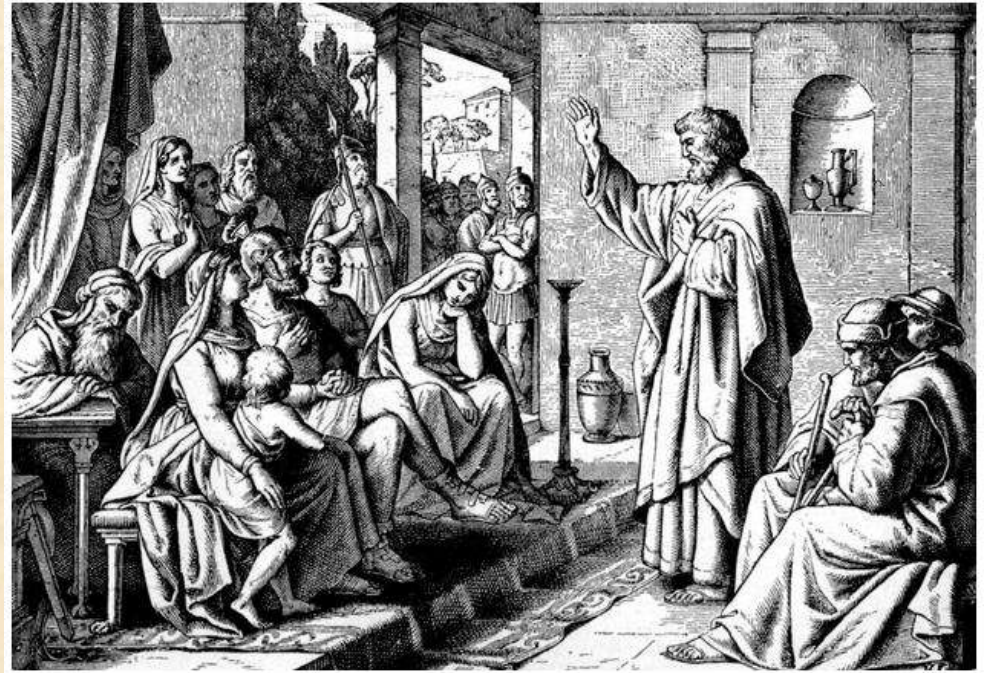
- <sup>28</sup> And he said unto them,  
Ye know how that it is an  
unlawful thing for a man that is  
a Jew to keep company,  
or come unto one of another  
nation;  
but God hath shewed me  
that I should not call any man  
common or unclean.
- <sup>29</sup> Therefore came I unto you  
without gainsaying,  
as soon as I was sent for:





**Acts 10:29b**

<sup>29</sup> I ask therefore  
for what intent ye have sent  
for me?



## Acts 10:30-33

<sup>30</sup> And Cornelius said,

Four days ago I was fasting until this hour;  
and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house,  
and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

<sup>31</sup> And said, **Cornelius, thy prayer is heard,  
and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.**

<sup>32</sup> **Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter;  
he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side:  
who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.**

<sup>33</sup> Immediately therefore I sent to thee;  
and thou hast well done that thou art come.  
Now therefore are we all here present before God,  
to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

**Acts 10:34-35**

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said,

**Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:**

<sup>35</sup> But in every nation  
he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness,  
is accepted with him.



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Everything Peter thought he knew was different now!

The word that had come to the Jews would now be preached to the Gentiles, also.

### **Acts 10:36-38**

<sup>36</sup> The word which God sent unto the children of Israel,  
preaching peace by Jesus Christ:  
(he is Lord of all:)

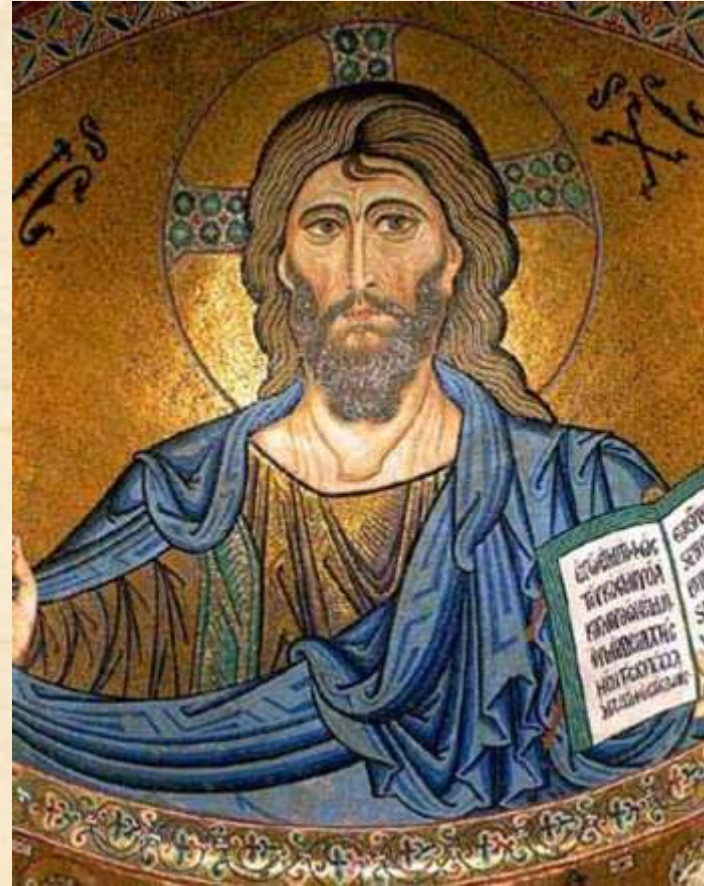
<sup>37</sup> That word, *I say*, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea,  
and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

<sup>38</sup> How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power:  
who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the  
devil; for God was with him.



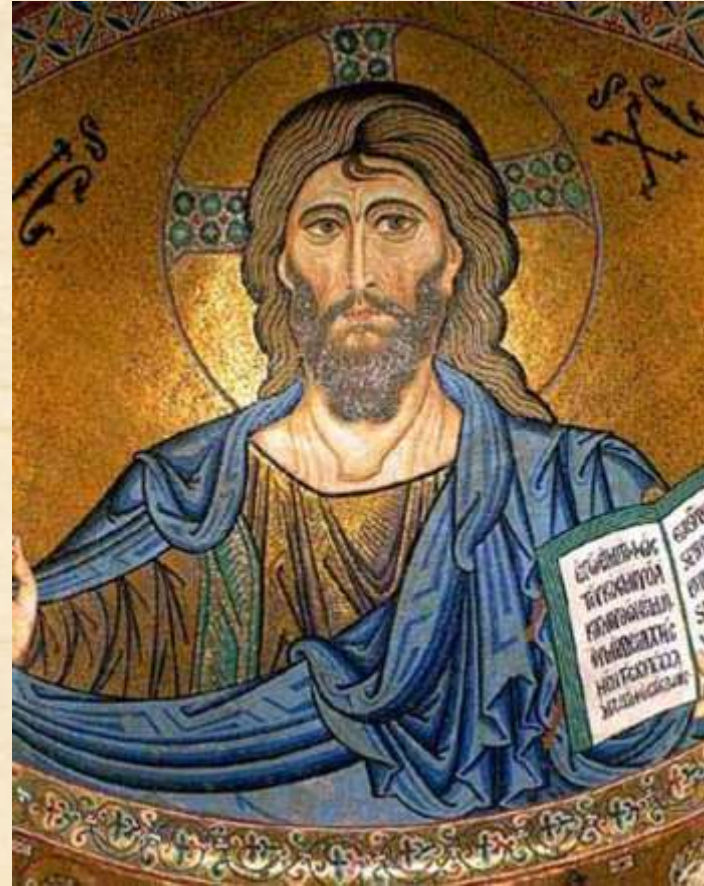
## Acts 10:39-41

- 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:
- 40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;
- 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.



### **Acts 10:42-43**

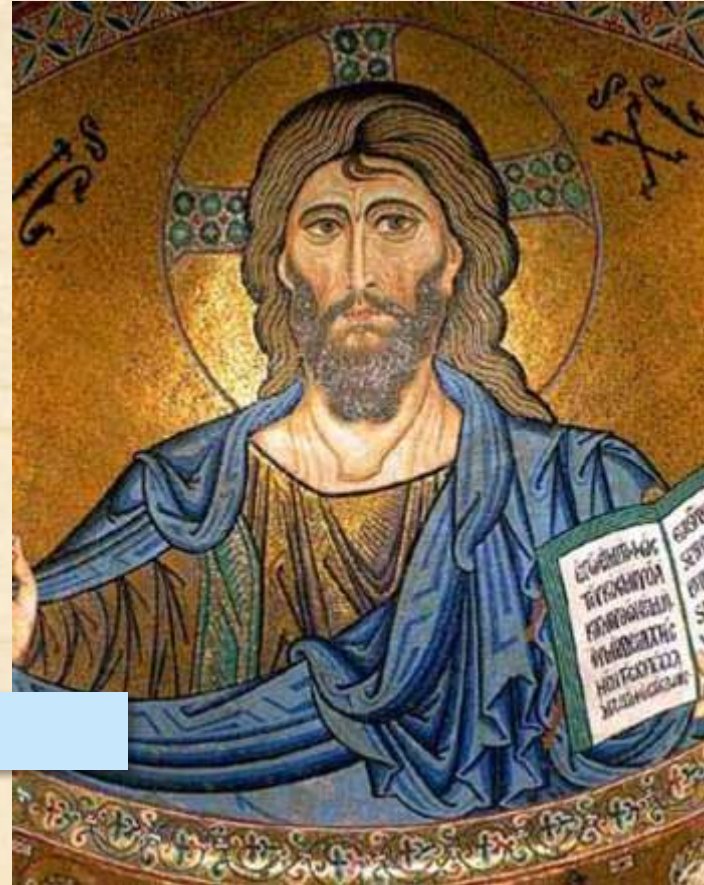
- 42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.
- 43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.





## Acts 10:42-43

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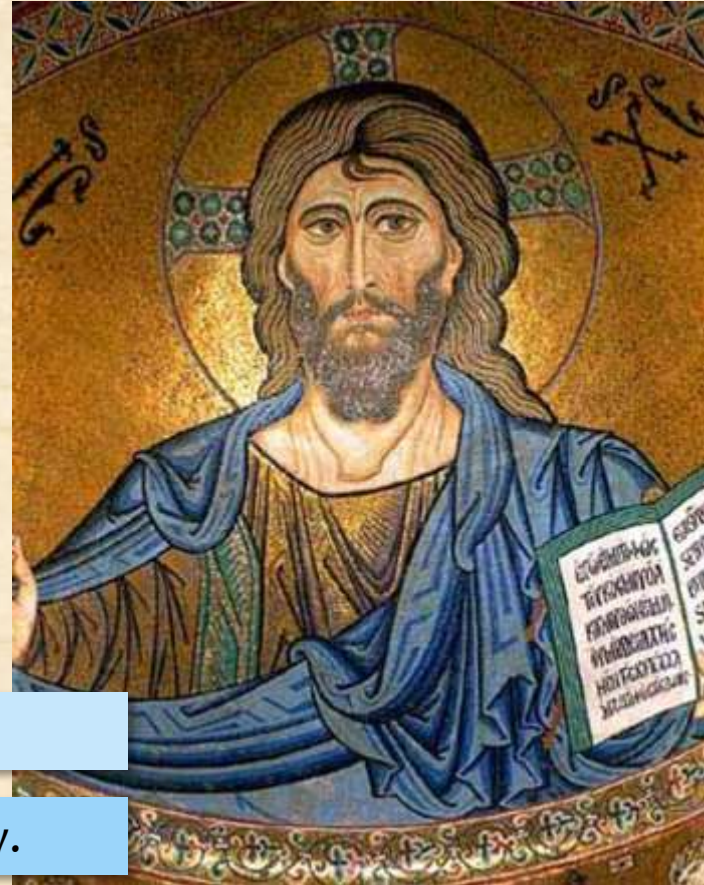


The word “whosoever” seemed much bigger now!



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The word “whosoever” seemed much bigger now!

The Spirit would confirm this in an undeniable way.

## Acts 10:44-46a

<sup>44</sup> While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

<sup>45</sup> And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, **because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

<sup>46</sup> For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.





**Acts 10:46b-48**

- 46 Then answered Peter,  
47 Can any man forbid water,  
that these should not be baptized,  
which have received the Holy Ghost  
as well as we?  
48 And he commanded them to be  
baptized in the name of the Lord.

Then prayed they him to tarry  
certain days.



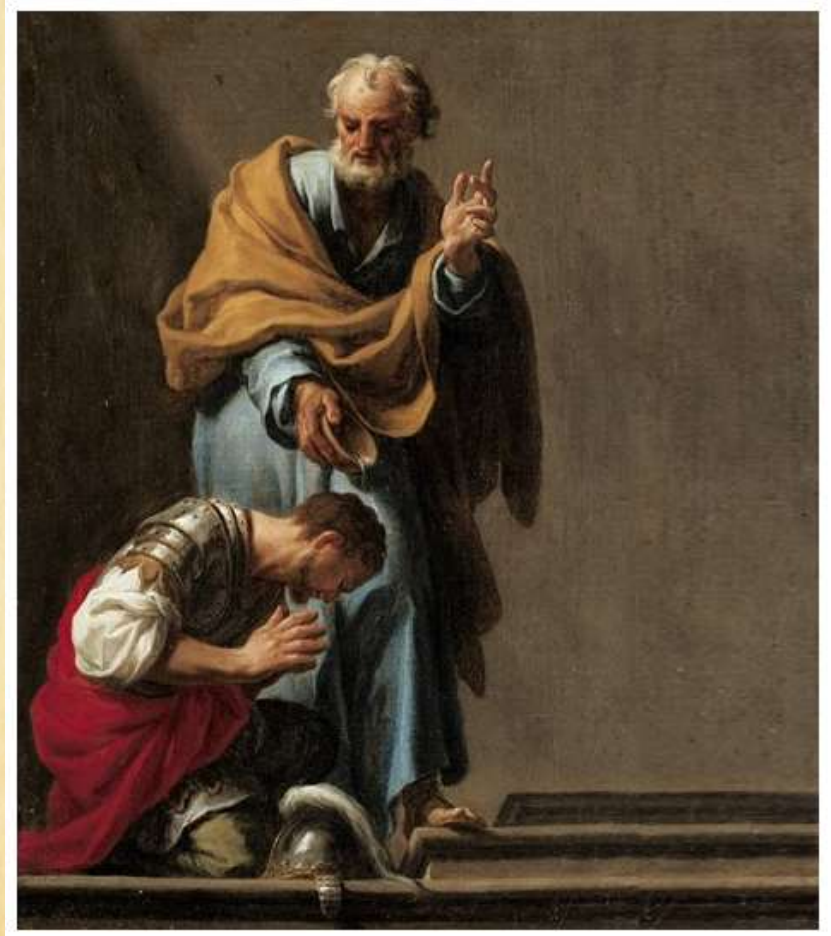


**Acts 10:46b-48**

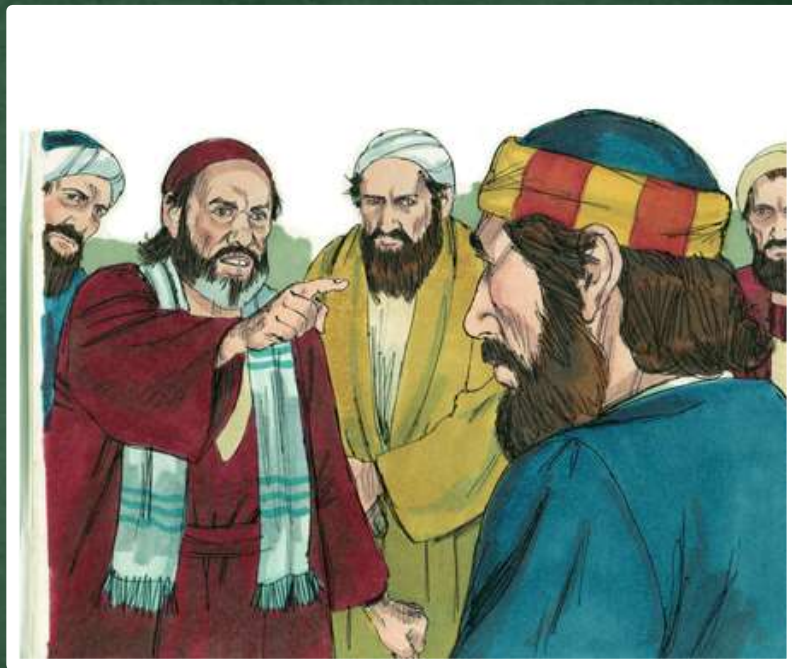
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End of Chapter 10

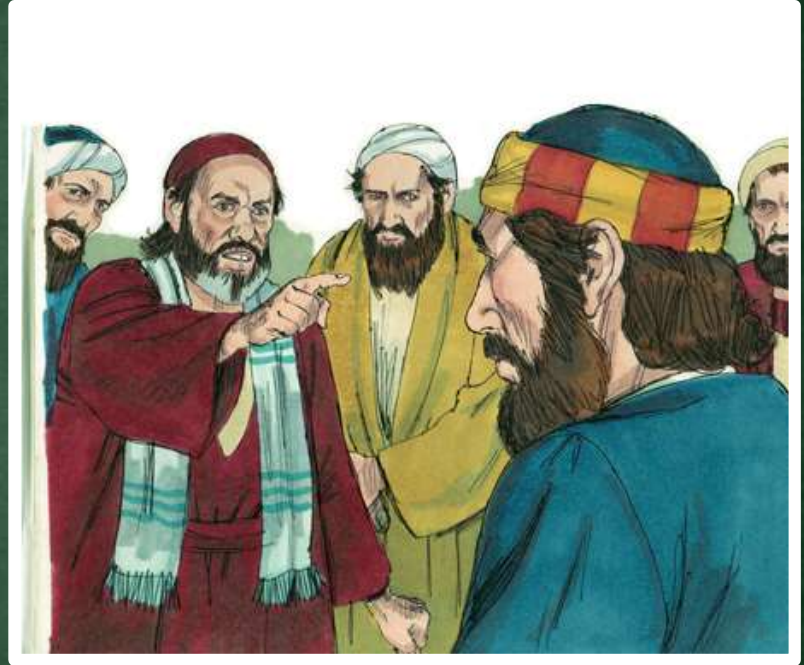


Not everyone was happy to hear about Peter's meeting with the Gentiles.



## Acts 11:1-3

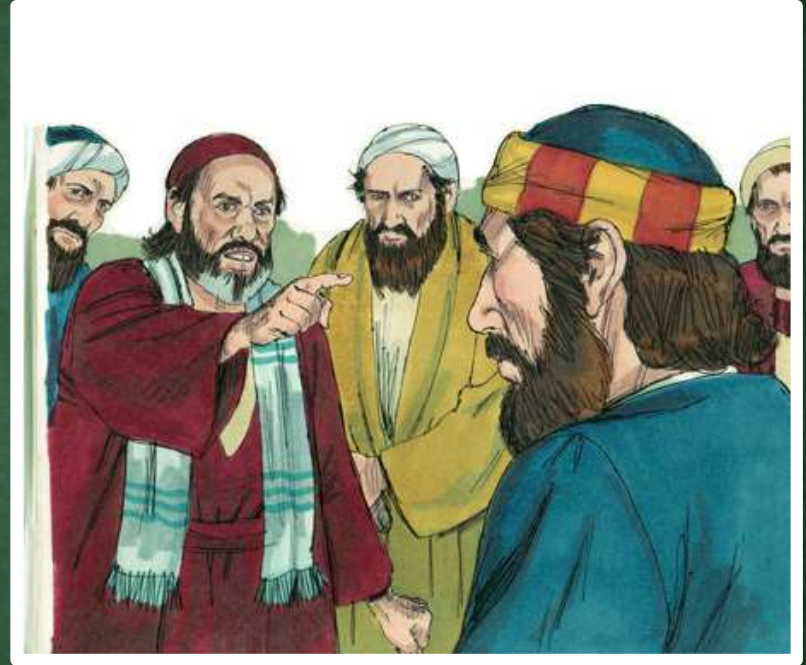
- <sup>1</sup> And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.
- <sup>2</sup> And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him,
- <sup>3</sup> Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.



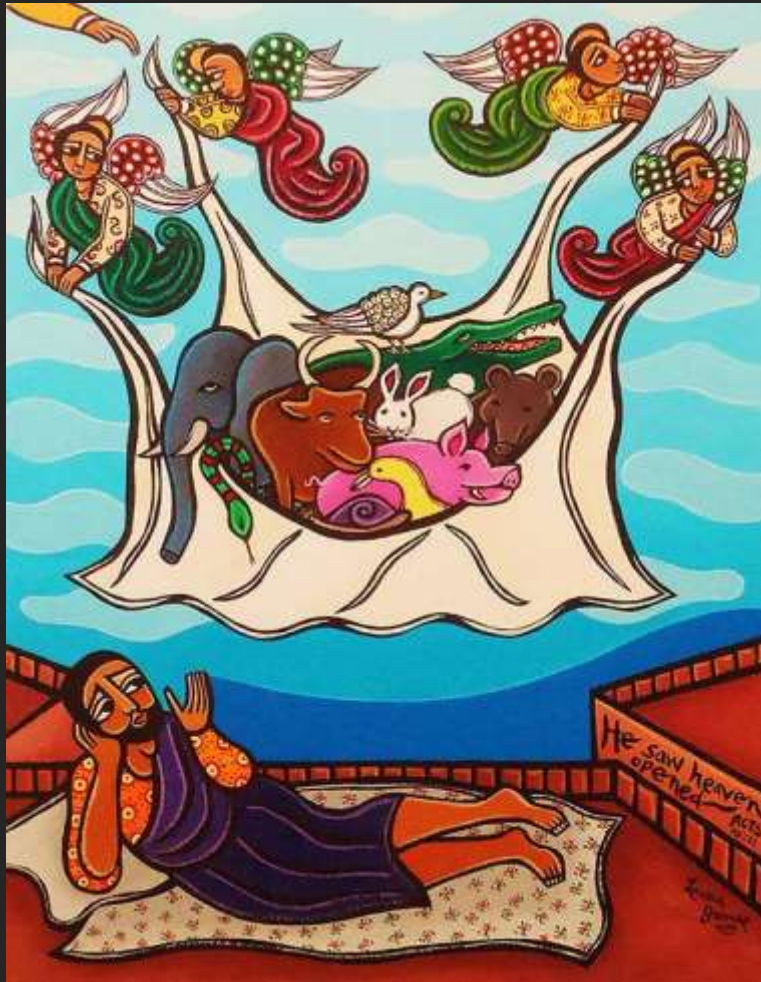


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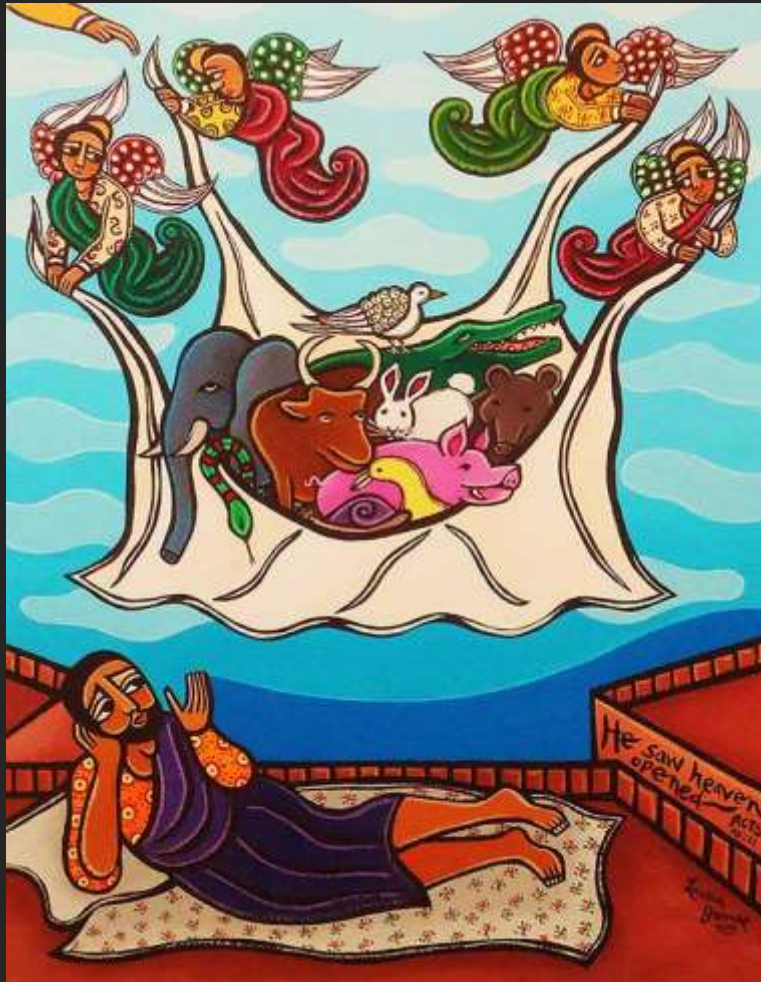


They did not yet understand that Jesus broke down the wall of partition that separated Jews and Gentiles.



## Acts 11:4-6

- 4 But Peter rehearsed *the matter* from the beginning, and expounded *it* by order unto them, saying,
- 5 I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me:
- 6 Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.



## Acts 11:7-10

- 7 And I heard a voice saying unto me,  
Arise, Peter; slay and eat.
- 8 But I said, Not so, Lord:  
for nothing common or unclean hath at any  
time entered into my mouth.
- 9 But the voice answered me again from  
heaven, What God hath cleansed,  
*that* call not thou common.
- 10 And this was done three times:  
and all were drawn up again into heaven.

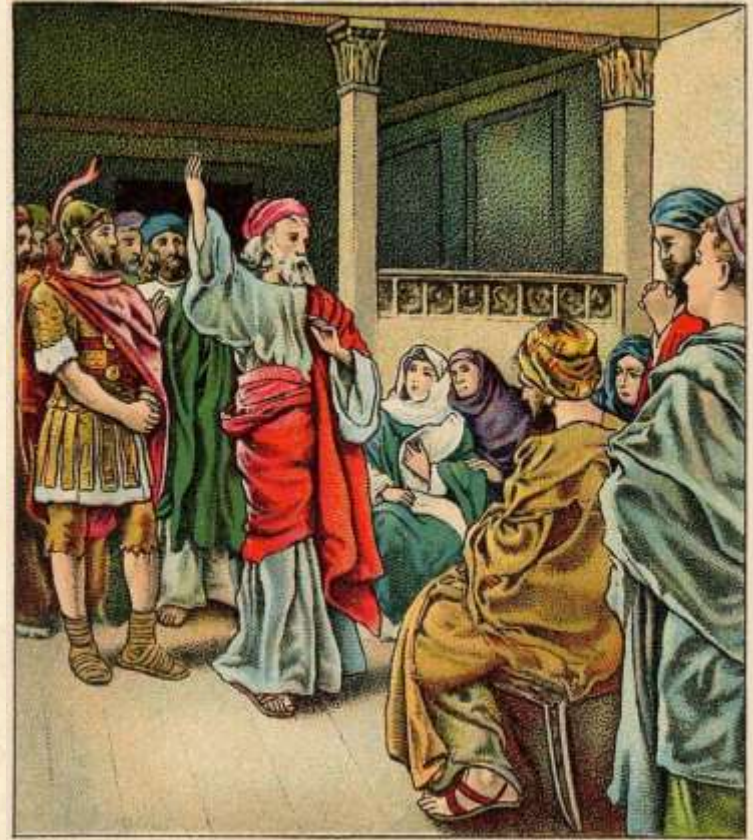


## Acts 11:11-12

<sup>11</sup> And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me.

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting.

Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:

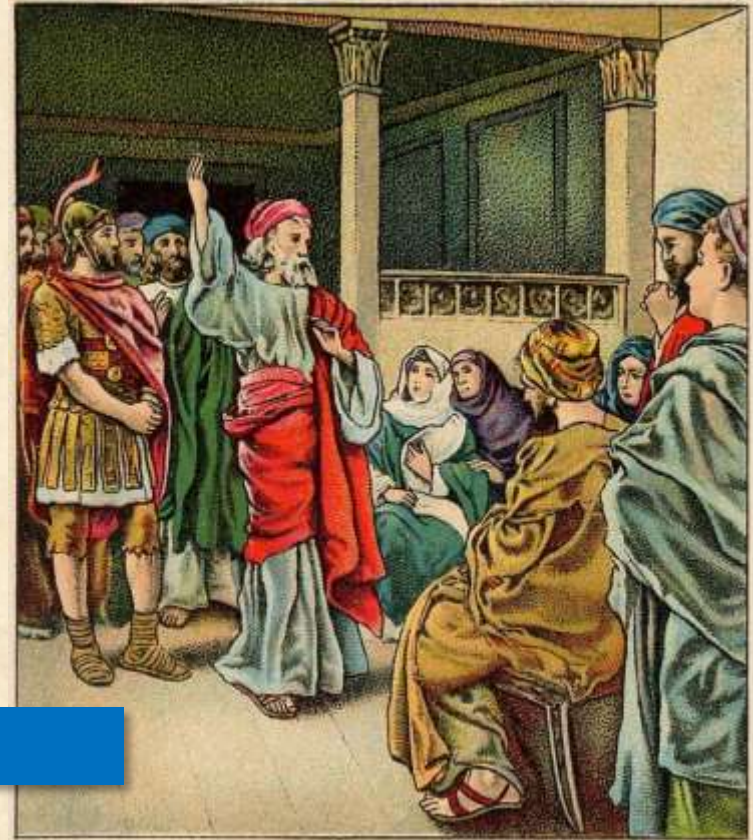


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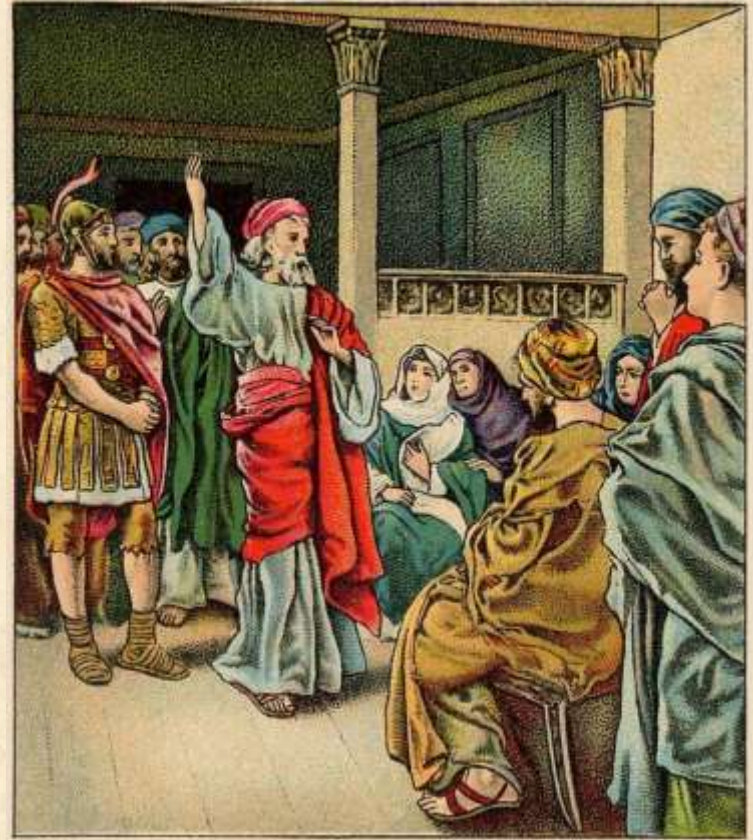
The brethren could confirm everything Peter said!





## Acts 11:13-14

- <sup>13</sup> And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;
- <sup>14</sup> Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.







### Acts 11:15-17

- <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.
- <sup>16</sup> Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said,  
**John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.**
- <sup>17</sup> Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as *he did* unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?



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**Acts 11:18**

When they heard these things,  
they held their peace, and glorified God,  
saying,  
Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted  
repentance unto life.





**Acts 11:18**

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Peter willingness to trust and obey the Lord led to this world-changing event.

The narrative of Acts now speaks of the great revival that was sparked by the death of Stephen.



## Acts 11:19

Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.





## Acts 11:20-21

- <sup>20</sup> And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.
- <sup>21</sup> And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.



## Acts 11:20-21

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At this point in the story, this still refers to Greek-speaking Jews.

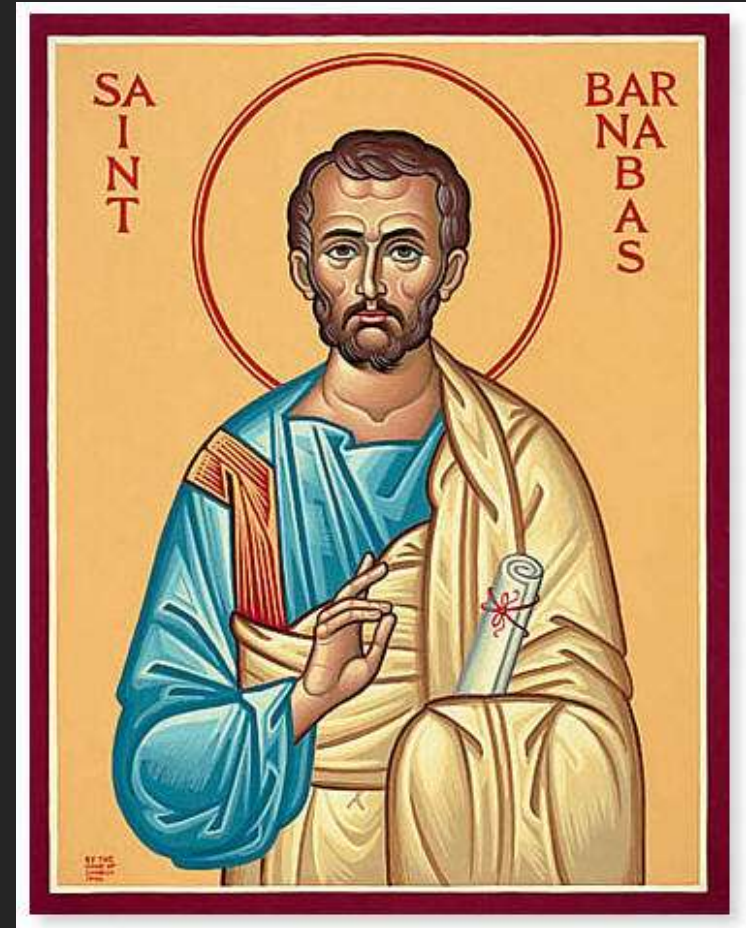
Because of the great number of Hellenistic Jews coming to Christ, the city of Antioch in Syria was established as the first Christian teaching center.





## Acts 11:22-24

- <sup>22</sup> Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem:  
and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.
- <sup>23</sup> Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.
- <sup>24</sup> For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith:  
and much people was added unto the Lord.



## Acts 11:25-26a

- 25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus,  
for to seek Saul:
- 26 And when he had found him,  
he brought him unto Antioch.



### **Acts 11:26b**

And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people.

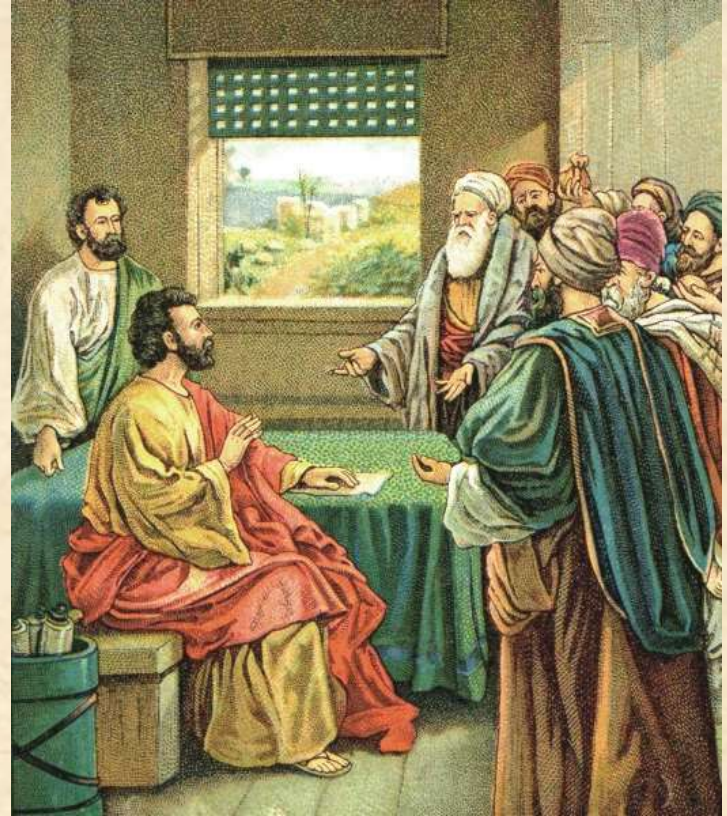
And the disciples were called **Christians** first in Antioch.





## Acts 11:27-28

- <sup>27</sup> And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.
- <sup>28</sup> And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.



**Acts 11:27-28**

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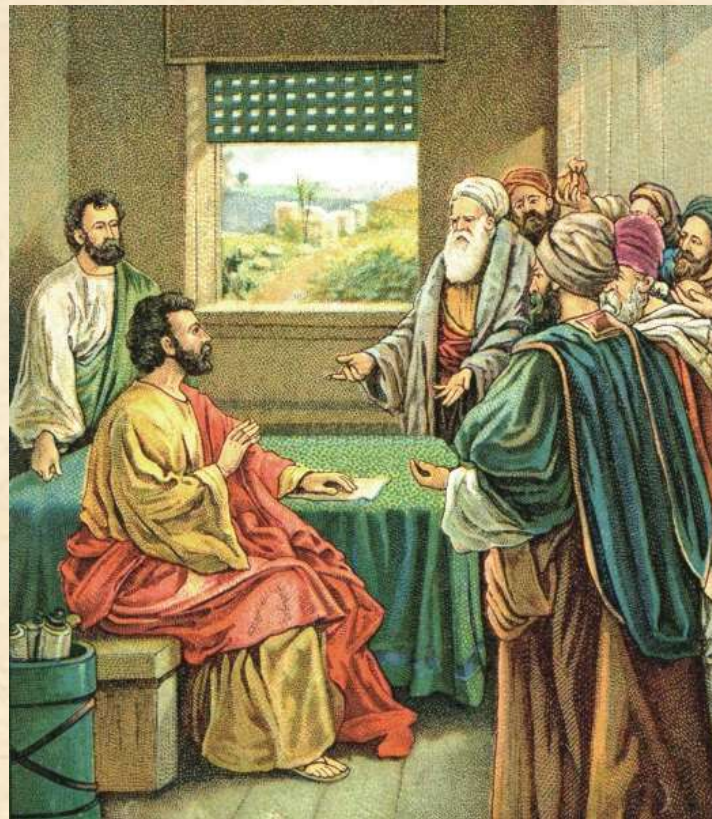


*Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus was the emperor of Rome from AD 41 to 54.*



## Acts 11:29-30

- <sup>29</sup> Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:
- <sup>30</sup> Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

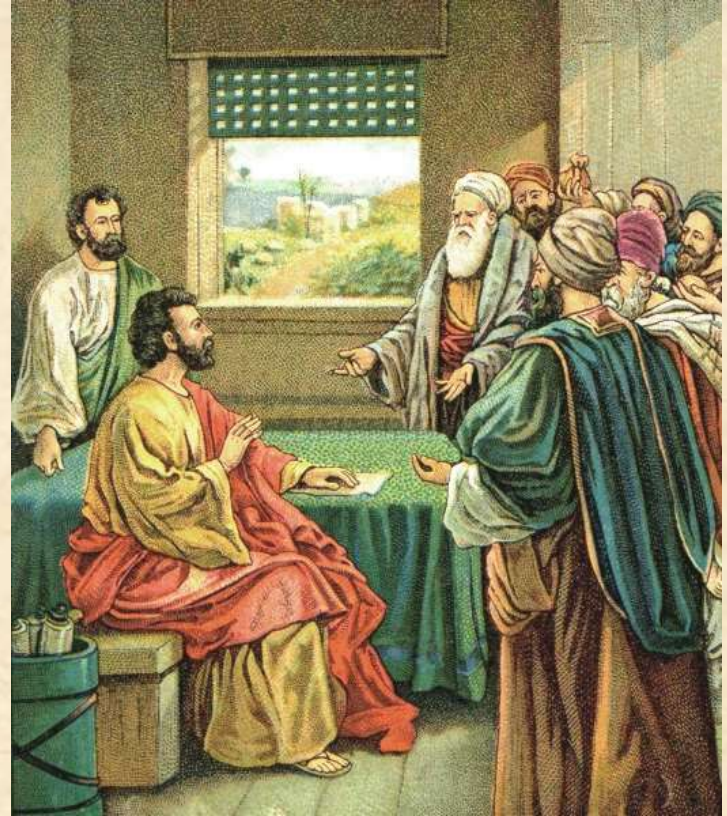




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End of Chapter 11





UP NEXT:  
In Acts 12, the story returns to Jerusalem  
and Peter's Great Escape.

## Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. In Acts 10:2, what are the four ways Cornelius is described?
2. In Acts 10:9, why had Peter gone up to the rooftop?
3. What was the first thing the Lord told Peter in the vision?
4. What was the second thing the Lord told Peter in the vision?
5. According to Acts 10:17, what was Peter doing when the strangers came looking for him?
6. What did Cornelius do when he first met Peter?
7. What was the supernatural sign that showed the Gentiles had also received the gift of the Holy Spirit?
8. According to Acts 11:2-3, why were some of the Christians angry with Peter?
9. Where were the disciples first called Christians?
10. What did Barnabas and Saul bring to the elders in Jerusalem?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.





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