

## Acts 10:1-29

### Cornelius calls for Peter

<sup>10</sup> At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup> He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. <sup>3</sup> One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, ‘Cornelius!’

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. <sup>6</sup> He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.’

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

### Peter’s vision

<sup>9</sup> About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. <sup>10</sup> He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. <sup>11</sup> He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. <sup>13</sup> Then a voice told him, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’

<sup>14</sup> ‘Surely not, Lord!’ Peter replied. ‘I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.’

<sup>15</sup> The voice spoke to him a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’

<sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

<sup>19</sup> While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Simon, three<sup>[a]</sup> men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup> So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.’

<sup>21</sup> Peter went down and said to the men, ‘I’m the one you’re looking for. Why have you come?’

<sup>22</sup> 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 ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say.’ <sup>23</sup> Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

### Peter at Cornelius’ house

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The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. <sup>24</sup> The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. <sup>25</sup> As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. <sup>26</sup> But Peter made him get up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man myself.'

<sup>27</sup> While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. <sup>28</sup> He said to them: 'You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. <sup>29</sup> So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?'

## Genesis 12:1-3

### The call of Abram

12 The LORD had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> 'I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.'<sup>[b]</sup>

### Footnotes

1. [Genesis 12:2](#) Or *be seen as blessed*
2. [Genesis 12:3](#) Or *earth / will use your name in blessings* (see 48:20)

## Genesis 22:15-18

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup> and said, 'I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring<sup>[a]</sup> all nations on earth will be blessed,<sup>[b]</sup> because you have obeyed me.'

### Footnotes

1. [Genesis 22:18](#) Or *seed*
2. [Genesis 22:18](#) Or *and all nations on earth will use the name of your offspring in blessings* (see 48:20)

## Genesis 26:1-6

### Isaac and Abimelek

26 Now there was a famine in the land – besides the previous famine in Abraham’s time – and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar. <sup>2</sup> The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, ‘Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. <sup>3</sup> Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. <sup>4</sup> I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring<sup>[a]</sup> all nations on earth will be blessed,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>5</sup> because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.’ <sup>6</sup> So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

### Footnotes

1. [Genesis 26:4](#) Or *seed*
2. [Genesis 26:4](#) Or *and all nations on earth will use the name of your offspring in blessings* (see 48:20)

## Genesis 28:10-15

### Jacob’s dream at Bethel

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. <sup>11</sup> When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. <sup>12</sup> He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> There above it<sup>[a]</sup> stood the LORD, and he said: ‘I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>15</sup> I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.’

### Footnotes

1. [Genesis 28:13](#) Or *There beside him*
2. [Genesis 28:14](#) Or *will use your name and the name of your offspring in blessings* (see 48:20)

## Matthew 28:16-20

### The great commission

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’