



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High.
Title: Salvation To The Gentiles
Part 1
Lesson: 60

Text: Acts 10:1-16
Date: Nov. 26, 2023

The major theme of prejudice.

John 17:21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

The Jews had a real problem with engrained pride.

Orthodox Jews had nothing at all to do with Outsiders

Samaritans - "Half-breeds"

John 8:48 The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

Gentiles - "dogs"

They called Gentiles "dogs" - Rabid scavengers

Peter continues to be the dominant apostle.

God was gradually growing Peter out of his one

step at a time

1. Dorcas (Tabitha) - Her name means Gazelle

Gazelle's were clean animals

2. Peter was standing at the house of a tanner named Simon

Touching dead animals was forbidden by the Mosaic Law.

God sovereignly _____ salvation.

1. God prepared _____ (1-8)

Acts 10:1–2 Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, 2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually.

“a man”

Acts 13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been **appointed** to eternal life believed.

“appointed” -

“centurion” -

His character

“devout”

“gave many alms”

“prayed”

“God-fearing”

Who were the “God fearers?”

Acts 13:16 Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, “Men of Israel, and you who ***fear God***, listen:

Acts 17:17 So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the ***God-fearing Gentiles***, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.

Acts 13:26 “Brethren, sons of Abraham’s family, and those among you who ***fear God***, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

Was Cornelius a believer?

Acts 11:13–14 “And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; 14 and he will speak words to you by which ***you will be saved***, you and all your household.’

3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, Cornelius!”

“ninth hour” (3:00 in the afternoon)

4 And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

Does God answer the prayers of unbelievers?

Jeremiah 29:13 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

5 "Now dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter; 6 he is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea."

There's something immensely comforting about this.

Why did God choose Peter to be the messenger?

Matthew 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

"keys" (plural)

Peter was given two keys.

1. A key to open the door to the Jews.
2. A key to open the door to the Gentiles.

7 When the angel who was speaking to him had left, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were his personal attendants, 8 and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

2. God prepared _____ . (9-20)

9 On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.

10 But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance;

“trance” - A trance is like a hypnotic state where one ceases to be under the control of conscious reason.

Why the details about hunger and preparing the food?

11 and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, 12 and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air.

The animals were divided into three groups.

“four-footed animals”

“crawling creatures”

“birds”

Creation account - Genesis 1:30

The Noah account - Genesis 6:20

The exchange of God's glory to worship animals
in Roman 1:23

The Mosaic law

The Jews were forbidden to eat unclean animals.

Leviticus 11:13-19; Deuteronomy 14:12-18

Why did God give the Jews such restrictions?

Jewish scholars believe there are two reasons:

1. Certain animals were more susceptible to carrying disease.
2. Their dietary restrictions set the Jews apart from the Gentiles and pictured God's call on their life to be pure and holy in an unclean world.

13 A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!"

14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." **15** Again a voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy."
16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

What was the point of the vision?

1. It signaled the passing of the Jewish age and the inauguration of church age.
2. The clean and unclean animals symbolized all _____.

“Clean animals” = “_____”

“Unclean animals” = “_____”

So the entire vision taught that both groups were being brought together to form

“The _____”

Ephesians 2:11–14 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

Discussion Guide

1. Mankind is prone to prejudice and bigotry. In what ways do we see that today in the church?
2. Who were the “God-fearers” and do they exist today?
 - A. How are “God-fearers” similar to “believing unbelievers” that we studied back in Acts 8:9-24? How are they different?
 - B. How can we say that “God-fearers” are active in their salvation without saying they work for their salvation?
3. What were the two implications of Peter’s vision?
4. Peter was so conditioned by his past that he couldn’t eat even when God told him it was okay. In what way(s) might that apply today?
5. What insight(s) did you learn from the sermon that you can apply today?



ANSWERS: orchestrates, Cornelius, Peter, humanity, Jews, Gentiles, Church