

## The Acts of the Holy Spirit

### Acts 10:1-48

Acts 7-9 have been the book's way of moving outward from Jerusalem to the "border territories" of Israel's story. Chapter 10 blows things wide open. Who is Cornelius, and according to the angel, what has brought Cornelius to God's attention? What Biblical figures does Cornelius bring to mind?

How do Acts 10, verses 9-16 signal the timeline of events? If Cornelius's vision comes in the form of an angel, what about Peter's vision? What connections, if any, are there between Cornelius's vision and Peter's? What are the key words in each vision, as each man experiences the vision? What Torah teachings has God modified in each case?

Acts 10:17-33 bring the two visions together in a moment of astounding apostolic authority. How does Cornelius greet Peter, and how does Peter respond? When Peter combines the vision commending Cornelius's generosity with his own vision calling for relaxation of dietary laws, at what conclusion does he arrive?

What theological move does Peter make in Acts 10:34-35, and how does that stand in contrast to some of the Jewish teachings of the first century? How does that move link up with the testimony regarding Jesus in Acts 10:36-43? What has become evident to Peter that was hidden before, and how will this change the character of the Jesus-movement?

Acts 10:44-48 brings the story of Gentile conversion to a dramatic high point, as the believers-from-the-circumcision behold the works of the Spirit among the *ethnai*. Once again Peter speaks with authority in the moment when the Spirit acts. What must Peter command in order to bring this work of the Spirit into public recognition?