

The Life of the Apostle Peter

Study # 38 A

Ministry in Sharon: Part III

Caesarea

God is No Respector of Persons

(Acts 10:1-48)

Review

Introduction

Luke stresses four very important themes as he tells us this story:

- 1) The church resisted the acceptance of the Gentiles apart from their association with Judaism.
- 2) God Himself approved the evangelization of Gentiles and led the way in reaching them.
- 3) God used Peter to open the door rather than Paul.
- 4) The Jerusalem church used the story of Cornelius as the basis of accepting the Gentiles into the faith apart from an association with Judaism. (*Constable's Expositions*)

I. The Visions (1-16)

A. Of Cornelius (1-8)

1. His Reputation, (1-2)

- a. As a Roman Soldier (1)
- b. As a Religious Servant (2A)

2. His Revelation (3-6)

- a. The Source of the Revelation (3)
- b. The Surprise at the Revelation (4a)
- c. The Substance of the Revelation (4b-6)
 - 1) The Commendation (4b; Josh. 6:25; Lev. 2:1)
 - 2) The Command (5-6)

3. His Request (7-8; Joshua 1:8)

APPLICATION FOR THIS SECTION

1. Prayer is seen in our text as vitally important. Peter prays, Cornelius prays. Do you pray?
2. God always responds favorably to those who seek Him. Do you need to make a move to God?

Roman Military Command Structures

Roman Military	Amount of Men
1. Century	100
2. Maniple	200 (two Centuries)
3. Cohort	600 (three Maniples)
4. Legion	6000 (ten Cohorts)

Caesarea - A magnificent port city on the coast of Palestine, about 23 miles (37 km) S of Mt. Carmel. Built by Herod the Great over a period of twelve years, (23-13 b.c.), it became the Roman metropolis of Judea. During his term as procurator of Judea, Pilate occupied the governor's residence in Caesarea.

The beautiful marble city, just 65 road miles from Jerusalem, served as Judea's major seaport and as the Roman administrative center. The Roman governor, customs collector, and provincial finance officer were all headquartered in Caesarea, along with numerous troops. They often called the city Caesarea Maritima ("of the sea") to distinguish it from the inland Caesarea Philippi to the north, and from other cities in the Empire named in honor of Augustus Caesar.

The most stunning achievement at Caesarea Maritima was the construction of a sheltered harbor. Herod's engineers built a circular breakwater of huge stones, each measuring 50 by 18 by 9 feet (15.5 by 5.5 by 2.75 meters).

The breakwater, some 200 feet (61 meters) wide on the south, was laid in water as much as 140 feet (43 meters) deep. Not only was this man-made harbor as large as the famous Piraeus harbor in ancient Athens, but its engineers also built channels that permitted them to flush out the harbor, thus keeping it from silting up. (*Parson's Bible Atlas*)

ΑΩ

10:2 Devout Gk., εὐσεβης. Well reverent, pious, godly. (*Strong's*) Used here of Cornelius, in verse 7 of one of his soldiers, and in 2 Peter 2:9.

10:2 Alms Gk., ἐλημοσύνη (elemosune) compassionateness, that is, (as exercised towards the poor) beneficence.