

The Holy Spirit is Poured on the Gentiles

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

When there is a great need, *Adonai* sends *His Messengers* (*malachim* or angels). This kind of visitation by angels is, of course, in the Book of Acts in the New-er Testament. Also, the Hebrew Scriptures are replete with examples. Since *Adonai* is no respecter of persons, He can send His Messengers/Angels in our day, in this place, even today. Tomorrow, we'll be coming to Him on His Holy *Moed* to ask Him to empower us with whatever we need for our day, at this time in history, using whatever means He wants to use, even using His Messengers! We want *Yeshua's Promise* so that *we will have greater power to do His Will*. What if *Adonai* wants to send us a person (man or woman), does it matter? No! What if *Adonai* wants to send us His Messenger (His Angel), does that matter? No! Some people's response would be to send a person because they do not believe in angels. If that is the case, this **unbelief** will stop any and all Angel visitations to them. Or is it to you? In our congregation we sing *Shalom Alechem* every *Shabbat* because I want to make the positive statement that not only do we believe in *Adonai's Messengers* in *Kol Simcha* but we expect them to come and we want to welcome and bless *Adonai's Messengers* with *Shalom*, whether coming or going. Let me state the obvious, anything in Scripture is profitable for us and it is efficacious and possible for us, provided we believe (*Matt. 13:58, Mk. 6:6, 16:14; Ro. 4:20, Heb. 3:12*). One of my very favorite Scriptures is: "²⁴Immediately the boy's father cried out, "Lord, I believe! Help my **unbelief**!" (*Mk. 9:24*).

Of course, it doesn't matter who He sends. What should matter most is *Adonai's* message to us. So, what was the message to the House of Gentiles – Cornelius' House? It was: '*send for Peter, and he will convey My Message*'. 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 when ⁴*He stared at him (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 *anointing* and *enabling* our prayers with *generous tzedakah*? The truth is that our prayers and testimony before *Adonai* have the *very same potential*. Do you believe? Are you ready to set aside your unbelief and act on it? Meanwhile, in another city, Peter is also praying... (*Read Acts 10:9-23*).

You know the story well. 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 *Adonai*. So naturally this *kashrut* observant apostle replies: "*Certainly not, Lord! For never have I eaten anything unholy or unclean (unkosher)*." But notice that the voice is identified as the Lord's voice. The *Adonai'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*. 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*." The voice of *Adonai* and the voice of the *Ruach* are distinguishable. 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*. Peter understood that the *Ruach* came to lead and guide us into all truth! (*Ps. 31:4, John 16:13*). He will tell us!

Peter begins to act based solely on the understood vision (which was not about food, but about people) and he took some of the brothers from Joppa with him (Joppa/Jaffa is at the outskirts of Tel Aviv. It is located about 30 miles (48 km) south of Caesarea on the Mediterranean). (*Read 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 Gospel message:

“⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Ruach ha-Kodesh fell on all those hearing the message.

⁴⁵All 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. ⁴⁶For 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?” ⁴⁸So 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).

It is up to you to ask, and I cannot do it for you. Are you expecting a miraculous and efficacious touch from the Almighty? I am. I expect nothing less than the *full measure* of the Father’s Promise. This is precisely what we need to get into His Revival fully so we can be witnesses to Him unto the uttermost parts of the earth. The disciples waited with one mind continuing in prayer (*Luke 24:50-53*) for *The Father’s Promise*. Have you waited in one mind continuing in prayer for His *Promised Ruach*? **Change me O Lord! Empower me O Lord! Anoint me O Lord! Let me be relevant O Lord! Let me make a difference O Lord! Let me delight to do Thy Will O Lord! Shabbat Shalom!**