

In Cornelius' House - Full

10 Now in Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Cohort. ² He was a devout man, revering God with all his household. He gave tzedakah generously to the people and prayed to God continually. ³ About the ninth hour of the day (3pm), he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming and saying to him, "Cornelius!" ⁴ He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" The angel said to him, "Your prayers and tzedakah have gone up as a memorial offering before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa and call for Simon, also named Peter. ⁶ He is being entertained as a guest by Simon the tanner, whose house is beside the sea." ⁷ When the angel speaking to him had left, he called two of his servants and a soldier from among those attached to his command. ⁸ After he explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa" (Acts 10:1-8)

Let us this week consider more of the truth in the Word, since *Thy Word (Adonai's Word) is Truth (John 17:17)*. The *Ruach* will guide us into all truth: *"¹³ But when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; but whatever He hears, He will tell you. And He will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ Everything that the Father has is Mine. For this reason I said the Ruach will take from what is Mine and declare it to you" (John 16:13-15)* Sometimes in serving the Almighty we do not realize that everything we do for Him is duly noted/recorded. You do not have to be in the *in-group* or part of *The Chosen People* or of the correct *ethnicity*, etc. When we *pray to God continually* and exercise true religion (Jas. 1:27) by caring for others, we can be sure our actions will come as a memorial before *Adonai*. Do you think that Cornelius knew that any of what he was doing for God would *change the world* or even that the impact of *his lifestyle* would reverberate throughout eternity? Not at all! But it did! Even in *staring at the angel of God in terror* his response was *Hineni* ("What is it Lord?") How many of us pray imagining that our prayer can possibly change the universe? Are we also lubricating and enabling our prayers with *generous tzedakah*? Our prayers and testimony before *Adonai* have the *very same potential*. Do you believe it? Meanwhile in another city, Peter is also praying...

⁹ The next day, as the soldiers were traveling and approaching the city, Peter went up to the rooftop to pray, at about the sixth hour (noon). ¹⁰ Now he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they were preparing something, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw the heavens opened, and something (a vessel) like a great sheet coming down, lowered by its four corners to the earth. ¹² In it were all sorts of four-footed animals and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³ A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "Certainly not, Lord! For never have I eaten anything unholy or unclean (unkosher)." ¹⁵ Again a voice came to him, a second time: "What God has made clean, you must not consider unholy." ¹⁶ This happened three times, and the sheet was immediately taken up to heaven. ¹⁷ Now while Peter was puzzling about what the vision he had seen might mean, behold, the men sent by Cornelius found Simon's house and appeared before the gate. ¹⁸ They called out and began to ask whether Simon, also called Peter, was staying in this place as a guest. ¹⁹ Now while Peter was mulling over the vision, the Ruach said to him, "Look here, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ But get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitating, because I Myself have sent them." ²¹ Going down to the men, Peter said, "Here, I'm the one you're looking for. What is the reason for your coming?" ²² And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well-spoken of by all the Jewish people, was directed by a holy angel to summon you to his house and to hear a message from you." ²³ So Peter invited them in to be his guests. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him" (Acts 10:9-23).

Peter goes to pray at noon on the rooftop of the house and while praying, *he became very hungry and wanted to eat*. While in a trance *a voice* came to him and said *"Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."* Peter is a Jewish man and observes *kashrut* (as did *Yeshua* and the rest of the disciples). Not every animal, reptile or bird is food according to the Almighty. So naturally this *kashrut* observant apostle replies: *"Certainly not, Lord! For never have I eaten anything unholy or unclean (unkosher)."* So the voice is identified as *the Lord's voice*. The Lord's voice replies: *"What God has made clean, you must not consider unholy."* The text states that this happens three times in a row and the vision ends with *the sheet was immediately taken up to heaven*. Meanwhile *Peter was mulling over the vision*, and *the Ruach said to him*, *"Look here, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ But get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitating, because I Myself have sent them."* The voice of the Lord and the voice of the *Ruach* are different.

Peter immediately obeys the *Ruach* and in doing so immediately discerns the meaning of the vision as detailed by his actions. This was no ordinary event and we see Peter immediately cooperate with the *Ruach* – you see Peter understood that the *Ruach* came to lead and guide (Ps. 31:4, John 16:13) us into all truth! He will tell us!

Peter is now acting based on the understood vision (which was not about food, but about people) and he some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him (Jaffa at the outskirts of Tel Aviv is located about 30 miles (48 km) south of Caesarea on the Mediterranean):

*“²⁴ The following day he entered Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter pulled him up, saying, ‘Stand up! I too am just a man.’ ²⁷ Talking with him, Peter went inside and found many people gathered. ²⁸ He said to them, ‘You yourselves know that it is not permitted for a Jewish man to associate with a non-Jew or to visit him. Yet God has shown me that I should call no one unholy or unclean (this is the meaning of the vision as stated by the voice of God). ²⁹ So I came without objection when I was sent for. I ask, then, what is the reason why you sent for me?’ ³⁰ Cornelius declared, ‘Four days ago at this hour, I was praying minchah^[e] in my house. Suddenly, a man stood in front of me in shining clothes. ³¹ He says, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your tzedakah remembered before God. ³² Therefore send to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is also called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon the tanner, by the sea.’ ³³ So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.” ³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth and said, “I truly understand that God is not one to show favoritism, ³⁵ but in every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him. ³⁶ You know the message He sent to Bnei-Yisrael, proclaiming shalom through Messiah Yeshua—He is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know the message that has spread throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the immersion that John proclaimed. ³⁸ You know how God anointed Yeshua of Natzeret with the *Ruach ha-Kodesh* and power—how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all He did, both in the Judean countryside and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised Him up on the third day and caused Him to be visible—⁴¹ not to all the people, but to us, witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God. We ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to proclaim to the people and to testify that He is the One ordained by God as Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about Him—that everyone who puts his trust in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name” (Acts 10:24-43)*

Peter begins to preach the Good News (the Gospel) of Yeshua: *that everyone who puts his trust in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. Yeshua is the One ordained by God as Judge of the living and the dead.* ⁴³ *All the prophets testify about Him.* The *Ruach* then falls on everyone hearing the message of the Gospel:

*“⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the *Ruach ha-Kodesh* fell on all those hearing the message. ⁴⁵ All the circumcised believers (blood Jewish Believers) who came with Peter were astonished, because the gift of the *Ruach ha-Kodesh* had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and magnifying God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone refuse water for these to be immersed, who have received the *Ruach ha-Kodesh* just as we did?” ⁴⁸ So he commanded them to be immersed in the name of Messiah Yeshua. Then they asked him to stay for a few days” (Acts 10:44-48).*

There is so much to talk about in these Scripture verses, but let us look at the next chapter. Here Peter leaves no doubt about the nature of the vision. It was never about eating not kosher food but about the welcoming of the Gentiles into the Kingdom of God:

*“**II** Now the emissaries and brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² But when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision (the Jewish Believers) took issue with him, ³ saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them!” ⁴ So Peter began *explaining to them point by point*, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision—something like a great sheet coming down, being lowered from heaven by its four corners, and it came right to me. ⁶ I looked inside, considering it carefully, and saw four-footed creatures of the earth, wild animals, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I*

also heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.' ⁸ "But I said, 'Certainly not, Lord! For never has anything unholy or unclean entered my mouth.'⁹ But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has made clean, you must not consider unholy.'¹⁰ This happened three times, and then everything was pulled up to heaven. ¹¹ "At that very moment, three men arrived at the house where we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² The Ruach told me to go with them without hesitating. *These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house.* ¹³ He reported to us how he had seen an angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon called Peter. ¹⁴ He will speak words to you by which you will be saved—you and all your household.'¹⁵ "As I began to speak, the Ruach ha-Kodesh fell on them, just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John immersed with water, but you will be immersed in the Ruach ha-Kodesh.'¹⁷ Therefore if God gave them the same gift as also to us after we put our trust in the Lord Messiah Yeshua, who was I to stand in God's way?" ¹⁸ When they heard this they became quiet, and they glorified God, saying, "Then even to the Gentiles God has granted repentance leading to life!" (Acts 11:1-18)

So I ask you, was the vision about eating non-kosher animals (what God does not consider food, e.g., pork, shellfish) or about the earth shattering momentous inclusion of the Gentiles into the Kingdom with all rights and emoluments thereunto appertaining? Do you think Peter ate non-kosher food from that point on? (Check it out in NT Scriptures). What was the response from the Jewish Believers in Jerusalem? Did they begin to eat any of this non-kosher stuff? The answer is a resounding NO THEY DID NOT. Then neither should we.

But leaving the matter of *kashrut* aside, what is the real message in not one but almost two chapters in the Book of Acts with regard to the Gentiles and the Kingdom? In BibleHub.com we see:

30 AD	The Ascension	Acts 1
30 AD	Matthias Chosen by Lot	Acts 1:12
30 AD	The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost	Acts 2
30 AD	Peter Heals and Preaches	Acts 3
30 AD	Peter and John Arrested and Released	Acts 4
30 AD	Believers Share All	Acts 4:32
30 AD	Deaths of Ananias and Sapphira	Acts 5
30 AD	Apostles Preach and Heal	Acts 5:11
31 AD	Stephen's Speech, Stoning and Death	Acts 6, 7
31 AD	Saul Persecutes the Church	Acts 8
31 AD	Philip in Samaria	Acts 8:3
31 AD	Simon the Sorcerer	Acts 8:9
31 AD	Philip and the Ethiopian	Acts 8:26
34 AD	Saul's Conversion	Acts 9
37 AD	Peter Preaches to the Gentiles	Acts 10, 11

Seven years after the outpouring of the *Ruach* in Acts 2, the *Ruach* is still being outpoured at Cornelius' House. How much of the Spirit? All of it! Was it any different than for the apostles? NO. It has been seven days (not seven years) since we experienced this *Special Shavuot* on May 31, 2020. Prophetically, this is the start of a new *Era*, the *New Normal*. We at *Kol Simcha* are looking for a fresh and relevant *Immersion of the Holy Spirit* as prophesied in Acts 1 because, like the disciples in Acts 1, we are also desirous of the very same mantle, anointing, power, and ultimately results. The video shared on the Shavuot Day Service talked about raining droplets of fire – a gentle but dousing rain. We have begun to experience that rain fire. But I declare that it is not over! We've only just begun to live (like the Carpenter's famous song) and much, much more is in store for us – if we want it, that is. Do you want it? Am I alone in this quest? Can you raise your hands to the Holy Spirit and signify to Him that you are among those who do want all He has for *Kol Simcha*? Can we worship the Lord that He might grant us our wish right here and now? 🎵 *You are way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper...* 🎵