

“Lord Of All”
Acts 10:1 - 11:18

Introduction:

1. Please Go Back With Me In Your Bibles Tonight:
 - To Acts 10 - Where - As We:
 - Continue Our **Journey Through Acts**:
 - We Will Be Exploring Together:
 - A Rather Lengthy Story About The Ministry Of The Apostle Peter:
 - That Was Quite Important For Luke - The Writer Of Acts:
 - Who Was Likely As A Gentile Believer!
 - It Is The Story About:
 - The Conversion Of Another Gentile:
 - By The Name Of Cornelius:
 - A Centurion In The Roman Army!
2. And As We Read Through:
 - These Verses Tonight:
 - I Want To Draw Your Attention To:
 - The Different Pairs:
 - That Are Evident Throughout The Story!
 - And So - The First Pair We Come To In Acts 10 Is:

1. Two Main Places!

- 10:1 - “There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band!”
 - The First Place We Come To:
 - Is The City Of Caesarea:
 - Which Was Built By King Herod The Great - The Same King Herod:
 - That Sought To Kill Jesus Not Long After He Was Born In Bethlehem!
 - Herod Built And Named The City:
 - In Honor Of “Caesar Augustus” - With Whom:
 - He Had Close Political & Personal Ties!
 - It Was A Port City:
 - Along The Mediterranean Sea:
 - And Was Built To Rival Alexandria In Egypt - And Was Designed According To Roman Specifications!
 - So - It Was A Predominantly Roman City:
 - With A Predominantly Roman Culture:
 - As Well As Inhabitants!
 - It Was A Place & A City That Faithful Jews Did Not Consider Part Of Their Heritage! Their Holy Land!
 - But - In Contrast With Caesarea:
 - The Second Place We Will Come To:
 - Is The City Of Joppa:
 - Which Was A Prominent Jewish City:
 - Known For Its Ancient History:
 - And Use By God In The Affairs Of His People!
 - Especially In The Life Of The Prophet Jonah!
 - It Was In Joppa:
 - Where We Left Peter:
 - At The End Of Chapter 9:
 - When - After Raising Dorcas From The Dead - 9:43 - “And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner!”
- Keep These Two Places:
 - In Mind - As We Go Through The Rest Of The Story!
 - But Also - Keep In Mind The:

2. Two Main People!

- The First Person We Read About Is Cornelius:

- Who Was A Faithful Roman Soldier:
 - Known As A Centurion:
 - Which Was A Trusted Leadership Position In The Roman Army:
 - Over About 100 Troops!
- The “Italian Band” Probably Consisted:
 - Of Troops From Rome Itself:
 - And Would Have Been Very Disciplined And Loyal:
 - To The Roman Emperor!
- But - There Was Something Different:
 - About Cornelius!
 - In 10:2 - We Are Told That He Was “A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway!”
- There Was Something About The Jewish Religion:
 - That Interested Him - And Something About The Jewish God:
 - That Intrigued Him - And So - He Grew To Fear The One True God:
 - And Sought To Worship & Serve Him As Best He Could!
- So - Even Though Cornelius:
 - Was A Thoroughly Gentile Man Living In A Thoroughly Gentile World:
 - God Had Shined The Light Of Truth Into His Heart & Life!
- But - In Contrast With Cornelius:
 - The Second Person We Read About Is Peter:
 - Who Is No Stranger To Us!
 - We Will Get To His Part Of The Story In A Minute - But Peter Was Originally:
 - A Very Faithful Jew:
 - Who Sought To Follow After God’s Will & God’s Way:
 - Even When He Was A Rough Fisherman On The Sea Of Galilee!
 - And So - Peter:
 - Was A Thoroughly Jewish Man Living In A Thoroughly Jewish World:
 - Who - Though Now A Christian & An Apostle - Was Slowly Having His Own Identity, Mind-Set And Even Prejudices Changed By The Lord!
- But When These Two Men Finally Meet:
 - Neither Of Their Lives:
 - Will Ever Be The Same Again!
 - And Neither Will Ours!
 - And So - With These Two People:
 - And These Two Places In Mind:
 - We Then Read About:

3. ***Two Main Prayers - In 10:3-18:***

- The First Prayer:
 - Is The Prayer Of Cornelius In The City Of Caesaria:
 - 10:3-8 - “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. / 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. / 5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: / 6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do. / 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!”
 - So - As Cornelius Is Praying:
 - God Answers His Prayer With A Vision!
 - And Sends An Angel With Instructions, Which He Followed Immediately!
- The Second Prayer:
 - Is The Prayer Of Peter In The City Of Joppa:
 - Still At The Home Of Simon The Tanner - 10:9-18 - “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: / 10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a

trance, / 11 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: / 12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. / 13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. / 14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. / 15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. / 16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. / 17 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, / 18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there!"

- So - As Peter Is Praying:

- God Answers His Prayer With A Vision As Well!

- A Vision That "Was Done Thrice" (10:16), Which Was Not An Unfamiliar Thing For Peter! Used To Get His Attention!

- But - It Was Clear To Both Men:

- That God Was Up To Something:

- Even Though - For A Time - 9:17 - "Peter Doubted In Himself What This Vision Which He Had Seen Should Mean!"

- But Even While Peter Was Thinking About It, God Was Already In The Process Of Bringing Those Two Different Men From Two Different Worlds Together - For A Reason! And So We Read Further About:

4. **Two Main Points - In 10:19-29:**

- The First Main Point:

- Is The Point Made By The Lord To Peter:

- When The Representatives Of Cornelius Met With Peter At Joppa!

- 10:19-23 - "While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. / 20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. / 21 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? / 22 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. / 23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him!"

- The First Point Made To Peter Is Found In:

- 10:20 - "Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them!"

- "Doubting Nothing" Here Means To Obey Without Debate, Discrimination, Or Delay! Lay All Your Jewishness Aside, Peter, So You Can Meet With This Gentile!

- The Second Main Point:

- Is The Point Made By The Lord To Peter:

- When Peter And His Representatives Meet With Cornelius In Caesarea!

- 10:24-29 - "And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends. / 25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. / 26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. / 27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. / 28 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. / 29 Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?"

- The Second Point Made To Peter Is Found In:

- 10:28 - "God Hath Showed Me That I Should Not Call Any Man Common Or Unclean!"

- Even Though His Vision Was About Animals, The More He Thought About It As He Traveled To Caesarea, He Understood It Was A Parable About His Relationship With Men!

- God Was Revealing To Both Peter & Cornelius That:

- For God's Reach Through The Gospel Of Christ:

- There Is No Place To Far!

- And There Is No Person Too Foreign!
- Because - As These Two Men Finally Meet:
- We Read About:

5. Two Main Presentations - 10:30-43:

- The First Presentation:

- Is The Presentation Of Cornelius:

- 10:30-33 - In Response To Peter's Inquiry - " 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, / 31 And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. / 32 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. / 33 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!"

- And After Hearing These Words - We Have:

- The Second Presentation:

- Which Is The Presentation Of Peter:

- Of The Grace Of God Through The Gospel Of Jesus Christ! 10:34-43 - "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: / 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. / 36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)/ 37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; / 38 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. / 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. / 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!"

- Peter Was Given By The Lord:

- A Captive Audience To Preach One Of The Clearest Messages Of The Gospel:

- That We Find In All Of The New Testament!

- Peter Tells Cornelius - As Well As All Of His Other Gentile Family & Friends - About:

- The Life, Death & Resurrection Of Jesus - With This Invitation - 10:43 - "That Through His Name – Jesus – Whosoever Believeth In Him Shall Receive Remission Of Sins!"

- And What Happens Next:

- Illustrates What The Gospel Was Meant To Do All Along! Because - All The Different Pairs We Read In This Narrative - All Of A Sudden Stop! And Instead, We Read About:

6. One Main Purpose - 10:44-48:

- "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. / 45 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. / 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. 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!"

- Those Gentiles In The Home Of Cornelius - There In Caesarea:

- Believed In:

- The Same Gospel:

- As The Jewish Christians!

- They Received:

- The Same Gift:

- The Gift Of The Holy Spirit, Which Manifested Itself:

- With The Same Signs, As They "Heard Them Speak With Tongues!" (10:46)

- They Magnified:
 - The Same God:
 - As They Did On The Day Of Pentecost In Acts 2 - When The Believers In Jerusalem Spoke In Other Tongues / Languages - “The Wonderful Works Of God!”
 - But Then - Something Even More Amazing Happened!
- They Became Part Of:
 - The Same Group:
 - When They Were “Baptized In The Name Of The Lord!” (10:48)
 - And Were Added To The Body Of Christ, The Church!

Conclusion:

1. And This Was As Much A Surprise To The Rest Of The Church:
 - In Jerusalem - As It Was To Peter That Day!
 - Because - In 11:1-17 - We Find A Similar Concern:
 - To Peter’s - “And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. / 2 And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision *contended* with him, / 3 Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them. / 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. / 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. / 11 And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me. / 12 And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house: / 13 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; / 14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. / 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. / 16 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. / 17 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?”
2. How Would The Rest Of The Church Respond To Peter’s Explanation?
 - 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!”
 - In This Way - Through His Words - Luke Illustrates:
 - The Same Truth That We Find Later In:
 - Ephesians 2:12-14 - “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: / But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. / For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us!”
 - This Means That The Church Of Jesus Christ Is One:
 - Because The Lord Is The “Lord - Of All!
 - That Is - “God Is No Respector Of Persons!” (10:34)
 - And We Must Not Be Either!
3. So - When It Comes:
 - To Our Fellowship As Christians:
 - Or Even To Our Presentation Of Christ To Others:
 - Is There Any Prejudice Or Discrimination On Our Part That Might:
 - Prevent Us From Manifesting The Grace Of God As Found In The Gospel?
 - This Does Not Mean That We Overlook Sin!
 - But It Does Mean That We Need To Remember:
 - As In The Case Of Cornelius The Centurion:
 - There Is No Place Too Far!

- There Is No Person Too Foreign!
- There Is Even No Sin So Great!
 - That Puts Someone Out Of Reach:
 - Of God's Own Outstretched Hand Of Grace - Through The Gospel!
- Because - He Is - And Ever Remains:
 - "Lord Of All!"

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com