

Setting the Stage Part II

God Is Preparing Cornelius for a Dramatic Shift (1-8).

Peter Is Prepared to Welcome Cornelius as Brother (9-16).

Christ's Sacrifice Has Radically Transformed Reality (15).

A. Christ's Kingdom Has Been Inaugurated (Acts 2:29-36).

B. The Focus of His Kingdom Is No Longer Geo-Political Israel.

C. How Are We to Live in This New Reality?

God has been patiently waiting for this moment to bring about the inclusion of the Gentiles to His family en masse. At every step along the way He has been faithful. Now with patience and skill He prepares His people for this new stage in the advancement of His Kingdom. Let us praise Him who alone is King of Kings!

Acts 2: 29 – 36

“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about *the resurrection of the Christ*, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore *exalted at the right hand of God*, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool.”

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that *God has made him both Lord and Christ*, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Romans 10: 8 – 13

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Isaiah 49: 6

He says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

The best mystery books are those where all the pieces you need to figure it out are present, but you are still surprised by the final revelation of who done it. God weaves together a masterful story of His work in salvation history that puts all others to shame. This week let us notice carefully His great skill in revealing how Christ has done it!

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 10:1-16; Acts 2:29-36; Romans 11:1-24**. DISCUSS, What did God promise to do with the Gentiles? How does that bring Him glory? How does that bring us comfort? How does it convict us? PRAY “Lord King, You are entirely sovereign in all things, including salvation. Teach us to respect and honor You as King of Kings.”

Sunday Evening

Young Adults' Fellowship at 7:30 pm. Please come if you are able.

Monday

READ **Acts 10:1-16; Genesis 12:3 Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 61:6** DISCUSS, What is the relationship between Israel and the nations in salvation? MEDITATE on **Isaiah 49:6**. PRAY, “Lord God, You deserve all the praise for salvation. We were not only lost, but entirely lost with no hope of redemption. Thank You for loving and saving us.”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 10:1-16; Isaiah 49:6; Galatians 3:8**. DISCUSS, What is the new thing that the inauguration of Jesus' Kingdom now opens up? How is God faithful to all His promises in Christ? PRAY, “Jesus, You have been given the name that is above every other name. We praise You. You have fulfilled all that You promised and are now drawing men and women, boys and girls from every tribe, nation, and language into Your Kingdom. Help us to serve You and Your Kingdom with joy and obedience in every aspect of our lives.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 10:1-16; Isaiah 42:1-25; Matthew 12:15-21; Romans 11:1-24**. DISCUSS, What did God warn Israel about here in Isaiah? How does Matthew say Jesus fulfilled this? How does that relate to the Romans passage? PRAY, “Lord, we Your people have been continually rebellious. Thank You for doing what we could not. Teach us to be faithful.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 10:1-16; Romans 11:17-24**. DISCUSS, What are we supposed to do with the knowledge that God has grafted us into His people? What should that encourage us to do and not do? Why? How is this a guard against presumption? How does this help us to rest in Christ? PRAY, “Lord, You went to the cross in our place. Help us to depend entirely on You rather than our own efforts.”

Friday

READ **Acts 10:1-16; Acts 2:29-36; Romans 11:1-24**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if you have the privilege of being Christ’s beloved! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both the live-stream and in-person services available.*

READ **Acts 10:1-48; Colossians 1:24-29**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Galatians 3: 8

The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the nations will be blessed in you.”