

# Peter's Housetop Vision

## Overview

### 1. Snapshot:

The gospel has spread from Jerusalem, to Judaea, to Samaria and now "*to the uttermost part of the earth.*"

### 2. An Angel Appears to Cornelius: (Verses 1-8)

Cornelius was a devout man who prayed and was generous in giving money to those in need. An angel appeared to him instructing him to send a delegation to Joppa to find a Peter. Cornelius obeyed the instructions and sent men to Joppa.

### 3. Peter's Vision: (Verses 9-23)

The next day, as Peter was on the housetop praying, he had a vision of a sheet being lowered to the earth filled with animals considered unclean by the Jews. This happened three times accompanied by a voice from heaven. As Peter was pondering the meaning of this vision, the men Cornelius had sent arrived outside the gate of the house. The Holy Spirit then spoke to Peter revealing that three men were waiting for him who God had sent. Peter went with them to Caesarea the next day accompanied by some of the brethren from Joppa.

### 4. The Meeting of Peter and Cornelius: (Verses 24-33)

Upon meeting Cornelius, a Gentile, Peter explains God's instruction to him not to call any man uncommon or unclean. Peter then asks Cornelius to explain why he had been summoned. Cornelius recounted the instructions the angel had given him four days previous as he was praying.

## 5. The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Gentiles: (Verses 34-48)

Peter preached to the household of Cornelius and the Holy Spirit was poured out on all the Gentiles who had gathered in Cornelius' household and the Jews who had previously believed and were filled with the Holy Spirit were astonished because they heard the Gentile believers speaking in tongues and magnifying God. The new converts were then baptized in water.

### The Challenge of Chapter Ten:

Just like Cornelius, there are people in our world today who have hearts toward God but have not yet heard the message of salvation. We must always remember God is searching for hearts that hunger after Him, regardless of whether they "look like" or "talk like" those in our local church body. We must guard against prejudice, exclusivism, and respecting one people group over another based on nationality, race, gender, or social status. Obeying God and the leading of the Holy Spirit should be a vital and integral part of our daily Christian life.