

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**ACTS 10****Acts 10**

Acts 10 is a tidal shift in the entire Bible, not just to the New Testament. One of the great mysteries of the New Testament is beginning to be revealed in Acts 10, which is that Jews and Gentiles would be part of the church of Jesus. Until this time, which was 8-10 years after the Pentecost of Acts 2, the church of Jesus only consisted of Jews. Remember, in Acts 8, the Ethiopian Eunuch was a proselyte, one who had become a full member of the Jewish people and society, duly recognized as such.

This chapter shows us why context is important. As I have said before, it is important to realize that the Bible is a Jewish book written by Jews, to Jews, primarily for Jews. The vast majority of the Bible is addressed to the Jewish people. Luke is the only Gentile writer, and the vast majority of the Bible is addressed to the Jewish people. Taken in context, we gain insight into the very mind of God Himself in choosing Cornelius. Cornelius was a **"God Fearer"** (Greek-φοβούμενος [phoboumenos](#) τὸν Θεὸν [Theon](#)). This word for **"Fear"** is the root word **φόβος, phobos**. The word is couched in as a Present Participle in the middle voice. The middle voice is what I refer to as the voice of **"Personal Responsibility."** Cornelius had made a choice to worship and serve the God of the Jewish people. He had taken it upon himself to be good to the Jewish people living in

Caesarea Maritime, the Capital of Judea, during the days of the Herod family. He not only chose to follow the God of the Jews but also to be "good to the people by giving alms." **"Giving alms to the people." (emphasis mine)** Who were "the people"? It certainly was the Jews of the area. He obviously wanted to be good to the Jewish people. He had no doubt come to believe they were God's chosen people, and he treated them with favor. God liked that. According to verse 4b, the angel of God said to Cornelius, **"Your prayers and your alms have come up as a memorial before God."** When the messengers were sent from Cornelius to the Apostle Peter, they reported to Peter, **"Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you."** (Acts 10:22) God sanctioned that message without any divine commentary. Cornelius repeats what he was told by the angel to Peter in verse 31.

This is one passage of Scripture where God tells us why **"He chose"** a person to salvation. It was not just any person, but the first non-Jew to experience the redemption of the Jewish Redeemer and the filling of the Holy Spirit, just like the Jews.

Prayer and Action Steps

Thank You, gracious and merciful God, that You would save and graft in a wild olive branch such as a hardened Roman soldier into your church. Thank You for allowing all of us who are non-Jewish to be a part of the spiritual promises of Abraham, Your servant. Amen