

## ACTS 7

1. For the believers who fled Jerusalem to get away from the persecution of Saul, what did they do?

-They went everywhere, and taught others about Jesus.

2. To whom did God send Philip to teach of Christ?

-To the people of Samaria.

3. Were many people saved in Samaria?

-Yes.

-Many who were crippled and many who had demons were all healed.

4. Why was Saul going to Damascus?

-He was going to arrest believers and bring them back to Jerusalem to be punished.

5. What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?

-He saw the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. What did the Lord Jesus tell Ananias?

-That He had chosen Saul to send him to the Gentiles, to kings, and also to the Jews.

7. What happened when Ananias prayed for Saul?

-The Lord Jesus gave back to Saul his sight.

8. After the Lord Jesus gave back to Saul his sight, what did Saul do?

-At once, Saul taught the Jews in Damascus and proved to them from the Old Testament that Jesus was the Savior.

9. How did Saul escape from Damascus?

-He was lowered in a basket over the city wall.

10. Was Saul safe in Jerusalem?

-No.

-The unbelieving Jews who had stoned Stephen also planned to kill Saul.

10. In Jerusalem, to where did the believers help Saul escape?

-To Tarsus, his hometown.

11. After Saul believed in Christ, what was the change for the churches in Judea, Samaria, and Galilee?

-The believers were free from persecution for a time.

-The believers grew in their understanding of God.

-The believers' faith in God was strengthened.

-The believers obeyed God.

-The believers were encouraged by God the Holy Spirit who was living in them.

-Many more people believed in Jesus as their Savior, were baptized, and joined the Church.

-Until the time of Stephen's death, the Jewish believers

had only witnessed to Jews or to Gentiles who had accepted the Jewish religion.

-Even though Jesus commanded the apostles to preach the Gospel to all people, the apostles only taught the Jews or the Gentiles who had accepted the Jewish religion.

-Why did the apostles and the other Jewish believers not go to the Gentiles to preach the Gospel?

-Because the Jewish believers were Jews who would not mix with uncircumcised Gentiles.

-Because the Jewish believers did not understand that circumcision was no longer necessary to be accepted by God.

-The Jews hated the Gentiles who did not accept the Jewish religion and become circumcised.

-The Jews would not go into Gentile homes nor would they even go near them.

-Even the Jews who believed in Jesus would not go into the homes of the Gentiles nor go near them.

-Why did God give the laws of Moses and circumcision to the Jews?

-Because God was teaching the Jews and all people.

-What was God teaching?

-That God is extremely holy, and that no one can come to God except God's way alone.

-The laws of Moses taught the Jews that God is holy, and that we cannot come to God except God's way alone.

-Circumcision taught the Jews that God is holy, and that we cannot come to God except God's way alone.

-The sacrificial system taught the Jews that God is holy, and that we cannot come to God except God's way alone.

-Why does God not require believers in Christ to follow all of the laws of Moses which Israel followed?

-It is because of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Why does God not require believers in Christ to be circumcised?

-It is because of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Why does God not require believers in Christ to sacrifice animals?

-It is because of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-No one can follow all of the laws of Moses except for the Lord Jesus Christ.

-This is because the Lord Jesus Christ is God, and He alone is perfect without sin.

-It is the Lord Jesus Christ alone who has completely followed all of the laws of Moses.

-And Christ has followed all of the laws of Moses for us.

-Our obedience of Moses' laws is from the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

-It is the Lord Jesus Christ alone who has given Himself as a perfect blood sacrifice.

-And Christ's perfect blood sacrifice is for us.

-Our perfect blood sacrifice for our sins is from the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

-What is now the work of the believer in Christ?

-To believe that we have sinned against God, that our sin requires death, and that the death of Christ alone can save us.

-For all who believe in Christ, God the Holy Spirit comes into your life, even if you are a Gentile and

uncircumcised.

-The problem was that the apostles and the Jewish believers did not yet understand this.

-Therefore, God had to teach the apostles and the Jewish believers that all who believe in Christ are completely accepted by God even if they are Gentiles and uncircumcised.

-The next story we will read in Acts will explain how the Lord first taught Peter and used him to bring the Gospel to uncircumcised Gentiles.

Let's read Acts 10:1-2

1-At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment.

2-He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

-Cornelius was a Gentile, but how was he different from most Gentiles?

-Cornelius believed in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the teachings of the Old Testament.

-Most of the Gentiles worshiped many gods and idols.

-Yet there were many Gentiles like Cornelius who believed in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

-These Gentiles believed that there is only one God.

-These Gentiles also believed that the stories of God and Israel in the Old Testament were true.

-These Gentiles, however, did not accept all of the Jewish practices such as circumcision.

-Cornelius also did not accept all of the Jewish ways, and was not circumcised.

-When God called Abraham, God promised that He would send the Savior.

-And that the Savior would bless all peoples of the earth.

-Now, the time had come to fulfill this promise of God, for God wanted to save not only the Jews, but people from every tribe and nation.

-Therefore, God gave Cornelius, a Gentile, this vision:

Let's read Acts 10:3-6

3-One day at about three in the afternoon [Cornelius] had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

4-Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

5-Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter.

6-He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."

-What did the angel of God tell Cornelius to do?

-To send men to Joppa to bring back Peter.

-With whom was Peter staying?

-With a man named Simon.

-What was Simon's work?

-He prepared skins of animals to make clothes and many other things.

-Did Cornelius obey the Lord?

Let's read Acts 10:7-8

7-When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants.

8-He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

-Because God had prepared Cornelius' heart, Cornelius immediately obeyed God

-Just as God prepared Cornelius' heart, God also needed to prepare Peter's heart.

-Why did God need to prepare Peter's heart?

-Because Peter was a Jew, and Jews would never go into the home of an uncircumcised Gentile.

-How did God prepare Peter's heart?

Let's read Acts 10:9-16

9-About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray.

10-He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

11-He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners.

12-It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air.

13-Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

14-"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

15-The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not

call anything impure that God has made clean."

16-This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

-Why did Peter not want to eat the animals, reptiles, or birds which God had shown him in the vision?

-Because at the time of Moses, God gave Israel laws which taught them what they could eat and what they could not eat.

-In the vision, some of the animals and birds were clean because God had allowed them as food.

-But Peter did not want to eat them because they were mixed together with the unclean animals which God did not allow as food.

-In the vision, what was God teaching Peter?

-First, because God has cleansed all who believe in Jesus, no one in Christ is unclean.

-Second, just as God put the clean and unclean animals together, God puts together all who believe in Jesus.

-Third, the laws of clean and unclean animals are no longer necessary because of the death of Jesus.

-Did Peter immediately understand what God was

teaching him?

-No.

-While Peter was thinking about the vision, the men from Cornelius arrived at the house where Peter was staying.

Let's read Acts 10:17-23

17-While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate.

18-They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

19-While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you.

20-So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

21-Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?"

22-The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to have you come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say."

23-Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along.

-What was the only reason that Peter went to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile?

-Because God gave Peter the vision.

-Even though Peter did not yet understand the vision, he obeyed God, and went with the men to Cornelius' house.

-What happened when Peter arrived at Cornelius' house?

Let's read Acts 10:24-26

24-The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

25-As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence.

26-But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

-Did Peter accept the worship given by Cornelius?

-No.

-Why not?

-Because we should worship only God.

-As Peter entered Cornelius' house, he asked them once more why they had sent for him.

Let's read Acts 10:27-33

27-Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people.

28-He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean.

29-So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?”

30-Cornelius answered: “Four days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me

31-and said, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor.

32-Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.’

33-So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

-The first lesson that Peter was learning was that he and the Jews should no longer call the Gentiles unclean.

-This is because God had made them clean.

-The second lesson that Peter was learning was that God wanted to save the Gentiles as much as He wants to save the Jews.

-Therefore, God wanted Peter to teach the Gentiles about Jesus.

-Here is what Peter said:

Let’s read Acts 10:34-43

34-Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism

35-but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

36-You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

37-You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached-

38-how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

39-We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree,

40-but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.

41-He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

42-He commanded us to preach to the people and

to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

43-All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

-Cornelius and the Gentiles who gathered at his house knew that God was holy, and that they were sinners.

-They also knew that God had promised to send a Savior to save all who believe in Him.

-Therefore, as Peter was speaking, God the Holy Spirit was teaching these Gentiles that Jesus had died for their sins.

-Before Peter finished speaking, Cornelius, his family, and his friends believed in the death of Jesus as a payment for their sins.

-Here is what happened:

Let's read Acts 10:44-48

44-While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

45-The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.

46-For they heard them speaking in tongues and

praising God. Then Peter said,

47-“Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”

48-So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

-What happened when these Gentiles believed in Jesus?

-God the Holy Spirit immediately came to live in them.

-God the Holy Spirit enabled them to speak in languages they had never learned, just like the Jewish believers on the day of Pentecost.

-Why did the Holy Spirit come upon Cornelius and other Gentiles and give them the ability to speak in foreign languages just as He did at Pentecost?

-This was a sign for Peter and for all of the Jewish Christians.

-What does this sign mean?

-That God had fully accepted the uncircumcised Gentiles who believed in Christ.

-That these uncircumcised Gentiles were now a part of the Church just like the Jewish believers.