

- A Study in Acts -

Chapter Ten – First Uncircumcised Gentile Convert

ACTS 10:34-43 – Part 2:

In our previous lesson, we began to look at Peter's sermon to Cornelius and his household, who were **"All present before God, to hear all things commanded you by God"** – Acts 10:33.

We spent an entire lesson on the introduction to the sermon, using the outline below let's continue to go through the points made by Peter.

- Introduction – No Partiality – **34-37**
- God sent Jesus – **38**
- God confirmed Him by miracles – **38**
- We are witnesses – **39**
- The Jews killed Him – **39**
- God raised Him – **40**
- We are His witnesses to the resurrection and to all that the prophets spoke of concerning Him – **41-43**

Text:

Acts 10:34-43 "Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. ³⁶ The word which *God* sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all— ³⁷ that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰ Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.""

- God sent Jesus – **38**
- God confirmed Him by miracles – **38**
- We are witnesses – **39**

As Peter begins to introduce to Cornelius and his household the vehicle of reconciliation (Jesus the Christ), he first speaks to what this audience already knows about Him, and that all they knew about Him was a demonstration that He was anointed of God and God was with Him!

Isaiah 49:6 “Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

In this, the second Great Servant Song (four total, songs of the Messiah and His work), God establishes that the Messiah would be the One to restore Israel and be a light to the Gentiles (as is happening right now in our text), so that all men could know God’s salvation.

God would confirm the first part of this spoken promise, in **Isaiah 57**. God spoke through the prophet concerning Israel’s harlotry with idolatry. God would rebuke Israel for this; but as was God’s custom, He would also speak of a time of restoration, especially to those who in that day would have contrite hearts (the heart prepared to repent and obey – **Isaiah 57:15**), note:

Isaiah 57:19 ““I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to *him who is far off* and to *him who is near*,” Says the LORD, “And I will heal him”

All of this speaks to the “**preaching peace through Jesus Christ**” to the Jew first and also the Gentiles (**Romans 1:16**). God; however, demonstrated Him to be the Great Servant spoken of, first by signs and wonders through the Spirit (given to Him in the flesh without measure – **John 3:34-36**). This was also something that His chosen disciples are witness to and testify of, even though the things done by Jesus in the flesh were well known by all in the region.

- **The Jews killed Him – 39**
- **God raised Him – 40**
- **We are His witnesses to the resurrection and to all that the prophets spoke of concerning Him – 41-43**

As Peter continues to describe the events that were generally known in this region whether you were Jew or Gentile (especially Roman commanders, due to the unrest that the Lord’s crucifixion brought to the area, after He had done the undisputed miracles – **Luke 24:18-20**), he will now state without equivocation that it was the very ones that the Lord come in the flesh to restore to God (Israel – **Matthew 15:24**), that would be guilty of putting Him to death. This was not failure on God’s part to accomplish everything He said He would do; in fact, it could not happen any other way. After the Lord’s resurrection, He would state to His disciples that He had fulfilled everything spoken of Him in the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms concerning Him (**Luke 24:44**).

It would be this very act that would set the stage for the final act of God in demonstration that this Jesus was truly the Son of God, the Messiah, and God’s Great Servant for salvation to the ends of the earth. God would raise Him from the dead!

Note the words of Paul to the Jews in the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia, and His words to Christians in Rome:

Acts 13:32-37 “And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. ³³ God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:

‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’

³⁴ And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus:

‘I will give you the sure mercies of David.’

³⁵ Therefore He also says in another *Psalm*:

‘You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.’

³⁶ “For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; ³⁷ but He whom God raised up saw no corruption.”

Romans 1:1-4 “Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God ² which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, ⁴ and declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

This final mighty sign of God would not be done in a corner (**Acts 26:24-26**), but in fact God would show Him openly to witnesses who would use the sight of the resurrected Lord to testify of His resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:2-11**). Peter emphasizes that he was among the eyewitnesses as were all the Apostles, and it was with these that He openly demonstrated His resurrected fleshly state. Not only these eyewitnesses testified of these events and the demonstration of power in the resurrection, but that this event culminated in His glorious elevation as the Redeemer of all men. This is fulfilling the very words God spoke through the prophets concerning these events; both establishing that they had to transpire exactly the way they did, and that God has done the entirety of what He said He would do through the suffering victory of the Christ of God.

See: **Psalms 22** – The suffering, praise, and posterity (generations to come through Him) of the Messiah; **Isaiah 42:1-9** – 1st Great Servant Song; **Isaiah 49:1-13** – 2nd Great Servant Song; **Isaiah 50:4-11** – 3rd Great Servant Song; **Isaiah 52:13-56:8** – 4th Great Servant Song; **Isaiah 61:1-2** – The Messiah will preach glad tidings and restore the hearts of men; **Jeremiah 31:31-34** – all men would be taught to know the Lord and receive healing from sin in the new covenant written on their hearts.