

# Acts of the Apostles 9:31-43\_ Lesson 25

## *Peter's Three Miraculous Visits*

### 1. Apostolic Authority in Acts

- a. Acts: Peter and Paul apostleship/authority reversal was taking place
- b. The dispensational change is gradual: it takes time for things to happen.
- c. Peter leading the twelve – Matt 16:19; 19:27-29; Acts 1:15, 2:14, 37; 5:3, 29
- d. Paul saw only Peter and James in Jerusalem 3yrs 2 wks after Damascus – Gal 1:19
- e. This James was the Lord's brother – Matt 13:55, Acts 1:14
- f. James' authority shows a kingdom postponed – Acts 12:17, 15:19, Gal 2:9, 2:11-14

### 2. Peter's Three Miraculous Visits – Aeneas, Dorcas, Cornelius

- a. Miracles validate the man, his mission, and message
  - i. The man: Peter; His mission: to Israel; His message: prophesied kingdom
- b. The visits follow Philip's path in Acts 8:40 and the Holy Ghost leaving Jerusalem
- c. This is James 5:14-15 in action: the sick, the dead, and the sinner (Gentile)

### 3. Acts 9:32-35 – Aeneas' Loss of Power

- a. Aeneas is in Lydda in Judaea, but out of Jerusalem
- b. What plagued him? Palsy is a loss of power, a loss of function in part – Rom 11:25
- c. "eight years" - what happened eight years since? Israel is crippled
- d. Christ is there to make him whole. Recall he did it before in Luke 5:17-26
- e. Jesus heals a centurion with palsy to indicate the depravity of Israel – Matt 8:5-13
- f. What does Christ do? He supplies power where it is needed/wanted

### 4. Acts 9:36-43 – Dorcas' Death under Good Deeds

- a. Joppa is where people leave Israel on boats – like Jonah 1:1-3
- b. What plagued her? She did good works, and died anyway...
  - i. Jerusalem claimed good works, but dies without Christ
  - ii. There is life in Joppa for the disciples who die doing good – John 11:25
- c. Peter had power to raise from the dead as Jesus gave him – John 11:41-42, 14:12
- d. The raising of the damsel by Jesus - Mark 5:22-24, 34-43

### 5. Acts 10:1-8 – Cornelius' Devotion Greater than Israel

- a. Jesus healed, rose from the dead, and granted Gentiles blessing before Israel, too.
- b. Another centurion received a blessing by faith – Luke 7:1-10; Luke 7:11-17
- c. Cornelius is a Gentile, but had faith not found in Israel: fearing God– Acts 10:1-4
- d. What plagued him? He was devout, but was Gentile so God never was sent to him
- e. Cornelius will show that believing Gentiles receive Spirit before unbelieving Jews