**Acts 11:1**

\*For the third time the Jewish Apostles and believers in the Jerusalem Baptist Church (Judaea) heard about the Apostle Peter using the “Keys of the Kingdom” (Mt. 16:18-19) for not only Jews and Samaritans, but now for the Gentiles (10:44-48)! The Lord authenticated through the external and temporal phenomenon of Spirit Baptism that His new institution of the Baptist assembly superseded the old institution of the Jewish Temple, and that Jews, Samaritans, and now Gentiles have equal standing in the Lord’s congregations (cf. Ps. 22:22; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 3:6).

\*The gentilic household of Cornelius was baptized by Christ with Spirit Baptism (Mt. 3:11), manifested by signs and wonders including tongues, and the Gentiles received Spirit Regeneration, having heard and received the preached word of God.

\*The regenerated Gentiles of the household of Cornelius had received water immersion, constituting the church plant in his house (water baptism is a church ordinance; baptism = church plant)!

**Acts 11:2-3**

\*The Apostle and former Pastor Peter received opposition from the circumcision (i.e., Jews) when he returned to Jerusalem, as they *“contended”* (*diakrino* [19x] “through judgment”) with him.

\*Some Jews apparently were ignorant of or forgot about the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20). Nor did they realize that Peter and the Apostles were commissioned with the Keys of the Kingdom (Mt. 16; 18).

\*They challenged Peter with eating with unclean and common Gentiles!

\*Starting churches exclusively for cultural, racial, or national groups brings ideations and practices quite often contrary to the purity of biblical truth! Unity must be around truth and not personal/social interests! Shemites, Hamites, and Japhethites may all worship Jehovah Who has redeemed “Adamites”!

**Acts 11:4**

\*Peter, with the gift of prophecy, began to rehearse with his wordy, detailed, but pertinent review of the events, *“by order”* (*kathexes* [5x]). Cf. Lk. 1:3; 8:1; Acts 3:14 and 18:23.

**Acts 11:5-6**

\*He started his apologetic defense by giving place, activity, and phenomenon. Having left the pastorate at Jerusalem, he began evangelizing/church planting along the coast close to the churches in Lydda and Joppa (cf. Acts 8:40; 9:32, 36).

\*Peter explained that while at the tanner’s house he had a vision in a trance of a sheet with clean and unclean animals (see 10:9-17; 28) but instructed that the *Kosher* diet for animals (or man) was over! Neither animals nor man are unclean or common (10:28)!

**Acts 11:7-10**

\*The Lord told the observant Jew to slay and eat but Peter objected and God rebuked. The three-fold dealing with Peter was characteristic but necessary for him and his Jewish audience (cf. Mt. 17:1-6).

**Acts 11:11-12**

\*While contemplating the vision three men from Caesarea asked for him and the Spirit commanded him to go without doubting. With six members of the Joppa Baptist Church and three messengers from Cornelius affirmed this scenario. Peter had sufficient witnesses to confirm this truth.

**Acts 11:13-14**

\*The man Cornelius revealed the visitation of the heavenly messenger and the specific message which affirmed again the divine involvement. Cornelius wanted the words of salvation for him and others.

**Acts 11:15**

 \*As Peter began to explain to the questioning Jews about contact with Gentiles, he rehearsed again his responsibility with the Keys of the Kingdom and the third phase of the temporary phenomenon of Spirit Baptism as prophesied in the OT (Isa. 44:3; Ezk. 39:29; Joel 2:28-32) and fulfilled in the early days of the first century (Eph. 4:5).

 \*Biblically, baptism is a singular and authenticating event related to the Baptist assembly and the recipient’s identification. Presumably, the contentious Jews had observed the phenomenon of Pentecost, and Pastor Peter began to review the *Vision* (vv. 5-6), the *Voice* (vv. 7-10), the *Visitation* (vv. 11-14), and now the *Victory* of Gentile salvation and inclusion (vv. 15-18)!

 \*As Peter preached to the Gentiles the message of repent, believe, and be baptized (Acts 2:38), the Holy Ghost *“fell on,”* was *“poured out,”* or they were *“baptized with”* (or *“in”*), they experienced Spirit Baptism and Spirit Regeneration simultaneously, as *“at the beginning”* (Acts 2:1 ff.).

 \*The Lord Jesus had baptized the Gentiles in the Holy Ghost (Mt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:22; Acts 1:5) as He had the Jews and Samaritans. Confused Protestants such as S. Custer claimed “Peter referred to *‘the birthday of the church’* on the day of Pentecost.” NO! > ***No Parachurch!*** The Lord already had His Baptist assembly with the office of Apostles (Mt. 10:1 ff.), church discipline (Mt. 18:15-20), the Lord’s Supper (Mt. 26:26-28), and the 3000 *“added to the church”* (Acts 2:47)!

 \*Just as water baptism occurs after regeneration, so Spirit Baptism occurred after salvation/regeneration as in Jn. 20:22; Acts 2:1 ff., 8:16; 10:47; 11:15; 19:4-6! Who was/is Spirit baptized into the “mystical church” at salvation? **NOOOOO One! (NO One for 2000 years; No One ever!).**

**Acts 11:16**

 \*Peter harked back to the statement of Jesus of Nazareth about water baptism and Spirit Baptism (Acts 1:5). Peter with nine other Apostles had received Spirit Regeneration prior to Pentecost (cf. Jn. 14:17; 20:22), and on Pentecost he and others of the 120 Jerusalem Baptist Church members received the temporary and external phenomenon of Spirit Baptism, with associated signs and wonders!

**Acts 11:17**

 \*The Apostle affirmed that God gave the gift of Spirit Regeneration to the believing Gentiles as he had to Peter, and in this case simultaneous with Spirit Baptism, as the Gentiles spoke in tongues (Acts10:46).

 \*As in Acts 2 and 8, associated signs accompanied the conversion of Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles for the benefit of the sign-seeking Jews, including Peter. He could not *“withstand God;”* so he established the Baptist assembly at Cornelius’ house through water baptism of those who believed (Acts 10:47-48)!

**Acts 11:18**

 \*Peter explained the divinely prophesied event to the Jews at Jerusalem to their satisfaction and peace. The believing Jews recognized the fulfillment of the Lord’s plan to establish a new institution for this dispensation, replacing the Jewish Temple worshipping on Saturdays with the Baptist assembly meeting on Sunday.

 \*The presence of Jehovah manifested with signs and wonders by His filling of the new place of worship, such as the Tabernacle in the wilderness (Ex. 40:34-35), Solomon’s Temple (I Ki. 8:10-11), the Zerubbabel-Herod Temple (Zech. 1:16; 2:5), the Millennial Temple (Ezk. 43:4-5), and of course the Baptist assembly (Acts 2:1 ff.).

 \*The Jews recognized that God granted to Gentiles *“repentance unto life”* (cf. Jon. 3:8-10)!