

## Acts 9.32-11.18 shape and keywords (thematic)

Red = movement   blue = house/hospitality   black = chiasmic parallels   purple = prayer/divine activity

Now as Peter went here and there among all, he came down also to the saints living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been lying down on a mat for eight years, for he was paralyzed. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, **Jesus Christ heals you; get up** and get yourself together!" And immediately **he got up**. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was filled with good works and made many donations. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, **sent** two men to him with the request, "Please **come to us** without delay." So Peter **got up** and **went** with them; and when **he arrived, they took him** to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter **put all of them outside**, and then he knelt down and **prayed**. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, **get up**." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, **she sat up**. He gave her his hand and **helped her up**. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

In **Caesarea** there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout man who feared God with all his **household**; he donated much to the people and **prayed** through all to God. At about the ninth hour **he had a vision** in which he clearly saw **an angel of God coming in toward** and saying to him, "Cornelius." He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it [or, "who are you"], Lord?" He answered, "**Your prayers and your donations have ascended as a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa to send for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging-as-a-stranger with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.**"

When the **angel who spoke to him had left**, he called **two of his slaves** and a devout soldier from those who were devoted to him, and after telling them everything, he **sent them to Joppa**.

The next day, as they were **on their journey and approaching** the city, Peter **went up** on the roof **to pray** at the sixth hour. He became hungry and wanted something to taste; and while it was being prepared, **he fell into a trance**. He saw the sky opened and a vessel like a large sheet **coming down, being lowered** to the earth by its **four** corners. In it were all **four-footed** creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, "**Get up**, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." The voice said to him again, a second time, "What **God has made clean**, you must not call common." This happened **three** times, and the vessel was suddenly **taken up** to the sky.

Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of **the vision** that he had seen, behold, the men **sent** by Cornelius! They were inquiring about Simon's **house** and were standing by the gate. They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, **was lodging-as-a-stranger** there. While Peter was still thinking about **the vision**, the Spirit said to him, "Look, **three** men are seeking you. Now **get up, go down, and go** with them without hesitation; for I have **sent** them."

So Peter **went down to the men** and said, "I am the one you are seeking; what is the charge on account of which **you have come**?" They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Judean nation, was **directed by a holy angel to send** for you **to come** to his **house** and to hear what you have to say." So Peter **invited them in** and **gave them lodging-as-strangers**.

The next day **he got up and went** with them, and some of the believers from **Joppa accompanied** him. The following day **they came** to **Caesarea**. Cornelius was expecting them and had **called together** his relatives and close friends. On Peter's **arrival** Cornelius **met** him, and falling at his feet, **worshiped him**. But Peter made him get up, saying, "**Stand up**; I am only a mortal." And as **he came together with** him, **he went in** and found that **many had assembled**; and he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is taboo for a Judean to associate with or to **visit** a foreigner; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone common or unclean. So when I was **sent** for, **I came** without objection. Now may I ask why you **sent** for me?" Cornelius replied, "**Four** days ago at this very hour, at the ninth hour, **I was praying** in my **house** when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. He said, 'Cornelius, **your prayer has been heard and your donations have been remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is lodging-as-a-stranger in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.**' Therefore I **sent** for you immediately, and you have been kind enough **to come**. So now all of us are here **in the presence of God** to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say."

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and works for justice is acceptable to him. You know the **message** he **sent** to the people of Israel, **preaching peace by Jesus Christ**--he is Lord of **all**. That **message spread** throughout **Judea**, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John **announced**: how **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power**; how he **went about** doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are **witnesses** to all that he did both in **Judea** and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God **raised** him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to **all** the people but to us who were chosen by God as **witnesses**, and who ate and drank with him after **he rose** from the dead. He commanded us **to announce** to the people and **to witness** that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets **witness** about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

While Peter was still speaking, the **Holy Spirit fell** upon all who heard the word. The faithful from the circumcision who had come with Peter were astounded that the **gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the nations**, for they heard them speaking in tongues and magnifying God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have **received the Holy Spirit** just as we have?" So he ordered them to be **baptized in the name of Jesus Christ**. Then they **invited him to stay** for several days.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the nations had also **accepted the word of God**. So when Peter **went up** to Jerusalem, the ones from the circumcision disputed with him, saying, "Why did you **go to** uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa **praying**, and in a trance **I saw a vision**. There was something like a large sheet **coming down** from heaven, **being lowered** by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call common.' This happened three times; then everything was **pulled up** again to heaven.

And behold! Three men, **sent** to me from Caesarea, arrived at the **house** where we were. **The Spirit told me to go** with them and not to dispute with them. These six brothers also accompanied me, and **we entered** the man's **house**. He told us how **he had seen the angel** standing in his **house** and saying, '**Send** to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire **household** will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the **Holy Spirit fell** upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered **the word of the Lord**, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then **God gave** them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could **hinder God**?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they **glorified God**, saying, "Then **God has given** even to the nations the repentance that leads to life."