

Preparing Peter Acts 9:32-10:23

I. God Directs His Moves – 9:32-35

1. Peter went here & there among them – 32
Among believers in Judea, Galilee, & Samaria – 31
With Saul gone the church had peace & growth
2. So Peter could visit believers to encourage - 32
He preached the gospel & visited believers
3. One place he visited was Lydda – 32-35
There he found a man, Aeneas, paralyzed – 33
He was bedridden for 8 years
Peter raised him up in the name of Jesus – 34
All residents of Lydda & Sharon saw Him – 35
And they turned to the Lord

II. A Plea From Joppa – 36-43

1. A disciple named Tabitha lived there – 36
“Tabitha” (Aramaic) Dorcas (Greek) mean “Gazelle”
Truly beautiful, in good works & acts of charity
2. She became ill and died – 37
With love they prepared her body for burial
3. Lydda was near Joppa & they called Peter – 38
Sent 2 men urging him to come without delay
4. Peter went & met with them in an upper room – 39
Widows wept showing Peter clothes she made for them
5. Peter asked them all to leave as he prayed - 40
Having prayed, he said “Tabitha arise”
Seeing Peter, she set up
6. He raised her up & called for others – 41
He presented her alive to saints & widows
7. News spread in Joppa & many believed – 42
Many saw God’s power & believed in Him
8. Peter stayed in Joppa for many days – 43
He stayed with Simon, who was a tanner

III. Peter’s Next Move – 10:1-8

1. At Caesarea, a man named Cornelius – 1
With each move there is a person in need
Caesarea is a Roman city, seat of government
Cornelius was a centurion, a leader of 100 soldiers
His band was known as the Italian Cohort
2. In his position, he was a devout man – 2
He feared God with all his household
He gave alms generously to the people
And he prayed continually to God
3. About ninth hour (3 pm) an angel appeared – 3
In a vision he spoke to Cornelius, by name
In terror he responded, “What is it Lord?”
4. Angel came in answer to his prayer – 4-6
“Your prayers & your alms have ascended as a memorial before God”

“Now send men to Joppa & bring one Simon who is called Peter”

“He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea”

The angel gives very specific directions for Peter

5. When the angel departed, Cornelius responded– 7-8
He sent two of his servants to go and get Peter
He also sent a devout soldier with them
He was one who personally attended Cornelius
He repeated the angel’s message & sent them to Joppa

iv. God’s Visit With Peter – 10:9-16

1. the next day as these men approached Joppa – 9
Peter was on the housetop, praying at 6th hour
2. He was hungry, but a meal was not ready – 10-11
In a trance he saw heaven opened
Something like a great sheet descending to earth– 11
Let down by its four corners
3. In it were all kinds of animals, reptiles & birds – 12
4. A voice said “Rise, Peter; kill and eat” – 13-16
Peter responded; “by no means Lord”
“I have never eaten anything common or unclean”
A voice came again “What God has made clean, do not call common”
This happened 3 times & was taken up – 16
The Lord wanted Peter to get the message
Note; His question to Peter repeated 3 times – Jn. 21:15-17
5. Peter is perplexed at vision’s meaning – 17-18
As he thought the visitors arrived seeking Peter
6. The Holy Spirit made him aware of visitors – 19-20
He told Peter go down & go with these men
Don’t hesitate, I have sent them
7. Peter agreed to go & asked their reason – 21-22
They spoke of Cornelius and the angel’s visit
They described him as up-right & God-fearing man
Who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation
It was the angel who sent us to you to hear your message
8. Peter invited them in to spend the night – 23