

Acts 10:1-8 - Intro to Cornelius and a tour of Caesarea

1. Background, Setting and People of Acts 10
2. Observation and exposition of Acts 10:1-8
3. The take-away for us?

Background, Setting, and People of Acts 10

1. C. S. Lewis and Chronological Snobbery
 - a. **Chronological snobbery** is an argument that the thinking, art, or science of an earlier time is *inherently* inferior to that of the present, simply by virtue of its temporal priority or the belief that since civilization has advanced in certain areas, people of earlier time periods were less intelligent. The term was coined by C. S. Lewis and Owen Barfield, first mentioned by Lewis in his 1955 autobiographical work, *Surprised by Joy*. (Wikipedia)
2. Joppa
3. Caesarea
 - a. Philip in **Acts 8:40**
 - b. Saul boarded a ship for Tarsus in **Acts 9:30**
 - c. Cornelius and Peter in **Acts 10**
 - d. Paul and Luke in **Acts 21:8**
 - e. Paul imprisoned here for at least two years in **Acts 23-26**
4. Italian Cohort
 - a. Called “Italian” because it was originally raised in Italy as an auxiliary force, and not composed of Romans.
5. Cornelius
 - a. As a centurion, in command of 80-100 soldiers
 - b. Servants
 - c. Devout soldier
6. Simon called Peter
7. Simon the tanner

Observation and exposition of Acts 10:1-8

1. Read **Acts 10:1-8**
2. Key part of Acts for Luke

- a. All of chapter 10
 - b. 11:1-8 - Peter tells the church what happened
 - c. 15:6-11 - Peter refers to this again at the Jerusalem council
- 3. Observation and exposition
- 4. God's initiative and direction in bringing Peter and Cornelius together
 - a. Peter's progression of barriers being removed
- 5. Acts 8, 9, and 10
 - a. Three conversions? Or one conversion and two transitions?
 - b. Compare and contrast the Ethiopian, Saul, and Cornelius
 - c. "Putting it another way, Luke records 'the transition of a godly believer (dependent upon OT revelation) into the new age of the Spirit, rather than the conversion of an unbeliever.'" Peterson, 328
 - d. "However....there is a sense in which both the Ethiopian and Cornelius are positively converted by turning to the Lord Jesus for salvation." Peterson, 328, footnote 21
 - e. Wasn't the Ethiopian the first Gentile convert? Discuss...

The take-away for us

Resources

1. *The Acts of the Apostles*, F. F. Bruce, 1990
2. *The Book of the Acts*, F. F. Bruce, 1988
3. *The Acts of the Apostles*, David G. Peterson
4. *The Message of Acts*, John Stott
5. *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ben Witherington III
6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caesarea_Maritima
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffa>
8. <https://www.bibleplaces.com/caesarea/>
9. <https://www.seetheholyland.net/caesarea-maritima/>
10. <https://biblewalks.com/sites/Caesarea.html>
11. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/maps/arch/caesarea.html>
12. <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/biblical-archaeology-sites/new-discoveries-unveiled-at-caesarea-maritima/>
13. <http://www.livius.org/articles/place/caesarea-maritima/>

14. https://www.google.com/search?q=caesarea+maritima&safe=strict&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwihk4jXuOjeAhULoYMKHY_DBE8Q_AUIDigB&biw=1440&bih=794
15. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronological_snobbery