

Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 166 – June 15th – Acts 10:1-23

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Acts

Bruce, FF, *The Acts of the Apostles*, London, 2nd ed. 1952

Polhill, John B, *Acts: The New American Commentary*, Nashville, 1992

Stott, John R W, *The Message of Acts*, IVP (The Bible Speaks Today), Leicester, 1990

Acts 10:1

Ἀνὴρ δὲ τις ἐν Καισαρείᾳ ὀνόματι Κορνήλιος, ἑκατοντάρχης ἐκ σπειρῆς τῆς καλουμένης Ἰταλικῆς,

ἑκατονταρχῆς, ου and ἑκατονταρχος, ου m centurion

"It is remarkable that the first Gentile with whom Jesus came into touch (so far as we know) was a centurion, with reference to whose faith He said, 'Many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven' (Mt 8:11)." Bruce

σπειρα, ης f cohort (tenth part of a Roman legion having about 600 men), band of soldiers

Ἰταλικος, η, ου Italian

Verse 2

εὐσεβῆς και φοβούμενος τὸν θεὸν σὺν παντὶ τῷ οἴκῳ αὐτοῦ, ποιῶν ἐλεημοσύνας πολλὰς τῷ λαῷ και δεόμενος τοῦ θεοῦ διὰ παντός,

εὐσεβῆς, ες godly, religious

φοβουμενος τον θεον is "generally used in Acts to denote those Gentiles who, though not fully proselytes, attached themselves to the Jewish religion, practicing its monotheistic and imageless worship, attending the synagogue, observing the Sabbath and food-laws etc." Bruce

ἐλεημοσυνη, ης f giving money to a needy person, money given to a needy person, gift

δεομαι ask, beg, pray

Verse 3

εἶδεν ἐν ὀράματι φανερώς ὡσει περὶ ὥραν ἐνάτην τῆς ἡμέρας ἄγγελον τοῦ θεοῦ εἰσελθόντα πρὸς αὐτὸν και εἰπόντα αὐτῷ· Κορνήλιε.

εἶδεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ὁραω trans see ὄραμα, τος n vision, something seen φανερωσ openly, publicly, clearly ὡσει as, about, approximately ὥραν ἐνάτην ninth hour (the hour of evening prayer)

About 3 p.m.

εἰπόντα Verb, aor act ptc, m acc s λεγω

Verse 4

ὁ δὲ ἀτενίσας αὐτῷ και ἔμφοβος γενόμενος εἶπεν· Τί ἐστίν, κύριε; εἶπεν δὲ αὐτῷ· Αἱ προσευχαί σου και αἱ ἐλεημοσύναι σου ἀνέβησαν εἰς μνημόσυνον ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ θεοῦ·

ἀτενίζω fix eyes on, look intently at

ἐμφοβος, ου full of fear

γενόμενος Verb, aor ptc, m nom s γινομαι

ἀναβαινω go up, come up

Like the smoke of sacrifice.

μνημοσυνον memorial, something done to arouse the memory of another

ἐμπροσθεν before, in front of

Verse 5

και νῦν πέμπων ἄνδρας εἰς Ἰόππην και μετάπεμψαι Σίμωνά τινα ὃς ἐπικαλεῖται Πέτρος·

πεπων aor imperat πεμπω send

μετάπεμψαι Verb, aor midd dep imperat, 2 s

μεταπεμπομαι send for, summon

ἐπικαλεω call; midd appeal to

Verse 6

οὗτος ξενίζεται παρά τινι Σίμωνι βυρσεῖ, ᾧ ἐστίν οἰκία παρά θάλασσαν.

ξενίζω entertain as a guest (pass. live, stay)

βυρσει see 9:43

θαλασσα, ης f sea

A tanner would have used sea-water in his work.

Verse 7

ὡς δὲ ἀπῆλθεν ὁ ἄγγελος ὁ λαλῶν αὐτῷ, φωνήσας δύο τῶν οἰκετῶν και στρατιώτην εὐσεβῆ τῶν προσκαρτερούντων αὐτῷ

οἰκετης, ου f house servant, servant

στρατιωτης, ου m soldier

εὐσεβῆ Adjective, m/f acc s εὐσεβῆς, ες godly, religious

προσκαρτερω devote oneself to

"His προσκαρτερουντες were probably the equivalent of his 'orderlies', and, like his οικεται, reckoned in his οικος ('household': cf v2); it is significant, therefore, that this man, like his officer, is called 'pious'." Bruce

Verse 8

καὶ ἐξηγησάμενος ἅπαντα αὐτοῖς ἀπέστειλεν αὐτοὺς εἰς τὴν Ἰόππην.

ἐξηγεομαι tell, relate, explain

ἅπας, ασα, αν (alternative form of πας) all

ἀπέστειλεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s

ἀποστελλω

Verse 9

Τῇ δὲ ἐπαύριον ὁδοιπορούντων ἐκείνων καὶ τῇ πόλει ἐγγιζόντων ἀνέβη Πέτρος ἐπὶ τὸ δῶμα προσεύξασθαι περὶ ὥραν ἕκτην.

ἐπαυριον the next day

ὁδοιπορεω travel, be on a journey

ἐγγιζω approach, draw near

ἀνέβη Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ἀναβαινω go up, come up

δωμα, ατος n roof, housetop

A quiet place for prayer

περὶ ὥραν ἕκτην 'about the sixth hour' i.e. noon

If those sent by Cornelius had set out first thing in the morning they would have arrived about noon.

Verse 10

ἐγένετο δὲ πρόσπεινος καὶ ἤθελεν γεύσασθαι· παρασκευαζόντων δὲ αὐτῶν ἐγένετο ἐπ' αὐτὸν ἔκστασις,

πρόσπεινος, ον hungry

Here alone in the NT. Thought to be a medical term.

ἤθελεν Verb, imperf act indic, 3 s θελω wish, will

γευομαι taste, eat

παρασκευαζω prepare, prepare a meal

ἐκστασις, εως f amazement, trance, vision

Verse 11

καὶ θεωρεῖ τὸν οὐρανὸν ἀνεφγμένον καὶ καταβαῖνον σκευὸς τι ὡς ὀθόνην μεγάλην τέσσαρσιν ἄρχαῖς καθιέμενον ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς,

θεωρεω see

The historic present is rare in Luke.

ἀνεφγμένον Verb, perf pass ptc, m acc & n nom/acc s ἀνοιγω open

καταβαῖνον Verb, pres act ptc, n nom/acc s

καταβαινω come or go down

σκευος, ους n object, thing, vessel

ὀθονη, ης f large piece of cloth

μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα large, great

τεσσαρες neut τεσσαρα gen τεσσαρων four

ἄρχη, ης f corner (of a cloth)

καθημι let down, lower

Verse 12

ἐν ᾧ ὑπῆρχεν πάντα τὰ τετράποδα καὶ ἔρπετα τῆς γῆς καὶ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ.

ὑπαρχω be (equivalent to εἰμι)

τετραπουν, ποδος n four-footed animal, animal

ἔρπετον, ου n reptile

πετεινον, ου n bird

Cf. Gen 6:20 for a similar division of the animal world.

Verse 13

καὶ ἐγένετο φωνὴ πρὸς αὐτόν· Ἀναστάς, Πέτρε, θύσον καὶ φάγε.

θυω slaughter, sacrifice, kill

φάγε Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s ἐσθιω and

ἐσθω eat, consume

Verse 14

ὁ δὲ Πέτρος εἶπεν· Μηδαμῶς, κύριε, ὅτι οὐδέποτε ἔφαγον πᾶν κοινὸν καὶ ἀκάθαρτον.

μηδαμῶς adv no, by no means

οὐδέποτε never

ἔφαγον Verb, aor act indic, 1s & 3pl ἐσθιω

κοινος, α, ον common, in common,

profane, unclean

ἀκάθαρτος, ον unclean

Verse 15

καὶ φωνὴ πάλιν ἐκ δευτέρου πρὸς αὐτόν· Ἄ ὁ θεὸς ἐκαθάρισεν σὺ μὴ κοῖνου.

καθαριζω cleanse, make clean, purify

κοινω make unclean, call unclean

"The present imperative implies that he is not to go on doing what he is already doing." Bruce.

"In Lev 20:24b-26 the laws of clean and unclean are linked precisely to Israel's separation from the rest of the nations. The Jewish food laws presented a real problem for Jewish Christians in the outreach to Gentiles. One simply could not dine in a Gentile's home without inevitably transgressing those laws either by consumption of unclean flesh or flesh that had not been prepared in a kosher, i.e., ritually proper, fashion (cf. Acts 15:20). Jesus dealt with the problem of clean and unclean, insisting that external things like foods did not defile a person but the internals of heart and speech and thought render one truly unclean (Mark 7:14-23). In Mark 7:19b Mark added the parenthetical comment that Jesus' saying ultimately declared all foods clean. This was precisely the point of Peter's vision: God declared the unclean to be clean. In Mark 7 Jesus' teaching on clean/unclean was immediately followed by his ministry to a Gentile woman (7:24-30), just as Peter's vision regarding clean and unclean foods was followed by *his* witness to a Gentile. It is simply not possible to fully accept someone with whom you are unwilling to share in the intimacy of table fellowship. The early church had to solve the problem of kosher food laws in order to launch a mission to Gentiles. Purity distinctions and human discrimination are of a single piece." Polhill.

Verse 16

τοῦτο δὲ ἐγένετο ἐπὶ τρίς, καὶ εὐθὺς ἀνελήμφθη τὸ σκεῦος εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν.

τρὶς three times

ἀνελήμφθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s
ἀναλαμβάνω take up, carry

Verse 17

Ὡς δὲ ἐν ἑαυτῷ διηπόρει ὁ Πέτρος τί ἂν εἴη τὸ ὄραμα ὃ εἶδεν, ἰδοὺ οἱ ἄνδρες οἱ ἀπεσταλμένοι ὑπὸ τοῦ Κορνηλίου διερωτήσαντες τὴν οἰκίαν τοῦ Σίμωνος ἐπέστησαν ἐπὶ τὸν πυλῶνα,

διαπορεῶ be very confused, wonder

ὄραμα, τος n vision, sight

εἶδεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ὁραῶ see

ἀπεσταλμένοι Verb, perf pass ptc, m nom pl
ἀποστελλῶ send

διερωτῶ learn by enquiry

ἐπέστησαν aor ἐφιστημι come up to

πυλῶν, ὄνος m gate, entrance

Verse 18

καὶ φωνήσαντες ἐπυνθάνοντο εἰ Σίμων ὁ ἐπικαλούμενος Πέτρος ἐνθάδε ξενίζεται.

πυνθανομαι inquire, ask, question

ἐπικαλεῶ call, name

ἐνθάδε adv here, to this place

ξενίζω see v.6

Verse 19

τοῦ δὲ Πέτρου διενθυμουμένου περὶ τοῦ ὀράματος εἶπεν αὐτῷ τὸ πνεῦμα· Ἴδου ἄνδρες ζητοῦντές σε·

διενθυμεομαι think over, try to understand

For similar communication by the Holy Spirit cf. 8:26; 16:7; 19:21; 20:23.

τρεις, τρια gen τριων dat τρισιν three

One ancient manuscript (B) reads δυο rather than τρεις. This more difficult reading (in the light of v.7) is preferred by Ropes, who suggests that the two servants alone may be thought of as responsible messengers, the soldier acting as a guard.

ζητεῶ seek, search for

Verse 20

ἀλλὰ ἀναστὰς κατὰβηθι καὶ πορεύου σὺν αὐτοῖς μηδὲν διακρινόμενος, ὅτι ἐγὼ ἀπέσταλκα αὐτούς.

κατὰβηθι aor imperat καταβαινω come or go down, descend

διακρινῶ judge; midd & aor pass doubt, hesitate.

ἀπέσταλκα Verb, perf act indic, 1 s

ἀποστελλῶ

Verse 21

καταβὰς δὲ Πέτρος πρὸς τοὺς ἄνδρας εἶπεν· Ἴδου ἐγὼ εἰμι ὃν ζητεῖτε· τίς ἡ αἰτία δι' ἣν παρέστε;

αἰτία, ας f reason, cause, accusation, guilt

παρεῖμι be present

Verse 22

οἱ δὲ εἶπαν· Κορνήλιος ἑκατοντάρχης, ἀνὴρ δίκαιος καὶ φοβούμενος τὸν θεὸν μαρτυρούμενός τε ὑπὸ ὅλου τοῦ ἔθνους τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ἐχρηματίσθη ὑπὸ ἀγγέλου ἀγίου μεταπέμψασθαί σε εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀκοῦσαι ῥήματα παρὰ σοῦ.

μαρτυρεῶ bear witness; pass be well spoken of

ἔθνος, οὗς n nation, people

χρηματίζω warn, direct, reveal

Used of instruction by God.

μεταπεμπομαι send for, summon
ῥήμα, ατος n word, thing, matter

Cf. 11:14.

Verse 23

εἰσκαλεσάμενος οὖν αὐτοὺς ἐξένισεν.
Τῇ δὲ ἐπαύριον ἀναστὰς ἐξῆλθεν σὺν αὐτοῖς,
καὶ τινες τῶν ἀδελφῶν τῶν ἀπὸ Ἰόππης
συνῆλθον αὐτῷ.

εἰσκαλεομαι invite in

ξενίζω see v.6

ἐπαυριον the next day

According to 11:12, six men from Joppa
accompanied Peter.

συνερχομαι come or go with, accompany