A Biographical Study of Cornelius

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Cornelius

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

I. A religious sinner in Caesarea
   A. His veneration for God—“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always” (Acts 10:1-2).
   B. His visit from God
      1. The messenger—“He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius” (Acts 10:3).
      2. The message—“And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgest with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do?” (Acts 10:4-6).
      3. The mission—“And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually; And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa” (Acts 10:7-8).

II. A redeemed sinner at Caesarea
   A. The conversation with Cornelius
      1. The reception
         a. The reaction by the sinner—“And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him” (Acts 10:25).
         b. The rebuke by the soul winner—“But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man” (Acts 10:26).
      2. The perception—“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10:34-35).
   B. The clarification to Cornelius
      1. Peter explained the person of Jesus—“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him” (Acts 10:38).
      2. Peter explained the promise of Jesus—“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43).
   C. The conversion of Cornelius
      1. His belief in Christ (Acts 10:44-45)
      2. His baptism in Christ (Acts 10:46-48)

STATISTICS
First mention: Acts 10:1
Final mention: Acts 10:31
Meaning of his name: “A horn”
Frequency of his name: Referred to 10 times
Biblical books mentioning him: One book (Acts)
Occupation: Roman military officer
Important fact about his life: He sent for and was led to Christ by the Apostle Peter at Caesarea.