

Study of Acts 10
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In *Acts 10* we see a man who is not a Hebrew, but the Scriptures describe him as a devout man who feared Elohim, a man who gave cheerfully to support the works of Elohim, and prayed to Elohim always.

I would be honoured to be described with the qualities of Cornelius. Can any of us say that we are that devout? To be devout means that he was 100% sold out to YHVH, and totally believed that Elohim was the Creator of all things, and in charge of all things.

The Scripture tells us that Cornelius gave *much alms*, and that he did it willingly and with a cheerful heart, and that he also feared YHVH. What does that mean? Does it mean that he cowered in the corner and feared for his life? **OF COURSE NOT!** To *fear* YHVH Elohim is to know Him; for you cannot fear what you do not know—although there are people who have phobias and fear the unknown. But once you know (*yada*) YHVH and realize that He is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent and that He created all things, a desire wells up in you to be one with Him, and to please Him, out of love for Him, and the fear that becomes prevalent in the life of a believer is the fear of disappointing him and sinning even though we do not want to.

I can remember, as a little child, how I was in awe of my father, and how I feared him when I did something wrong; but as I grew older, that fear changed. The fear I then had was the fear and apprehension of disappointing my father, and falling out of his favour. What he thought of me was paramount in my life, and I did not want to be without his approval.

It is the same with my Heavenly Father. The fear that I had of Him before I came to this Hebraic understanding was the fear of His power and what He could do to me; but now, because of His Word and the love that is imbedded in His beautiful Torah, which is demonstrated to me on a daily basis and because of the relationship that I have developed with Him, the fear that I now have, is a repugnance at the idea of disappointing Him or letting Him down, after all the wonderfully beautiful loving things He has done, is doing, and will do for me, because He is unchanging in His love for me and for you. That is the fear that I have of YHVH, my Heavenly Father.

We are told that Cornelius was visited by an angel of Elohim. One of the most beautiful passages in the Bible is found in these verses, and what I am about to tell you applies to you also, **IF** you are willing to love, obey and have the fear of YHVH in you; because Elohim is unchanging. We know that what He did for Adam, for Abraham, for Moses—and now for Cornelius—He will do for us also.

Here in *verse 4* the angel or messenger tells Cornelius that his prayers and his alms (his giving)—his way of living—has come before Elohim, and his prayers **were answered**. What do you think Cornelius' prayer was? It is the same prayer of all those who truly love Elohim: *What can I do to be closer to You, to be more intimate with You, Heavenly Father?*

Here we are told that Elohim answers his prayers, and later on we read that he and his household were all filled with the Holy Spirit of Elohim. That is also available for all of us, if only **WE TOO WILL LIVE A DEVOUT LIFE** surrendered to our Heavenly Father.

Now Cornelius follows the instruction of the angel, and sends for Peter. Peter, on the other hand, is unaware of what is happening with Cornelius and his vision—because he is experiencing a vision of his own.

The time these *verses* speak of was long after the death and Resurrection of Messiah. In the forty days after his Resurrection, Messiah taught His apostles and disciples every day about the Kingdom of Elohim, and how they should live. I'm sure that Peter would not have missed even one second of Messiah's post-Resurrection teaching and instructions! If, the teaching of the Christian Fathers of the post-Nicene era **WAS** that we can now eat whatever we want, shouldn't we assume that Messiah would have at least touched on the subject and told **ALL** the Apostles about it, during the forty days He spent with His Apostles and disciples? If that is the case, why does Peter say in *verse 14*: *Not so, Lord, for I have NEVER eaten anything that is common or unclean?*

There are only two possibilities for Peter uttering these words and his ensuing actions. Either Messiah taught Peter that from the time of His Resurrection forward, Peter and everyone else could **NOW EAT** whatever they wanted and Elohim would bless the food—but Peter disobeyed Messiah and **CONTINUED IN THE WAYS OF THE LAW, THE WAYS OF TORAH**, or, Messiah actually **UPHELD** what the Father said about the dietary laws and **NEVER** taught His followers that they, and consequently we, could eat anything common or unclean, and Peter was indeed being obedient to Messiah's teaching by not eating anything common or unclean.

It is up to you to decide what kind of man Peter was. If Messiah had taught that all of His followers could now eat whatever they wanted, **THEN** that means that Peter was a disobedient, rebellious apostle who defied Messiah's instructions. The Scriptures tell us quite clearly however, that Messiah never did indeed change, add to, or take away anything from the Torah of the Father, for He was the sinless Lamb, and to add to, or take anything away from the Torah would mean that He transgressed the Torah, and *1John 3:4* tells us that *Sin is transgression of the Torah* and Messiah Himself said in *John 7:16*, *My doctrine is not My own but Him that sent Me*, which is a clear message that Messiah was an obedient Son to the Father.

Many people attribute these verses as speaking of the dietary laws; but in fact they are not. Even Peter was confused as to what the message was about as we can see in *verse 17* **while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen MIGHT BE**, *behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate;*

In *verse 19* Peter is told that **three** men have come to see him, and that corresponds to the three times the sheet was filled with wild beasts and creeping things. Any time we see the number three in Scripture we can be assured that there is a profound message our resurrected Messiah wants to teach us.

The next day Peter travels with these **three** men to visit Cornelius. What you are about to read is very important. Cornelius was very excited to meet this man of Elohim and when he saw Peter, he fell down at his feet and worshipped him. Peter in a gentle manner told him to get up, and said *I am only a man also like you*.

What do we learn from this *verse*? We learn that we are not to bow down before any man to worship him, regardless of what position he has. There is only one worthy of worship, and that of course is

our Elohim. No Pope or Archbishop or Cardinal or Prelate or other man-made leader—not even leaders appointed by Elohim such as Moses—are to be worshipped; **ONLY ELOHIM** is to be worshipped.

In *verse 28* the Holy Spirit tells Peter what the vision of the sheets was about: Peter says, **ELOHIM HAS SHOWN ME** that I should not call **ANY MAN COMMON OR UNCLEAN**.

IF Peter realizes what the vision was about, **THEN** who are we to tell him, *No, no Peter, this vision of the sheets and the wild beasts and creeping things is telling you that NOW you can eat whatever you want!* We should let Scripture explain Scripture, and not try to force our own theological **biases or ideas** into the text.

Next we have Cornelius speaking to Peter about his vision; and then Peter answers Cornelius with what Elohim has put on his heart. Peter tells us what we have to do to be accepted by Elohim: *He who fears Elohim and works righteousness.* We have just gone through the explanation of what the fear of YHVH **IS**. But what does it mean to *work righteousness*? The word *work* is simple enough. It means to put into action. But what does the word *righteousness* mean in this context? *Deuteronomy 4:8 and what nation is there so great that has statutes and judgements so righteous as all this Torah (Law). Deuteronomy 6:25 And it shall be our righteousness, IF WE OBSERVE TO DO ALL THESE COMMANDMENTS before YHVH our Elohim, AS HE HAS COMMANDED US.*

In both these verses in *Deuteronomy* we are told that the Law, the Torah **IS RIGHTEOUS** and that becoming a doer of the Torah **IS** our **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. Peter is telling us therefore that, **IF** we want to be accepted by Elohim then all we have to do, **IS DO** the works of the Torah with a surrendered loving contrite and obedient heart.

Verse 36 is also very important because it says, *The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Yeshua Messiah (He is Master of all) Acts 10:36*

In John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with Elohim and the Word was Elohim.

Here in *verse 36* it confirms that Yeshua **IS** the Living Word of Elohim, His Living Torah. *Verse 38* shows us that Yeshua was fully man and that He had put His Deity aside, because it says that Elohim **ANOINTED** Yeshua with the Holy Spirit. If Messiah had His full Deity, as some people believe, **THEN** why would the Father anoint Him with the Holy Spirit? Would He not already have the Holy Spirit dwelling within Him?

If you care to look, you will find all kinds of examples in the Scriptures of how much YHVH loved us by putting aside His Deity and that He came to earth as a man, totally divesting Himself of His Godly powers in order to be an example for all of us and show us by His love, how we should live lives totally surrendered to the Father.

Here in *Acts* it says that Yeshua went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil. The power to do all these things comes from the Spirit of the Father which indwells **ALL THOSE** who willingly and lovingly surrender their hearts and their wills to Him.

Verse 42 is very important, *And He commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is He, Messiah, the Living Torah, who was ordained of Elohim to be the Judge of quick and dead.*

In John 1:14 it establishes that Messiah who was made flesh and tabernacled among us (*John 1:14*)

was the Living Word of Elohim, the Living Torah, and here in *verse 42*, Yeshua commands us to preach, and testify to the whole world that **IT IS** He, Messiah, the Living Word of Elohim, the Living Torah that was ordained by Elohim to be the judge of the living and the dead.

What this is saying **IS** that **THE LIVING TORAH WILL JUDGE YOU**, the Living Word of Elohim will judge you. Let me ask you a question; How do you think you will be judged **IF** in your heart you are convinced that **ALL OR PART OF THAT WORD, HIS TORAH, HAS SOMEHOW BEEN DONE AWAY WITH?**

Verse 43 states that through His **NAME**, what is His **NAME**? His **NAME IS** YHVH. Through His **NAME**, whosoever believes in Him shall receive **REMISSION OF SINS. IF** Yeshua **IS** YHVH, which of course He is, and YHVH **IS** the Living Word of Elohim as we are told in *John 1:1*, **IF** Messiah **IS** the Father's Living Torah, **THEN** to believe in Him, means **TO BELIEVE THE TORAH OF THE FATHER**, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His directives for everlasting Life.

While Peter was speaking, YHVH poured out His Holy Spirit upon all that heard the Word. They weren't *baptized in the Holy Spirit*, they simply received a gift, a gift that they were to share with other people so that other people could also receive this gift from the Father.

Our Heavenly Father blesses us for one reason, and that **IS** so that we in turn will share our blessings with others.

Verse 46 tells us that those that received the Holy Spirit of Elohim and spoke *with tongues* which means they spoke different known languages and what did they do with this gift? They glorified Elohim and magnified His Name. *Verse 47* plainly states that they were baptized after they received the Spirit of the Father.

Our Heavenly Father has poured out His Spirit on all flesh, but not all people receive it, and sadly I have to say that many actually reject it. But those that accept it, are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of Elohim, which according to *Ezekiel 36:26-27* causes every willing and loving heart to walk out Elohim's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah – including being baptized in the Name of the Living Word of Elohim that is now indwelling them, the Living Torah.

The journey to salvation begins with believing there is an Elohim and then having a desire to surrender ourselves to Him and obey Him. Then, once our hearts have been changed, the Word of YHVH **IS** placed on our hearts and the Father's Holy Spirit comes to indwell and **CAUSE** every willing heart to walk out His statutes, His Torah, which in turn will take us into an everlasting life with the Father as the bride of Messiah. Amen.

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amen