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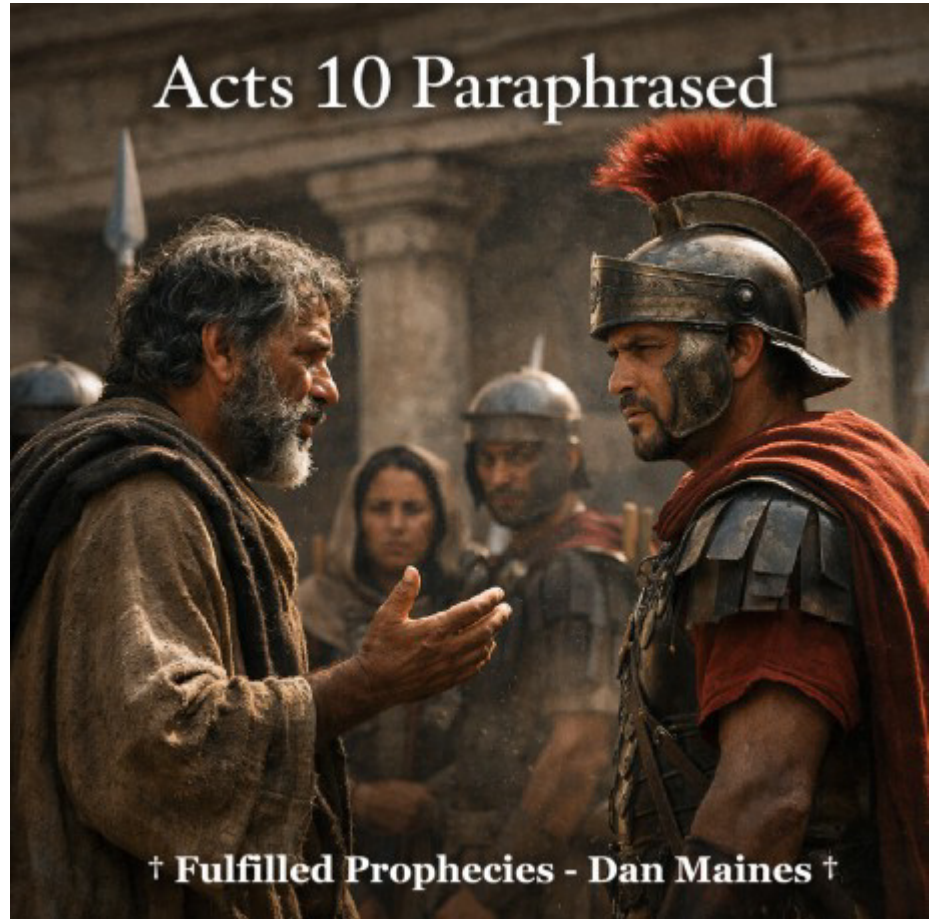
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Acts 10 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Acts 10 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This chapter shows the turning point where the nations were openly brought in, proving God never limited salvation to Israel (Genesis 12:3)

† Cornelius becomes the clear example that Gentiles receive the same Spirit without becoming Jews first (Ephesians 2:11-13)

† This fulfills what the prophets said about the nations being gathered into God's people (Isaiah 49:6)

Acts 10:1

There was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a Roman officer in what was called the Italian cohort

† Cornelius is a Gentile, yet God is already working in him before Peter arrives (Acts 10:2)

† This shows God initiates salvation even among the nations before they hear the full message (John 6:44)

† Rome being represented here ties directly to the authority structure involved in the events leading to AD 70

Acts 10:2

He was a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave generously to the people, and prayed to God continually

† Cornelius feared God, meaning he acknowledged the God of Israel without being under the Law (Acts 13:16)

† His prayers and giving show a heart aligned with God before full covenant inclusion (Hebrews 11:6)

† This proves righteousness wasn't limited to Israel alone even before this moment

Acts 10:3

About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, Cornelius

† God directly intervenes, showing this moment is divinely orchestrated and not random (Daniel 9:21)

† The ninth hour connects to the time of prayer, showing God's response to faithful seeking (Acts 3:1)

† This is the beginning of a major covenant transition being revealed

Acts 10:4

And he stared at him in fear and said, What is it, Lord? And he said to him, Your prayers and gifts have gone up as a memorial before God

† God acknowledges Cornelius before he hears the gospel fully, showing divine recognition of his faith (Hebrews 6:10)

† The idea of a memorial connects to offerings under the Law, showing continuity of acceptance (Leviticus 2:2)

† This confirms God was already receiving Gentiles before formal inclusion

Acts 10:5

Now send men to Joppa and bring back a man named Simon who is also called Peter

† God uses Peter, tying this event directly to apostolic authority (Matthew 16:19)

† The message must still be preached, even though God initiated the encounter (Romans 10:14)

† This shows faith comes by hearing, not by visions alone

Acts 10:6

He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea

† Specific details show God's direct involvement and control over events (Proverbs 16:9)

† Peter staying with a tanner already shows breaking Jewish purity boundaries (Acts 9:43)

† This prepares Peter for what he's about to learn

Acts 10:7

When the angel who spoke to him had gone, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him

† Cornelius responds immediately, showing genuine faith in action (James 2:17)

† Even those around him are influenced by his devotion, showing household faith impact (Acts 16:31)

† God often works through households in scripture

Acts 10:8

After explaining everything to them, he sent them to Joppa

† Obedience follows revelation without delay (Genesis 22:3)

† This movement sets up the meeting between Jew and Gentile

† God's timing is precise in bringing both sides together

Acts 10:9

The next day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray

† Peter is in prayer when God prepares him, showing spiritual readiness (Luke 6:12)

† The sixth hour again ties to structured times of seeking God

† Both Cornelius and Peter are being prepared simultaneously

Acts 10:10

He became hungry and wanted to eat, but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance

† Physical need sets the stage for spiritual revelation (Matthew 4:4)

† God uses ordinary moments to reveal deeper truth

† This vision will redefine covenant boundaries

Acts 10:11

And he saw the sky opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered by four corners to the ground

† The open heaven shows divine revelation being given (Ezekiel 1:1)

† The sheet represents inclusion of all nations symbolically

† Four corners points to the whole world, not just Israel

Acts 10:12

In it were all kinds of four-footed animals, crawling creatures of the earth, and birds of the air

† These represent both clean and unclean under the Law (Leviticus 11)

† The mixture shows removal of separation barriers

† This is preparing Peter to understand Gentile inclusion

Acts 10:13

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

† God commands what was previously forbidden, signaling covenant change (Mark 7:19)

† This is not about food alone, but about people

† The command challenges Peter's long-held tradition

Acts 10:14

But Peter said, By no means, Lord, for I've never eaten anything unholy or unclean

† Peter still holds to Old Covenant distinctions at this point

† His resistance reflects the mindset of first century Judaism

† This shows even apostles had to learn transition truth

Acts 10:15

Again a voice came to him a second time, What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy

† God declares cleansing, meaning the separation has ended (Ephesians 2:14)

† This is the key statement of the entire chapter

† The barrier between Jew and Gentile is being removed

Acts 10:16

This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky

† Repetition confirms certainty of the message (Genesis 41:32)

† God ensures Peter understands this isn't symbolic only, it's real

† This reinforces the finality of the change

Acts 10:17

While Peter was greatly puzzled about what the vision might mean, the men sent by Cornelius had arrived

† God brings interpretation immediately through real-life

encounter

† The vision and the visitors connect directly

† This shows revelation often comes with confirmation

Acts 10:18

They called out asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there

† God's plan unfolds step by step without confusion

† The Gentiles are now at the door of a Jewish apostle

† This moment bridges two worlds

Acts 10:19

While Peter was thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, Behold, three men are looking for you

† The Spirit directly guides Peter, confirming the vision's meaning

† This shows the Spirit's active role in covenant transition

† God removes all doubt through direct instruction

Acts 10:20

But get up, go downstairs and go with them without hesitation, because I've sent them Myself

† Peter is told not to hesitate, meaning no more separation mindset

† God explicitly takes responsibility for sending Gentiles

† This confirms full divine approval

Acts 10:21

Peter went down to the men and said, I'm the one you're looking for, what is the reason for your coming

† Peter responds in obedience, stepping into new territory

† This is the beginning of direct Gentile interaction

† The question invites the unfolding of God's plan

Acts 10:22

They said, Cornelius, a righteous and God-fearing man, well

spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was directed by a holy angel to send for you

† Even Jews recognized Cornelius' character, showing God was already at work

† The angel's instruction validates the event

† This confirms God's approval before Peter arrives

Acts 10:23

So he invited them in and gave them lodging, and the next day he got up and went with them

† Peter welcoming Gentiles into the house already breaks tradition

† Fellowship begins before full understanding

† This shows obedience leading transformation

Acts 10:24

On the following day he entered Caesarea, now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends

† Cornelius gathers others, showing expectation of revelation

† God is about to impact a whole group, not just one man

† This reflects how the gospel spreads through households

Acts 10:25

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet and worshiped him

† Cornelius shows reverence, but misunderstands the role of Peter

† This reflects common confusion between messenger and God

† Worship belongs to God alone

Acts 10:26

But Peter raised him up saying, Stand up, I too am just a man

† Peter corrects him immediately, pointing away from himself

† This shows apostles were not objects of worship

† It reinforces that authority belongs to God, not men

Acts 10:27

As he talked with him, he entered and found many people gathered together

† The audience is now prepared for a major revelation

† This is the first clear Gentile gathering for apostolic preaching

† God is expanding the reach of the message

Acts 10:28

He said to them, You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to associate with or visit a foreigner, yet God has shown me that I shouldn't call any person unholy or unclean

† Peter now understands the vision, it's about people, not food

† This statement confirms the removal of separation

† This fulfills the promise of inclusion of the nations (Isaiah 56:6-7)

Acts 10:29

That's why I came without objection when I was sent for, so I ask for what reason you've sent for me

† Peter acknowledges his obedience to God's instruction

† This shows transformation in his understanding

† He now seeks clarity from Cornelius

Acts 10:30

Cornelius said, Four days ago to this hour I was praying in my house during the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments

† Cornelius recounts the divine encounter

† The shining garments confirm angelic presence

† This reinforces God's direct involvement

Acts 10:31

He said, Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your giving has been remembered before God

† God hears Gentile prayer outside the Law system

† This confirms acceptance before full inclusion

† It shows God responds to sincere seekers

Acts 10:32

Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon who is called Peter to come to you

† The instruction repeats for confirmation

† This ensures clarity in God's plan

† Both sides are brought together by design

Acts 10:33

So I sent for you immediately, and you've been kind enough to come, now then we're all here present before God to hear everything you've been commanded by the Lord

† Cornelius recognizes divine authority in the message

† The group is ready to receive truth

† This moment is set for revelation to the nations

Acts 10:34

Opening his mouth, Peter said, I most certainly understand now that God isn't one to show partiality

† This is the central declaration of the chapter

† God doesn't favor one nation over another

† This confirms the fulfillment of inclusion

Acts 10:35

But in every nation the one who fears Him and does what's right is welcome to Him

† Acceptance is now universal, not limited to Israel

† Fear of God is the defining factor

† This fulfills the promise to all nations

Acts 10:36

The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ, He is Lord of all

- † Jesus is declared Lord over all, not just Israel
- † Peace is extended beyond the covenant nation
- † This affirms universal authority

Acts 10:37

You yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee

- † The events of Jesus were widely known
- † This anchors the message in real history
- † It connects Gentiles to what happened in Israel

Acts 10:38

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power

- † Jesus' ministry is affirmed as divinely empowered
- † This shows continuity of God's plan
- † The same Spirit is now given to Gentiles

Acts 10:39

We're witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem

- † Apostolic witness validates the message
- † This ensures reliability of testimony
- † It ties directly to covenant fulfillment events

Acts 10:40

God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible

- † The resurrection is central to the message
- † It confirms Jesus as Messiah
- † This is the foundation of the new covenant reality

Acts 10:41

Not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God

- † Witnesses were selected to carry authority

† This establishes credibility

† It ensures accurate transmission of truth

Acts 10:42

And He ordered us to preach to the people and testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead

† Jesus is declared Judge, showing authority over all humanity

† This ties directly to first century judgment fulfillment

† The message carries urgency

Acts 10:43

Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins

† This confirms fulfillment of prophetic expectation

† Forgiveness is now extended to all

† This unites Jew and Gentile under one promise

Acts 10:44

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message

† The Spirit falls before any ritual, showing full acceptance

† This mirrors Acts 2, confirming equality

† God acts without delay to remove doubt

Acts 10:45

All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also

† Jewish believers are shocked, showing this was unexpected

† The Spirit confirms Gentile inclusion beyond argument

† This is undeniable evidence of fulfillment

Acts 10:46

For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God

† The same signs seen earlier now appear here

† This confirms identical acceptance

† It validates God's work publicly

Acts 10:47

Then Peter answered, Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he

† The Spirit comes first, showing baptism follows acceptance

† Equality is fully established

† No barrier remains

Acts 10:48

And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, then they asked him to stay on for a few days

† Baptism confirms their inclusion

† Fellowship begins immediately

† This seals the unity of Jew and Gentile

Historical References

† Josephus records the Roman presence in Caesarea and interaction with Jewish culture, showing the setting of this event

† Eusebius confirms the early church recognized this moment as the opening to the Gentiles

† Irenaeus speaks of the unity of all nations in Christ as fulfillment of prophecy

How it applies to us today

† God has already removed all separation, there is no division between Jew and Gentile today (Ephesians 2:14-16)

† Acceptance with God has never been about nationality, but faith

† We live in the fulfilled reality where access to God is fully open

† The same truth stands, God shows no partiality

Q & A Appendix

Q What does Cornelius represent

A He represents the Gentiles being brought into God's people

as promised (Isaiah 49:6)

Q What was the vision about

A It wasn't about food, it was about people no longer being called unclean (Acts 10:28)

Q Why did the Spirit fall before baptism

A To prove God had already accepted the Gentiles (Acts 10:44-47)

Q Does God favor one nation over another

A No, God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34-35)

Q What was fulfilled here

A The inclusion of the nations into the covenant promises (Genesis 12:3)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Acts 10

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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