**Acts 10:1**

\*Saul of Tarsus had persecuted and scattered the Jerusalem Baptist Church and in doing so caused Baptist families to start churches in their homes, such as Deacon Philip (Acts 8:4, 12).

\*Then the LORD led Philip to Gaza (part of Judea [Acts 9:31]) and he baptized the eunuch in the Gaza Baptist Church, and then Philip went up the coast of the Mediterranean Sea starting churches Azotus, Lydda, Saron, Joppa and Caesarea (Acts 8:40; 9:32-43; 21:8).

\*Peter visited his scattered flock along the coast and stayed with Simon the tanner (unclean animals [Acts 9:43]) until the LORD called Peter to Caesarea!

\*The Lord Jesus had given Peter the keys to the KOH (Mt. 16:18-19) to unlock salvation to the Jews (Acts 2:38), to the Samaritans (Acts 8:14), and now to the Gentiles (Acts 10:44-48). The *temporal* phenomenon of Spirit Baptism occurred for the third time ***authenticating*** that Jews, Samaritans, and now Gentiles were welcome in the Lord’s Upper Room (Baptist Assembly), *“my church”* movement!

\*The Lord began to work in the heart of Gentile Cornelius who had responded to creation, conscience, and needed the commandments! Cornelius was a Roman officer over 100 soldiers from Italy stationed in Caesarea.

\*The Lord orchestrated the paths of sinners with saints for conversion as He did with Saul and Ananias, the eunuch and Philip, Aeneas and Peter, and now Cornelius and Peter!

**Acts 10:2**

\*Cornelius was a serious worshipper of the Unknown God (Acts 17:22-23) as he responded the truth that there was a powerful and personal God to Whom he must give account (Rom. 1:18-20).

\*He was a classic example of a pagan who knew there was a divine code of *ethics* and an *absolute* First Cause Being, much as the Gnostics Plato and Aristotle believed and taught at Athens (Acts 17)!

\*He dealt with the *ethics* issue (Rom. 2:14-15) by giving alms to the poor and dealt with the *absolute* issue through prayers! Being monotheistic he may have heard through Philip’s preaching about the monotheistic God Jehovah (Acts 8:40).

**Acts 10:3-4**

\*Similar to the coeval visions of Saul and Ananias, Cornelius and Peter had parallel visions. The ninth hour would have been 3 PM which apparently was prayer time for Jewish worship in the Temple (Acts 3:1); however, he prayed in his house (Acts 10:30).

\*He had a heavenly visitor, perhaps the glorified resurrected Jesus of Nazareth (Rev. 1:13; see also Acts 5:19; 9:10; 12:7-10; 27:23). He addressed the centurion by his Roman name Cornelius (“of a horn”).

\*Cornelius said he saw a man standing in bright clothing (Acts 10:30) and became afraid. He questioned the heavenly visitor saying, *“What is it Lord”* (see Acts 9:5, 10).

\*The Lord revealed that he heard his prayers and observed his alms as a memorial before God (see Mal. 3:16). As a Gentile he could not offer sacrifices but he could give to the poor (Mt. 19:21; I Cor. 13:3).

**Acts 10:5-6**

\*The divine directions forced Cornelius to exercise more faith by sending three men (v. 7) to Joppa about 35 miles away from Caesarea.

\*The angel of God gave specific details (name, occupation, geographical place) for finding Simon surnamed Peter who lodged with Simon the tanner and whose house was by the sea side. The reason: Peter would inform Cornelius *what to do*! The CT omits the reason but not *Tyndale* to *NKJV* (448 yrs)!

**Acts 10:7-8**

\*The resurrected and glorified Lord Jesus Christ had given specific instructions to this God-seeker, requiring him to exercise more faith. Cornelius responded immediately and called for two male servants and another God-seeker to help accomplish this divine encounter.

\*Apparently, Cornelius had at least one or maybe more converts to the monotheistic religion of the Jews. Of course, these Gentiles as well as the Jews needed the redeeming relationship with Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ (Mk. 1:15).

\*He declared (actually exegeted [Jn. 1:18]) the purpose and goal for the servants and soldier, and then sent them to Joppa, about 35 miles south.

**Acts 10:9**

\*The Lord was orchestrating the events coterminously to accomplish His plan. For the three messengers to arrive at Joppa around noon, they needed a very early start on the morrow!

\*In the mean time, Peter the devout Christian followed David’s example and prayed about the sixth hour (noon): *“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice”* (Ps. 55:17; see Dan. 6:10).

**Acts 10:10-11**

\*While waiting for a *kosher* (“right”) meal (clean animals only!) at the tanner’s house, he went on the roof (a place of privacy) to pray while hungry (keen senses), and fell into a divinely induced ecstatic *“trance”* (*ekstasis* [literally, “standing from”]).

\*Luke received specific details from Peter about the event. He saw several sequential actions: heaven open, a vessel descending, and let down to the earth. The vessel looked like *“a great sheet knit at the four corners”* (Acts 11:5).

**Acts 10:12-13**

\*Peter recognized immediately that the sheet contained a mixture of clean and unclean creatures. A selected summary of unclean animals would include the following: camel, hare, frog, mouse, pig, raven, owl, stork, vulture, snail, snake, etc. (Lev. 11:1-47; Dt. 14:3-21).

\*The Jew Paul emphatically taught that the practice of the *kosher* diet along with that of holy days ceased at the Cross (Eph. 2:13-16; Col. 2:14-17).

\*Peter, the converted Christian but still compliant Jew of Judaism received the command to arise, *“kill and eat”* (the latter two verbs are *aorist* imperatives)!

**Acts 10:14-16**

\*Ezekiel, compliant to the *kosher* diet, resisted enacting the eating of defiled bread to prophesy the coming judgment on the Jews, but ultimately obeyed (Ezk. 4:14). Peter responded the same way: *“Not so, Lord.”* He, along with other Jewish Baptists, struggled with how much of Judaism could one retain and still be a faithful disciple of Christ!

\*The Lord explained and commanded again the necessity of eating. His explanation was that Peter’s compliance was to an outdated and revoked system. The Cross ended Judaism theologically and the AD destruction of the Temple/Jerusalem ended Judaism practically! The Lord dealt with Peter the third time (Lk. 22:34, 61; Jn. 21:15-17) about what He had made common (*koine*). See Gal. 2:11-15!

**Acts 10:17**

\*Peter contemplated the cleanness of animals and Gentiles while the three men inquired about Peter.

**Acts 10:18**

\*The Lord had orchestrated the event, including the right people at the right time in the right place. Luke began to reveal the episode in a slow and repetitious account to emphasize the fine detail and extreme importance of this significant occasion.

\*For Peter to use the Keys of the Kingdom (Mt. 16:19) to unlock the Gospel to the Gentiles was the ultimate fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3). He was the second witness to the divine plan to convert Gentiles in connection with Joppa (i.e., Jonah).

\*The servants of Cornelius accomplished their purpose in finding Simon Peter.

**Acts 10:19-20**

\*Peter continued to contemplate the vision (*horama* [12x]; > “panorama”) in the trance and the Spirit interrupted him abruptly with *“Behold,”* and gave two declarations separated by two imperatives.

\*The Spirit declared that three men sought Peter which men were sent by the Lord. He commanded Peter to get down (*aorist* imperative) and to go (present imperative) with them. Although Peter had been doubting the vision, he received instruction to stop doubting.

**Acts 10:21-22**

\*Luke continued to record the wordy repetition of Peter about the encounter. The apostle obeyed the Spirit and enquired about their purpose. Although Peter knew he was commissioned by the Lord to reach all, he wanted confirmation from the visitors.

\*The three representatives gave the salient details about the man Cornelius, his spiritual concern of the fear of God, his good relationship with the Jews, the divine warning, the request for Peter, and the desire to hear his words.

**Acts 10:23-24**

\*Peter took the liberty to invite in and then lodged the visitors. They left the next day accompanied by six Jewish Christians of the Joppa Baptist Church (see 10:45; 11:12) to be witnesses to the conversion of Gentiles.

\*After the three day journey to Caesarea (10:30) they were received by Cornelius and his invitees, namely kinsmen and friends. Peter was on his way to aid in the inclusion of Gentiles in the Caesarean Baptist Church, presumably started by Philip!

**Acts 10:25-27**

\*When Cornelius saw Peter he fell down to worship the apostle who rebuked him and admitted that he was a mere man (cf. Rev. 22:8-9). Peter *“took him up”* by touching this unclean Gentile (notice the steps of Peter’s acceptance of Gentiles: lived with a tanner, had a vision, touched the Gentile)!

\*He began to talk to the seeker and went into the house and found many were there to hear the Gospel.

**Acts 10:28-29**

\*Prior to the Cross Jews prohibited contact with Samaritans (cf. Jn. 4:9) and Gentiles (see Jn. 18:28).

\*Peter admitted that the LORD revealed to him not to consider any man *“common or unclean.”* The apostle confessed that he had no *“gainsaying”* (i.e., contradiction [1x]). In fact, in the past, the Jews used the derogatory moniker *“uncircumcision”* for the Gentiles (Eph. 2:11).

\*The Apostle Peter finally came to the realization that the vision was not about the *kosher* diet primarily, but about the fellowship between Jew and Gentile, and the equality of mankind at the foot of the Cross (Gal. 3:28). Paul helped cement this truth to his fellow apostle (see Gal. 2:11-14)!

**Acts 10:30-33**

\*Cornelius began his testimony, explaining the precise time, the angelic appearance, the answer to prayer, and the sovereign command. First, he stated the day and hour as four days and 3 PM. Second, he described his heavenly visitor as *“an angel of God”* whom he called *“Lord”* (vv. 3-4). During the incarnation the revelatory angel was Gabriel (Lk. 1:19, 26), but after the resurrection it was the glorified Jesus (see Acts 9:5-6; 27:23; Rev. 1:13-16).

\*Third, the Cornelius repeated that the Lord revealed his prayer was heard and his alms remembered (Mal. 3:16). Fourth, the centurion repeated the details from the Lord about retrieving Simon Peter from the tanner’s house in Joppa for the Gospel message.

\*Cornelius expressed his seriousness about truth and responded immediately, and expressed his appreciation that Peter obeyed and came. He set the stage for the Apostle Peter to fulfill using “the Keys of the Kingdom Heaven” for the Gentiles (Mt. 16:18-19).

**Acts 10:34-35**

\*Everything was set for this great historical event, even the day of the week—presumably Sunday. Peter preached the Gospel and baptized converts, but also the Spirit was poured out as He was on Pentecost (50th day or Sunday)! Both Spirit Baptism and Spirit Regeneration occurred simultaneously (3rd Phase), and then water baptism followed for the converted Gentiles (vv. 45-48)!

\*With the gift of prophecy, Peter opened his mouth and expounded the great truth of universal Saviour Who died for all (I Tim. 4:10), as Jehovah revealed to Abraham centuries before (Gen. 12:1-3).

\*God does not respect persons but has provided salvation for Jew and Gentile, which truth Peter had learned (vv. 13-17). From Adam and through Noah all men are to respond to General Revelation since they are without excuse (Rom. 1:20) and need to receive the Lord’s extended repentance (Lk. 24:47) because He wants all to be saved (I Tim. 2:4). The first step is the fear of God and showing a demonstration of this fear in some sort of righteous behaviour. The fruit of pre-conversion leads to the fruit of conversion (see Rom.2:7-8).

**Acts 10:36-37**

\*The universality of the Lordship and redemption of the Messiah was known by the Gentile world in the OT (throughout Genesis, Joshua, II Sam., Esther, Jonah, etc.) and in the Greco-Roman world of the first century (Herod, Pilate, etc.). The message of peace advanced as the fame of Jesus of Nazareth spread to Gentiles in Syria (Mt. 4:24), the Decapolis (Mt. 4:25), and throughout the country (Mt. 9:31).

\*Peter elaborated on *“the word”* as the Gospel message continued to spread, since the Jews were to be *“a light to the Gentiles”* (Isa. 49:6). From the multitudes who became Baptists throughout Judea and because of the unusual and miraculous events which happened in Jerusalem, Paul asserted to King Agrippa, saying, *“for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner”* (Acts 26:26).

**Acts 10:38**

\*The Lord Jesus recognized His divine calling from Isa. 61:1-2 (see Lk. 4:18) and received the anointing from the Holy Spirit to do good and to heal the demonically oppressed, as the three members of the Triune Godhead (God, Holy Ghost, Jesus) effectuated Their soteriological work on Jews and Gentiles.

\*Although Satan had bound men with diabolical darkness (see Lk. 8:29; 13:16; Eph. 2:1-2), the Messiah came to deliver captives and give liberty to repentant sinners. God was with Jesus (Mt. 3:16-17).