

Divine Convergence

Acts 11:1-18

PART THREE

Introduction

Peter meets with Cornelius: A Monumental Moment in Redemptive History

- I. *The Accusation* (vv1-3)
- II. *The Answer* (vv4-17)
- III. *The Acquittal* (v18)

I. The Accusation – vv. 1-3

Luke 15:2

Mark 2:16

“a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense” (Romans 9:33; 1 Peter 2:8).

The Jerusalem Council: Acts 15:4-5

II. The Answer – vv. 4-17

“at that very moment”

“making no distinction”

“the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.”

“I remembered the word of the Lord”

Peter evaluates and validates his experience by Scripture:

2 Peter 1:16-21

The Necessity of a Fixed, Transcendent, Absolute Standard

All Christian experience must be evaluated and validated by Scripture.

Peter avoids resting his defense on actions *he* took. Instead, he rests his defense on the actions *God* took.

Acts 5:38-39

III. The Acquittal – v. 18

Up until now, the Jews looked with favor upon the Christians:

Acts 2:47

Acts 5:13

But now, upon learning that the law of Moses is being violated, their attitude toward the Gentile Christians took a negative turn:

Acts 12:1-3

Acts 12:11

Salient Points from the *Divine Convergence* of Jew and Gentile in the newborn Church of Jesus Christ:

1. God always responds to devout, God-fearing people who sincerely and prayerfully seek Him.
2. God prepares the heart and life of both gospel *messenger* and gospel *receiver*.
3. God sovereignly appoints a time and place for the *convergence* of messenger and receiver.
4. God is absolutely *impartial* in both His judgment and His offer of redemption to *all* mankind.
5. God judges the *heart*, not the appearance or religious acts of man.
6. God offers peace through reconciliation to all people exclusively through His Son *Jesus Christ*.
7. God *seals* the new believer with the Holy Spirit upon conversion.
8. God highly values the *unity* secured for believers in one Spirit and one body of Christ.
9. All Christian experience must be evaluated and validated by Scripture.
10. Genuine believers crave two things: biblical teaching and fellowship with each other.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Romans 10:12-13