



The Book of Acts

Living Holy in the Family of God

Volume Two
Chapters 6-10

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Acknowledgment

My wife, Beverly Allen, has devoted herself to ChristAssembly.org. Most days her body gives her trouble, but she spends time helping ChristAssembly.org. She brings her doctoral training in biochemistry and molecular biology to her work and greatly improves the quality of ChristAssembly.org. She has spent many hours creating graphics, reviewing articles and books, and providing careful proof reading, even when she does not feel her best. Other friends from Korea have helped in proof reading books for ChristAssembly.org, with our thanks in Christ Jesus for their friendship and faithful labors.

Beverly and I have been married more than forty years and Jesus used her life to make my life so much better in so many ways. Her constant love and support changes my life daily. She also provides honest feedback and careful analysis. I love my wife and want everyone to know that she spends her time serving Jesus behind the scenes at ChristAssembly.org.



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1

Introduction

The Book of Acts continues with the expansion of Christianity out from Jerusalem. As the new-born church in Jerusalem grew in size, the established religious order continued its violent persecution of Jesus. They had crucified Him on false charges, but he arose from the dead on the third day, just as He promised. The religious Council turned its anger towards the apostles of Jesus. They did not back down from proclaiming the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The church in Jerusalem faced internal struggles. As the saints sold their property and shared the proceeds of sale with others in need, questions arose about the proper feeding of certain widows. The apostles then directed the congregation to appoint seven servants who would be in charge of the feeding ministry.

Among those seven men was a man named Stephen. He was full of grace and power and performing great wonders and signs among the people. Some men rose up and argued with Stephen, but they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. Therefore, they trumped up charges against him and he was brought before the religious Council. As the Council examined him, they saw his space like the face of an angel. Stephen took the opportunity before the Council to proclaim the name of Jesus to them by examining the Old Testament testimony about Jesus as the Messiah of Israel. He recounted the history of the Jewish people coming out of exile in Egypt and showed that the forefathers of Israel had consistently rejected Jesus as Savior. They also persecuted and killed the prophets. Stephen called the religious Council the betrayers and murderers of Jesus. The Council was cut to the quick and reacted violently. As Stephen

told them that he saw the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God, the Council rushed at him and drove him outside the city where he was stoned. As he was dying, he asked the Lord Jesus to receive a spirit and not hold the sun against them. The crowd of murderers laid their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

On that day a great persecution arose against the church and Saul was in hearty agreement with putting Stephen to death. Saul became a leader of the violent persecution against Jesus. That intense persecution scattered the saints, but they carry Jesus on their lips and in their hearts. Philip, one of the seven men appointed to oversee the food ministry, went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ. The city of Samaria responded in many Samaritans came to Christ as Savior. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John, they prayed for the Samaritans and they receive the Holy Spirit.

As things were going great in Samaria, an angel of the Lord directed Philip to a desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip obeyed and met an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of Ethiopians, heading to Jerusalem to worship. Philip joined the chariot of the eunuch and explained to him the gospel of Jesus Christ. Having believed, the eunuch was baptized. Philip continued on his way and Preaching all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

Saul was still breathing threats against the church and heading towards Damascus with authority to arrest Christians. As he drew near to Damascus, a bright light flashed around him at noon and a voice spoke to him from heaven. "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" Paul did not recognize the voice at first, but the voice identified Himself as Jesus, Whom Paul was persecuting. Jesus commissioned Paul for service that day and he remained blind for three days until he met Ananias of Damascus who restored his sight by laying his hands upon him. Saul then began preaching Christ in the synagogue at Damascus. The Jews there tried to kill him, but he escaped to Jerusalem. At Jerusalem, Barnabas introduced him to the apostles and they received him, although many people were very afraid of Saul because of his persecutions. Jews in Jerusalem tried to kill Paul, and they sent him away to Tarsus. The church for a time in Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, going on in the fear and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, blessed with increase by God.

Peter was traveling and came down to the saints who lived at Lydda. There he healed Aeneas, a man paralyzed for eight years. From there he went

to Joppa and God used Peter to raise Tabitha from the dead. Many people in Joppa believed in the Lord Jesus as they learned about the resurrection of Tabitha.

In Caesarea, Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian cohort, received a vision from an angel of God. The angel told him to send for a man named Simon Peter and Joppa and he did so. Meanwhile, Peter had received a similar vision and was ready to go to Caesarea. When Peter arrived in Caesarea, Cornelius gathered many people to hear the message of salvation from Peter. While Peter was in Joppa, he had received a vision from God telling him that what God had cleansed no man should call unholy or unclean. Peter understood slowly that God was welcoming the Gentiles into the church. Therefore, as Peter proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ to the assembled group in Caesarea, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just like the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles in Jerusalem. The circumcised believers who came with Peter were all amazed, because they heard them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Peter then ordered them to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and they asked him to stay on for a few days and he did. The door to the conversion of the Gentiles as a group in their entry into the church had just opened wide.

HALLELUJAH !

2

Seven

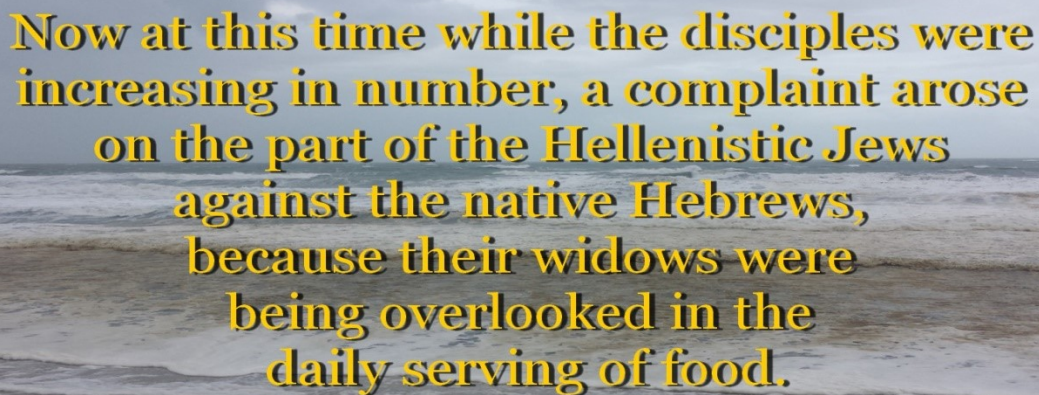
Servants Today

As the new church in Jerusalem experienced explosive growth, problems arose in the church. People complained that the Hellenistic widows were not receiving their fair share of the daily food service. The apostles directed that the congregation select seven men full of the Spirit and of wisdom to take charge of that food service. They selected seven men and the apostles confirmed those seven men would be in charge of the food service. The Bible contains no record that they ever waited on a single table. In fact, two of those men, Philip and Stephen, had tremendous ministries with signs and wonders.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 179

Complaint Today



Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.

Acts 6:1

Why did the Hellenistic Jews complain? They complained because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.

The Hellenistic Jews were Greek-speaking Jews from different parts of the Roman Empire. After the conquest by Alexander the Great, the Greek language and Greek culture spread across the Mediterranean world. The Jews outside of Israel learned to speak Greek as a common commercial language. The later conquest of those same regions by the Romans did not remove the Greek language and culture.

The native Jews in Israel continued to speak Hebrew and Aramaic, as well as Greek for commercial purposes. The New Testament was written in Greek, yet Pontius Pilate wrote his inscription about Jesus in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin and hung it on the cross.

When the Hellenistic Jews complained that their widows were not being served food properly, they knew that the apostles were in charge of the distribution of food because they were also in charge of the money and how it was spent. Therefore, the apostles had the authority to solve the problem

and make sure that all the widows were fed properly, without favoritism to the native Jews. The basic principle of equality and the church applied to all.

Overlooked

1. **Now**. What happened with the Hellenistic widows? Those widows were not included in the daily food service.

2. **Increasing**. At that time, the disciples were increasing in number.

3. **Complaint**. A complaint arose among some members of congregation and it came to the apostles.

4. **Hellenistic Jews**. The Hellenistic Jews had widows who were being overlooked in the daily service of food.

5. **Hebrews**. The native Hebrews, with their widows and others, were all served in daily food service provided by the church.

6. **Widows**. Living holy in the family of God means that the church has an obligation to take care of widows without family to provide for them. In the early church, the widows depended upon the church resources for food. The apostles were in charge of all the food service, and the funds that provided food for the congregation.

7. **Overlooked**. We rejoice today because God overlooks no one, but sees everything always. Pure and undefiled religion includes taking care of widows and orphans.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the widows and their needs.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that the church provides for the needs of people, including the widows.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that all members of the body of Christ deserve equal care, because in Christ we are all fellow members.**

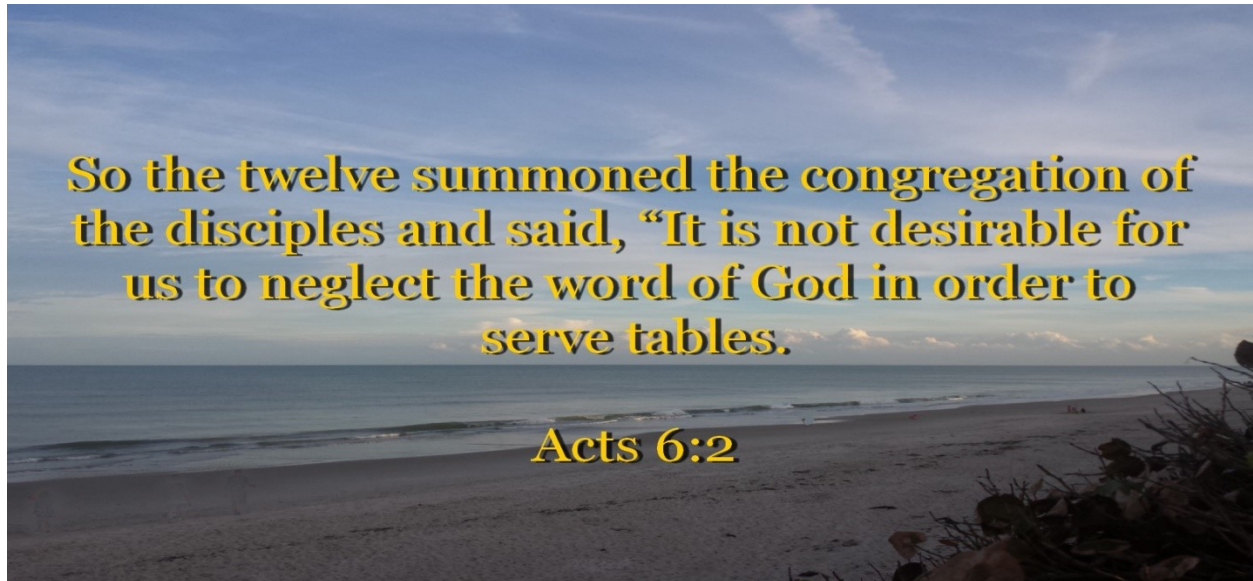
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the widows and others in need of special support from the church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by helping with the needs of widows?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 180

Summoned Today



Why did the twelve apostles summon the congregation of the disciples? To bring the problem with the Hellenistic Jews before the congregation.

The apostles faced opposition from the religious Council. They also had to provide administration and leadership for the multitudes of people who had been saved recently in Jerusalem. They were selling their property and bringing the proceeds to the apostles. The needs of all the saints were being met from those assets and their sale.

Problems began to arise in the distribution of food. Because people were selling their property and contributing the money to the apostles, the church began food distribution services. The administration of the food service ministry had some problems with distribution. The Hellenistic Jews complained that their widows were not being served properly.

Having learned of the problem, the apostles called together the disciples of the congregation. The congregation, not the apostles, was in the perfect position to solve the problem with food distribution. The apostles

were devoting themselves to the ministry of the word. Others were better suited to serving tables and overseeing the distribution of food to the widows.

Congregation

1. **Twelve**. What did the twelve apostles do about food distribution to widows? The apostles called a meeting.

2. **Summoned**. The apostles summoned the disciples of the congregation. Remember, the congregation numbered in the thousands by this time.

3. **Congregation**. The congregation had plenty of people who would be skilled in food distribution. The apostles devoted themselves to the ministry of the word.

4. **Disciples**. The disciples from the congregation would be spiritual men who could be put in charge of the distribution of food on a daily basis. This distribution of labor and ministry characterized the local church.

5. **Neglect**. The apostles were busy with the ministry of the word. They were the eyewitnesses chosen by God to proclaim what they saw and heard about Jesus from the baptism of John to the ascension.

6. **Word**. Living holy in the family of God means that every member of the body of Christ has important functions. The apostles had a function in the body of Christ of ministering the word.

7. **Tables**. We rejoice today because God always has saints gifted to accomplish every ministry in the church, including supervising food distribution and the actual serving of tables.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding the different ministries within the body of Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by using our spiritual gifts to allow others to use their spiritual gifts as God deems best.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by supporting the body of Christ by working together as a team of individuals gifted by God to perform various, diverse ministries in the body of Christ.**

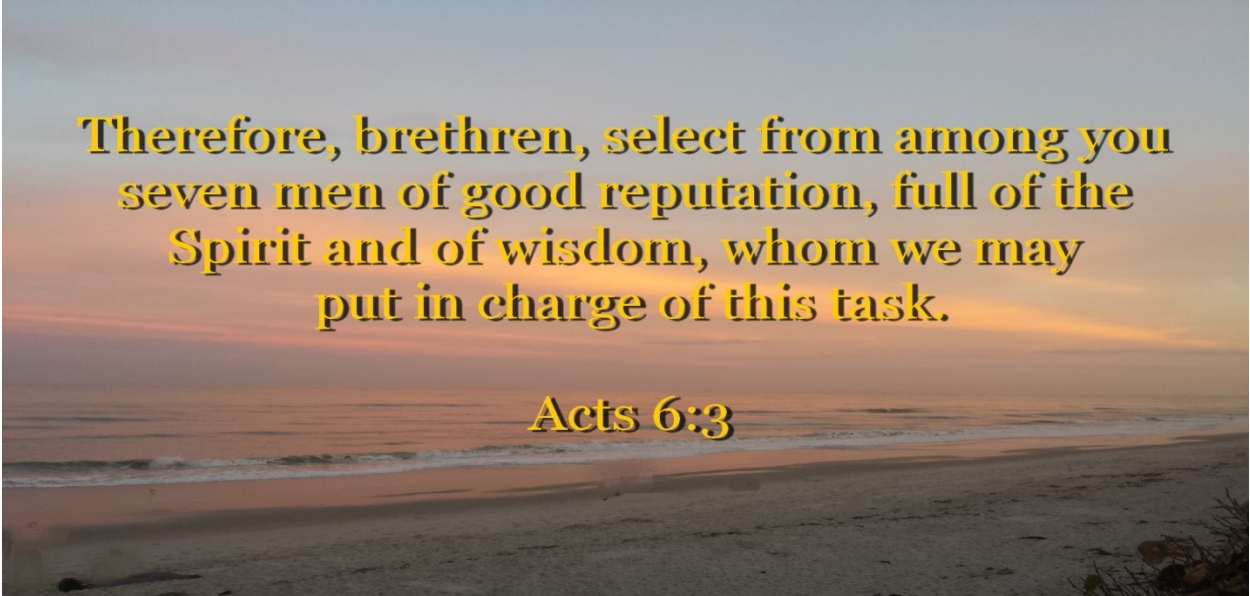
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by recognizing that every member of the body of Christ has an important ministry to the body of Christ using their spiritual gifts, from serving and supervising the food ministry to the ministry of the word of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by using your spiritual gifts to help supply the needs of the body of Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 181

Good Reputation Today



Therefore, brethren, select from among you
seven men of good reputation, full of the
Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may
put in charge of this task.

Acts 6:3

What did the apostles propose? They proposed that the congregation select men to put in charge of feeding the congregation.

A complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic widows that they were being overlooked in the distribution of food. Because so many of the saints and the congregation had sold their land or otherwise liquidated their property, and donated the proceeds to the apostles, the church began a food distribution program. The sheer size of the congregation, consisting of thousands of people with more added to their number every day, posed serious logistical problems for food distribution.

The apostles quickly understood that the solution was standing right before them. Plenty of spiritual men were available to take an active role in managing the administration of the food service. Please take notice, however, that the food administration required spiritual abilities. People quickly noticed that the Hellenistic widows were being overlooked in the food service.

So often the best spiritual solutions to problems involve adding more workers to the task at hand, rather than dividing the time of a few people even further. Therefore, appointing saints to administer the food distribution provided an easy solution.

Wisdom

1. **Brethren**. Who should administer the food program? The apostles asked the congregation to solve the food problem.

2. **Select**. The apostles asked the congregation to select people who would be in charge of the food distribution program for thousands and thousands of people each day.

3. **Among**. The administrators would be chosen from among the congregation.

4. **Seven**. The apostles recommended seven men be chosen for the administration.

5. **Men**. The apostles specified men.

6. **Holy Spirit**. Living holy in the family of God means that the administrators must be known as men full of the Holy Spirit.

7. **Charge**. We rejoice today because the congregation was quite capable of selecting men full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom who would be able to administer the food distribution program.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the apostles worked cooperatively with the congregation in solving problems and meeting the needs of the growing church population.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon other members of the body of Christ to rely upon the wisdom from God and the power and leading of the Holy Spirit to help the body of Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon every member of the body of Christ to use their spiritual gifts to meet the needs of the congregation.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by looking to other members of the body of Christ in helping each other to fulfill the needs of the body of Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by using your spiritual gifts to help the other members of the body of Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 182

Prayer Today



Why did the apostles suggest adding new workers? The apostles intended to devote themselves to preaching and teaching the word, leaving the ministry of food service to others.

The apostles were men of prayer. They understood that prayer kept them in close touch with God. They saw the hand of God at work all around them. Thousands of people were coming into the church through salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. The congregation was growing by multitudes.

The apostles also watched God perform miracles, signs and wonders through their hands. People were being healed by the shadow of Peter falling upon them. The power of God was drawing people to Jesus Christ in droves.

The apostles also faced strong opposition from the religious Council. They had been arrested more than once and threatened. They had also been flogged for preaching and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostles saw great results from their ministry and their prayers. Because of the size of the congregation and its continued growth, the food

ministry required careful attention from spiritual men who could provide administration and oversight using the wisdom of God. The apostles would then be free to devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.

Ministry

1. **We**. What did the apostles propose to do with their time? They intended to devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.

2. **Will**. The apostles looked to employ their spiritual gifts and also fulfill the requirements of the office of apostles.

3. **Devote**. The apostles recognized the importance of prayer and devoting themselves to it. They made sure they were not so busy that they had no regular time for prayer.

4. **Ourselves**. The apostles set their own plans under the direction of God.

5. **Prayer**. Prayer always provides a pillar for the ministry. The apostles considered their time for prayer to be essential.

6. **Ministry**. Living holy in the family of God means that ministries require time and devotion.

7. **Word**. We rejoice today because the apostles continued their ministry of the word and God blessed their ministries by building His church.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by devoting ourselves to prayer and to ministry using our spiritual gifts.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by focusing our lives upon the ministries God has given to us and making time to pray regularly.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by working together to support the various ministries of the saints.**

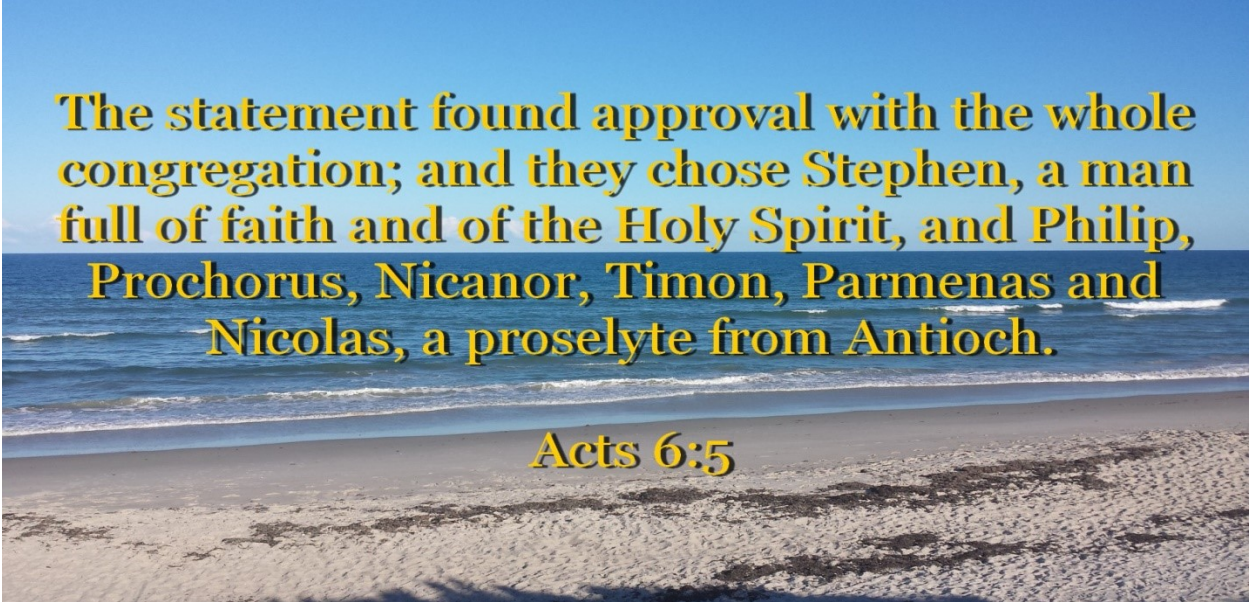
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by devoting ourselves to prayer and our ministries using our spiritual gifts. Will you live holy in the family of God today by making the most of your time for God's service?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 183

Approval Today



The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

Acts 6:5

How did the congregation react to the statement from the apostles?
The statement found approval with the whole congregation.

The apostles proposed that the congregation solve the problem of food distribution to the Hellenistic widows. The apostles directed the congregation to choose seven men full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit to administer the food service. The apostles would devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.

The body of Christ is filled with people with spiritual gifts. As different members of the congregation use their spiritual gifts, they can meet the needs of the congregation. God places those gifts within the body of Christ to meet certain needs of the body. Each spiritual gift can provide a variety of ministries and each ministry a variety of effects.

The apostles directed the congregation to select seven men to put in charge of the food ministry. Those men must be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. With so many people in the congregation numbering in the thousands, the food distribution would require seven men to administer it

well. Therefore, the apostles directed that seven men be appointed by the congregation for that task.

Congregation

1. **Statement**. What did the apostles propose to solve the food problem? The apostles directed the congregation to solve the problem.

2. **Approval**. The congregation approved the plan for the congregation to solve the problem to select seven men to be in charge of the food distribution ministry.

3. **Congregation**. The congregation, not the apostles, would make the decision on the seven men to run the food ministry.

4. **Chose**. The congregation would choose the seven men from the congregation.

5. **Man**. The apostles directed the congregation to select seven men. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, plus Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. Those names had Hellenistic ties.

6. **Faith**. Living holy in the family of God means that Stephen had a reputation for being full of faith and the Holy Spirit.

7. **Holy Spirit**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit equipped certain men for ministry and they gained a high reputation with the congregation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by being people full of faith and the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by using our spiritual gifts and accepting ministry opportunities that make the best use of our spiritual gifts.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining with other saints to perform the ministries essential to the congregation.**

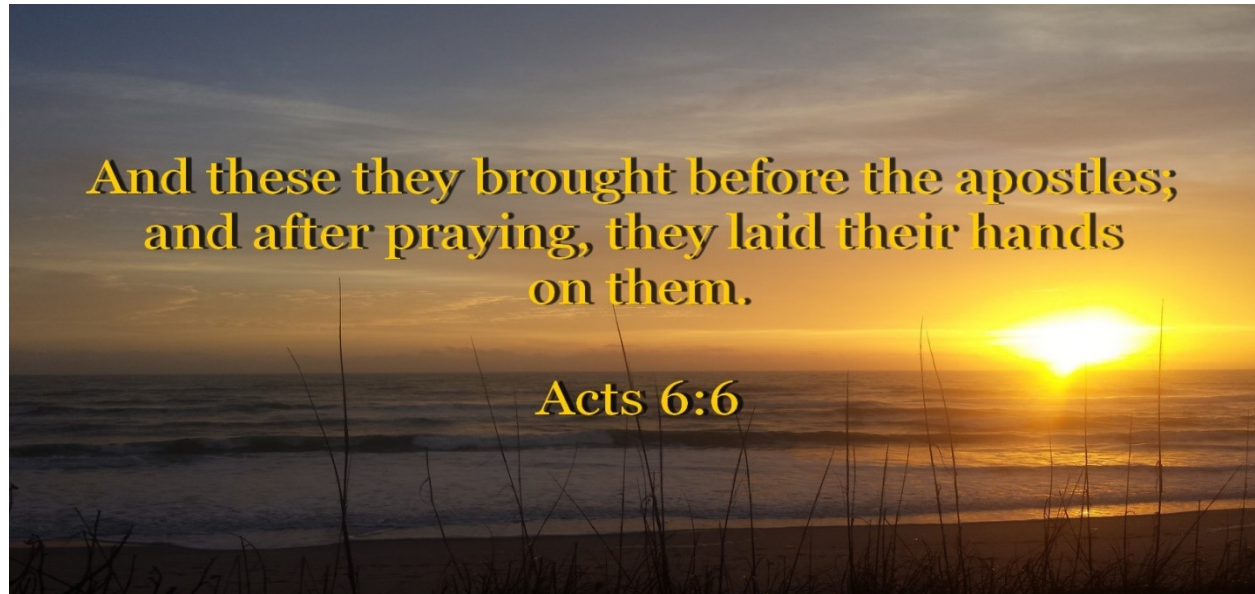
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by using our spiritual gifts on ministry teams. Will you live holy in the family of God today by working with other saints to render spiritual service to the congregation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 184

Apostles Today



What did the congregation do with the seven men? They brought the seven men before the apostles.

The congregation brought the seven men before the apostles to obtain their blessing. The apostles had requested that those men take care of a particular ministry. Now those men were formally commissioned to service. The apostles showed their approval and support for those men and their ministry.

After praying, the apostles laid their hands upon the men. This practice followed the traditional blessing bestowed often from father to son through the laying on of hands. When the apostles laid their hands upon the seven men, the apostles were giving the blessing of God to those men.

The congregation had chosen those men and the apostles laid their hands on them for blessing. Those men would then go about the service of the food administration. Their work would take the wisdom of God and the Holy Spirit of God leading. They began their work with the apostles standing behind them and the congregation looking forward to their ministry.

Praying

1. **These**. Why were these men brought to the apostles? The apostles had directed the congregation to select those seven men to be in charge of the food ministry.

2. **Brought**. The congregation brought those seven men to the apostles, as directed.

3. **Before**. The men were brought into the presence of the apostles for a particular reason.

4. **Apostles**. The apostles personally greeted the seven men.

5. **Praying**. The apostles first prayed for those men and their ministry.

6. **Laid**. Living holy in the family of God means that the apostles laid their hands on the seven men to show their support for those men and to bless those men in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Hands**. We rejoice today because the hands of the apostles blessed those men and their ministry. Stephen in particular was greatly used of the Lord Jesus Christ for His glory.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praying for people and giving them our blessing as they enter service for Christ in a particular ministry.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by encouraging people beginning a new ministry by spending personal time with them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining together in unified ministry teams to meet the needs of the church with the blessing of the church leadership and the congregation.**

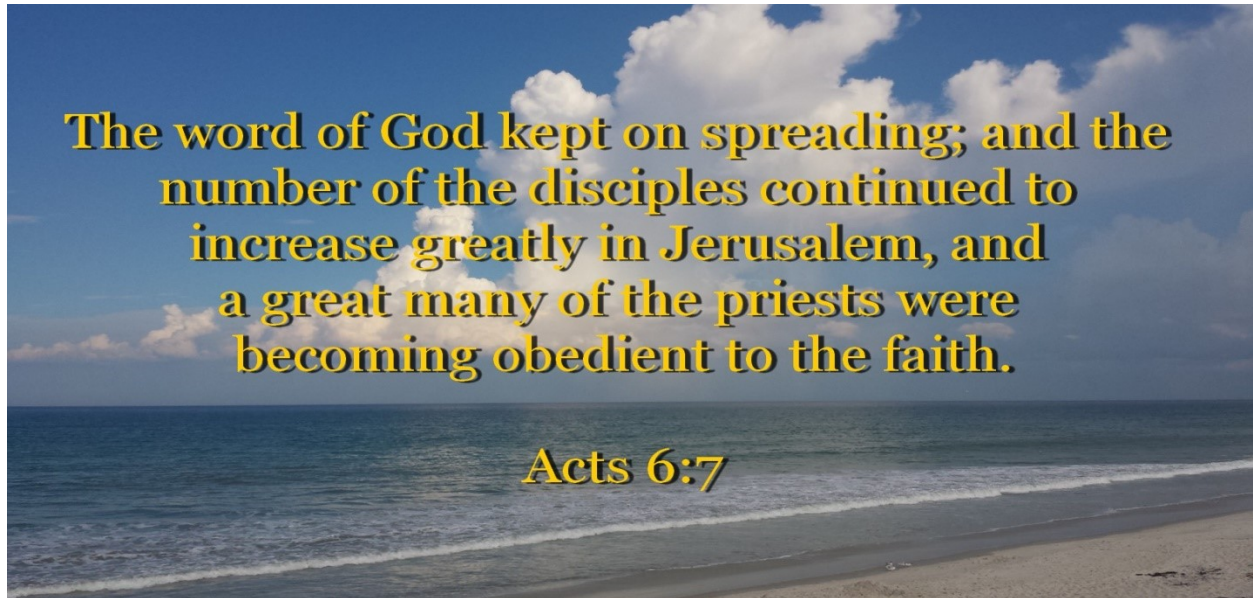
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by laying our hands upon people and blessing them as they begin new ministry on new ministry teams. Will you live holy in the family of God today by joining a new ministry team?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 185

Spreading Today



What happened with the word of God? The word of God kept spreading throughout Jerusalem.

As the apostles devoted themselves to the ministry of the word and to prayer, the Lord Jesus Christ continued to build his church. The Lord added numbers to the church every day. Multitudes of people came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. They were selling their possessions and holding all things in common. Great signs, miracles, and wonders took place through the hands of the apostles. The congregation dared not associate with the apostles, but they held them in high esteem.

The religious Council was taking a wait-and-see approach, having flogged the apostles and ordered them not to preach or teach any more in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The rapid growth of the church would not escape the notice of the religious Council. All that the Council feared was coming true right before their eyes. They were filled with rage and jealousy at the same time.

As the church in Jerusalem expanded, many priests came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. They were obedient to the faith.

Priests

1. **Word**. How did the church grow in Jerusalem? The church grew through the preaching and teaching of the word.

2. **Spreading**. The word was spreading throughout Jerusalem.

3. **Disciples**. The number of disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem.

4. **Increase**. The Lord described the increase as multitudes of people.

5. **Priest**. Among those people who became disciples were the priests. A great many priests came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

6. **Obedient**. Living holy in the family of God means that God brought a great many people to faith, including priests who became obedient to the faith.

7. **Faith**. We rejoice today because our faith saves us today, just as the faith of multitudes in Jerusalem saved them in the early church.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the faith and faithfulness of the apostles in spreading the word.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the word of God spreads and disciples are added to the church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering we are all disciples of Jesus Christ and holy priests and royal priests of God.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the priesthood of all believers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by acting like a priest and proclaiming the excellencies of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light?

HALLELUJAH !

3

Stephen's

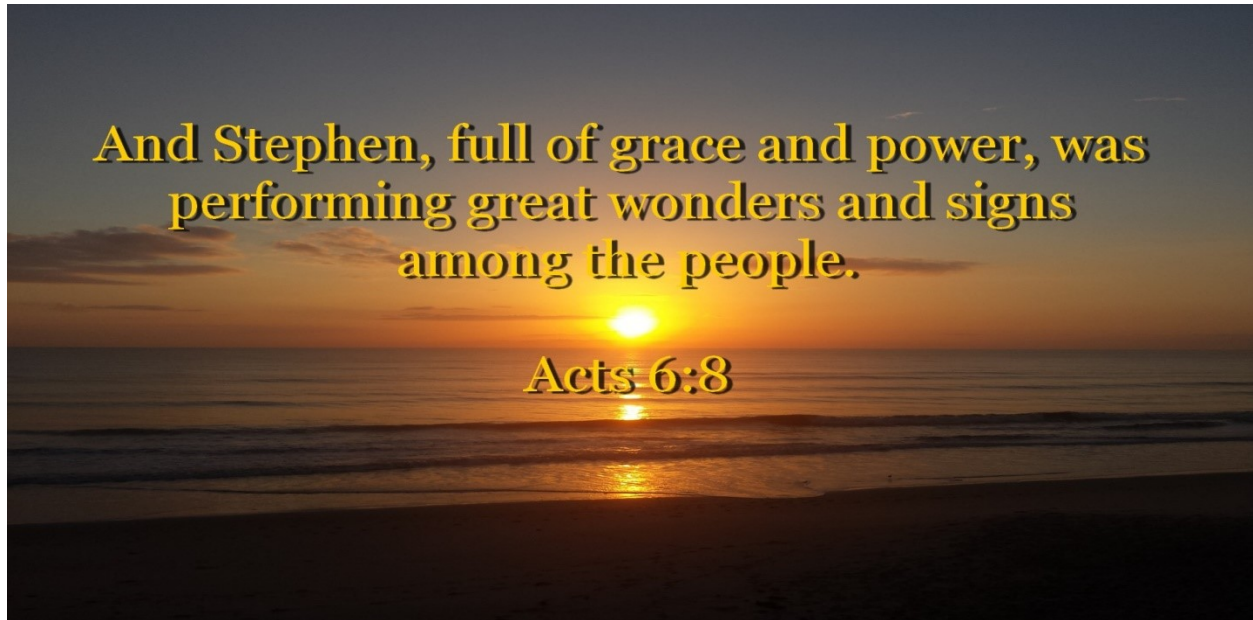
Deeds Today

Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great signs and wonders among the people. Some men from the synagogue of the Freedmen rose up and argued with Stephen. They were unable to cope with the Spirit and the wisdom with which he was speaking. They secretly induced false witnesses to trump up blasphemous charges against Stephen. He was brought before the Council and false witnesses presented testimony against Stephen. The Council saw the face of Stephen like the face of an angel.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 186

Stephen Today



What distinguished Stephen? Stephen did signs and wonders.

The apostles asked the congregation to select seven men who would be in charge of the food ministry. The candidates must be men full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom. The congregation then selected seven men, including Stephen, and presented them to the apostles.

The candidates had an important task in front of them. They were not going to serve the tables themselves, but rather they would be in charge of the food service. You may first think that sort of a menial job. Actually, the food administration required the distribution of food to thousands and thousands of people each day. The saints had pooled their resources and were meeting the needs of one another. They brought the money to the apostles for distribution.

Problems had arisen with the distribution of food to the Hellenistic widows. Therefore, they brought the problem to the apostles for a solution. That is when the apostles turned to the congregation and said that they did

not want to spend their time serving tables, but rather devoting themselves to the ministry of prayer and the word.

Grace and Power

1. **Stephen**. Stephen was one of the seven men chosen to be put in charge of the food ministry.

2. **Grace**. Stephen was full of God's grace.

3. **Power**. Stephen also demonstrated the power of God within him.

4. **Performing**. Stephen was performing signs and wonders among all the people.

5. **Signs**. The signs Stephen performed confirmed that he was acting under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Wonders**. Living holy in the family of God means that Stephen also performed wonders, indicating that he had the ability to do supernatural things for people.

7. **People**. We rejoice today because Stephen did signs and wonders among the people to the glory of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Stephen, full of grace and power.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God showed His authority by giving men the power to perform signs and wonders in His Name.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the grace and power He gave to Stephen, so that people would glorify God by the blessing and preaching of Stephen.**

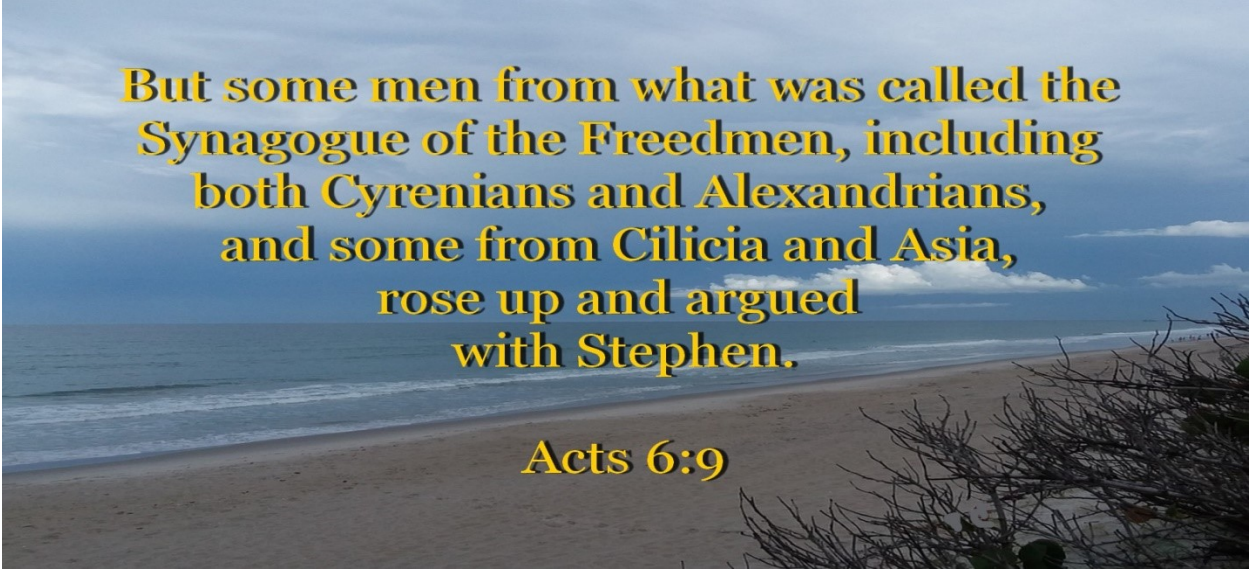
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for men like Stephen who perform signs and wonders among the people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking up for Jesus so that people may glorify God for the great things He does in their lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 187

Some Men Today



**But some men from what was called the
Synagogue of the Freedmen, including
both Cyrenians and Alexandrians,
and some from Cilicia and Asia,
rose up and argued
with Stephen.**

Acts 6:9

What plot rose up against Stephen? Some Jews plotted to kill Stephen.

Some men from the Synagogue of the Freedman, including people from Cyrene and Alexandria, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen.

What started as an argument turned into something far more nefarious. Ultimately, Stephen would be martyred for his faith.

Stephen, however, was not a person who waited on tables and served food. The congregation selected Stephen because he was full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom. Stephen also did signs and wonders among the people. He had a vital ministry of proclaiming Jesus Christ.

Some people say today that Stephen and the other six were the first deacons of the church. The office of deacon was a spiritual office in the church and the congregation appointed the deacons. The seven men in Acts 6 were first selected by the congregation, and then presented to the apostles for their blessing.

Stephen had a great testimony for Christ. As he preached Christ, people took notice and sought to oppose him, just as they sought to oppose the apostles as well.

Argued

1. **Men**. Who opposed Stephen? Some Jews from the Synagogue of the Freedmen opposed Stephen.

2. **Synagogue of the Freedmen**. The Synagogue of the Freedmen included people of many nationalities.

3. **Cyrenians and Alexandrians**. People from the Western Mediterranean, Cyrene and some Alexandrians, opposed Stephen.

4. **Cilicia and Asia**. People from the eastern Mediterranean, from Cilicia and Asia, also opposed Stephen.

5. **Rose Up**. Those Jews from all over the Mediterranean rose up against Stephen.

6. **Argued**. Those Jews argued with Stephen, but they could not cope with his wisdom from the Holy Spirit. They were very sore losers.

7. **Stephen**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Stephen and the Jews from many lands who opposed him and argued with him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that people will rise up to argue with believers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon the Holy Spirit to help us proclaim Jesus and demonstrate from the Scriptures why He is the Messiah and only Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by expecting people to rise up and argue with us for proclaiming Christ as Savior.**

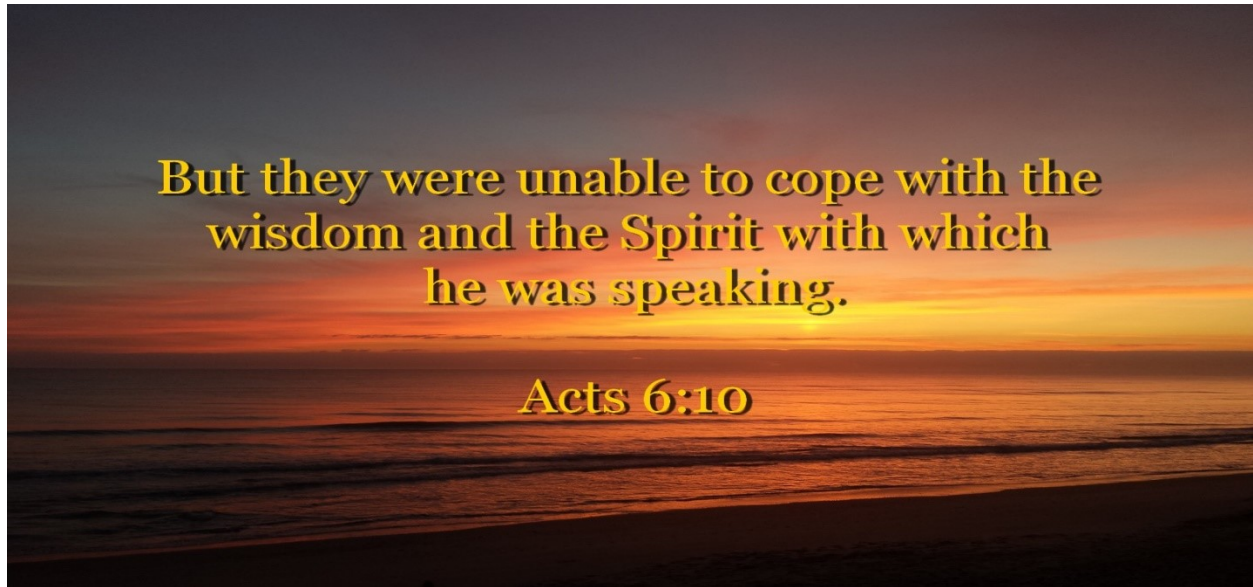
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting that people will rise up and argue with people proclaiming Jesus as Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to help you stand fast in Jesus even when people want to argue with you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 188

Unable to Cope Today



How did the opponents of Stephen fare? The opponents were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

Just as the apostles told the religious Council, so also Stephen triumphed over his opponents. Arguing with believers filled with the Holy Spirit will never go well for the opponents of God. They will never be able to overcome the wisdom of God. There is no counsel and no wisdom against God.

When God called the apostles and the seven men for special service, special persecution also came upon them. Stephen illustrates how he was called to special service for the administration of the food service, but he still carried on his regular ministry.

Stephen apparently did not shy away from proclaiming Christ and offering convincing evidence of the resurrection of Christ. His opponents could not stand to hear such preaching and sought to silence him. Those opponents would stop at nothing to silence Stephen. They would even

fabricate witnesses and evidence, attempting to prove in religious court that Stephen was guilty of blasphemy and other religious crimes.

Wisdom

1. **But**. Who won the argument? The Jews were unable to cope with the arguments of Stephen.

2. **They**. They tried their best using their own worldly wisdom and reason.

3. **Unable**. They were unable to overcome Stephen in his arguments

4. **Cope**. They could not cope with the power of Stephen's speech.

5. **Wisdom**. Stephen spoke with the wisdom of God.

6. **Spirit**. Living holy in the family of God means that Stephen spoke with the Holy Spirit giving him the words to speak which confounded his opponents.

7. **Speaking**. We rejoice today because Stephen spoke with the wisdom of God by the Holy Spirit of God and triumphed over his opponents.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by counting upon the Holy Spirit to give us the words to say.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Stephen spoke with the wisdom and power of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we may defend the faith like Stephen.**

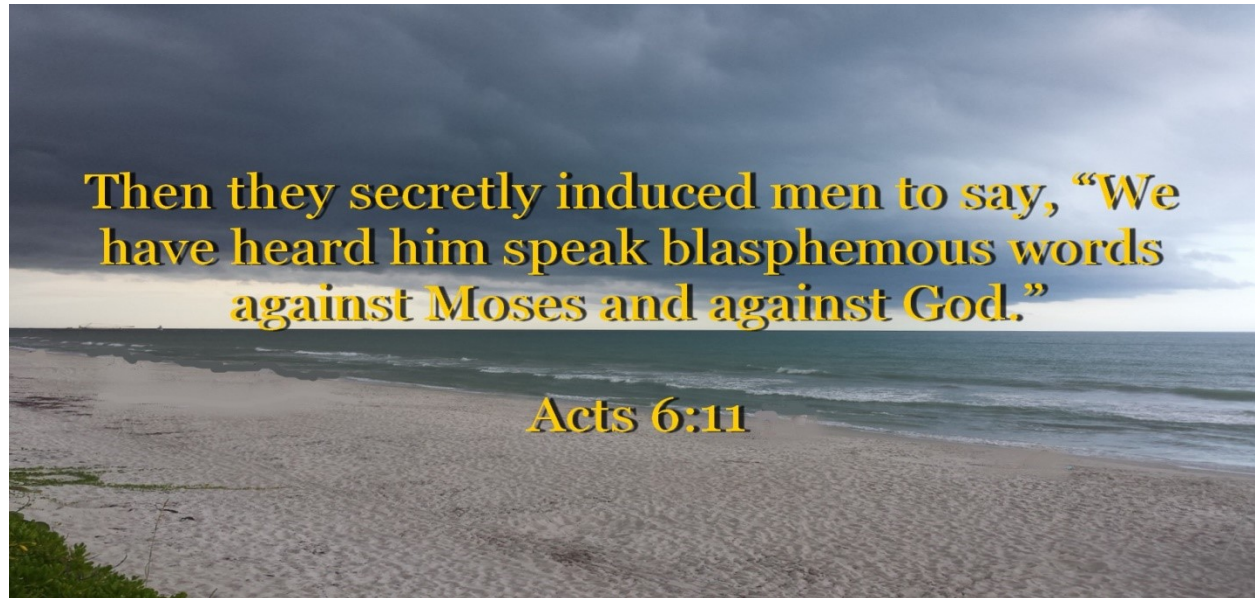
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Stephen in his defense of the faith by the power and wisdom of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to give you the power and wisdom of God to stand tall for God when the time comes?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 189

Secretly Today



How did the Jews plot against Stephen? They induced men to say that Stephen was speaking blasphemous words.

Some Jews hated Stephen for preaching Christ and no one could cope with his wisdom. Like many other Jews, they wanted to silence Stephen for speaking about Jesus. They created a plan and secretly induced men to say that they had heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God. Those witnesses provided evidence to support a false claim that Stephen had blasphemed.

They charged Stephen with two forms of blasphemy. The first charge of blasphemy concerned Moses. The Jews claimed that he had blasphemed Moses. The second charge concerned blasphemy against God. The essence of the charge of blasphemy centers on speaking untruthfully or irreverently about God.

The devil opposed the work of the apostles and the seven. He motivated people to arrest those men one way or another. The charge of blasphemy

suited their purposes and they produced witnesses who would testify falsely that Stephen had blasphemed both Moses and God.

Blasphemous

1. **Secretly**. What was the secret plan of Stephen's opposition? They secretly induced men to lie about Stephen.

2. **Induced**. They induced certain men to be false witnesses.

3. **Men**. Those evil men falsely claimed they heard Stephen say things he never said.

4. **Heard**. Those evil men claimed to have heard terrible words coming from Stephen's mouth.

5. **Blasphemous**. Those false witnesses laid the charge of Stephen using blasphemous words against Moses and God.

6. **Moses**. Living holy in the family of God means that evil opponents will claim that we have blasphemed people like Moses when no such thing actually happened.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because when people falsely say all kinds of things against us because we proclaim the name of Jesus, we know that Jesus will help us and the Holy Spirit will fill us so that we can continue to proclaim the truth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting that people who oppose Christ will tell lies about us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that false witnesses will provide false testimony trying to convict us of things we never said or did.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding the secret tactics the opposition brings against people who stand up for Christ, using liars to tell lies about people who tell the truth about Christ.**

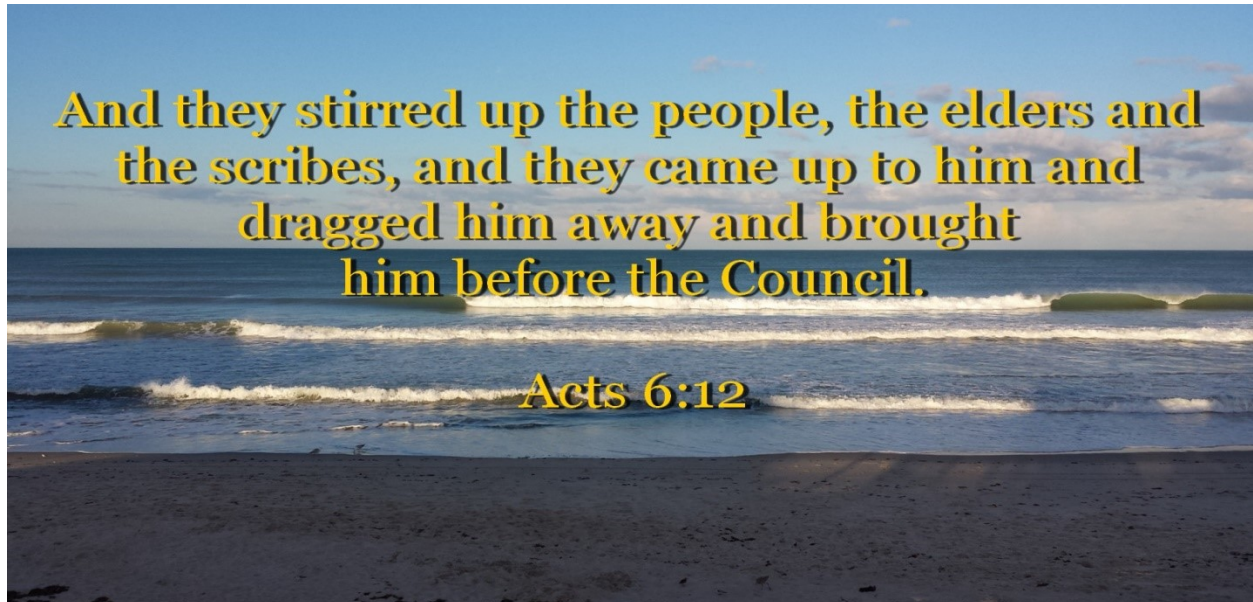
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by telling the truth about Jesus, knowing that people will tell lies about us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming Jesus in the midst of liars who will secretly attack you with more lies?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 190

Stirred Up Today



What did the Jews do with Stephen? They dragged him away and brought him before the religious Council.

The Jews had laid their plans carefully. They had multiple witnesses who would offer false testimony that Stephen had blasphemed both Moses and God. Actually, the Jews only sought to silence Stephen once and for all.

The religious Council had already arrested the apostles more than once and brought them in before the same religious Council. They had flogged the apostles and then released them, commanding them to speak no more in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostles boldly continued their ministry in the Temple and from house to house, speaking the whole message of this Life. They proclaimed salvation in Jesus Christ by faith alone. Multitudes of people were coming to Christ as Savior.

Stephen was performing signs and wonders among the people, similar to the same things the apostles were doing. The religious Council was very

jealous of such activities. Multitudes were turning to faith in Christ and the religious Council hated the apostles and the seven.

Dragged

1. **They**. How did the Jews manipulate the charges against Stephen? They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes against Stephen.

2. **Stirred**. The Jews stirred up people to believe the false accusations made by the false witnesses against Stephen.

3. **Came**. The Jews came looking for Stephen.

4. **Dragged**. They found Stephen, and then dragged him away.

5. **Brought**. They brought Stephen to the same place they had brought the apostles before Stephen.

6. **Before**. Living holy in the family of God means that saints have been repeatedly dragged before councils and government officials because they proclaimed Jesus as Savior.

7. **Council**. We rejoice today because Stephen was chosen by God, as a man full of wisdom and power, to testify about Jesus to the religious Council.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Stephen dragged before the religious Council to face false charges that false witnesses brought against him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God chooses special messengers to stand before people in authority and testify with power and wisdom about the Lord Jesus Christ and salvation in His Name.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for His grace in choosing special men to stand up by His power and in His Spirit to give a defense of the hope that is in them as skilled workmen who handle the Scriptures accurately and powerfully.**

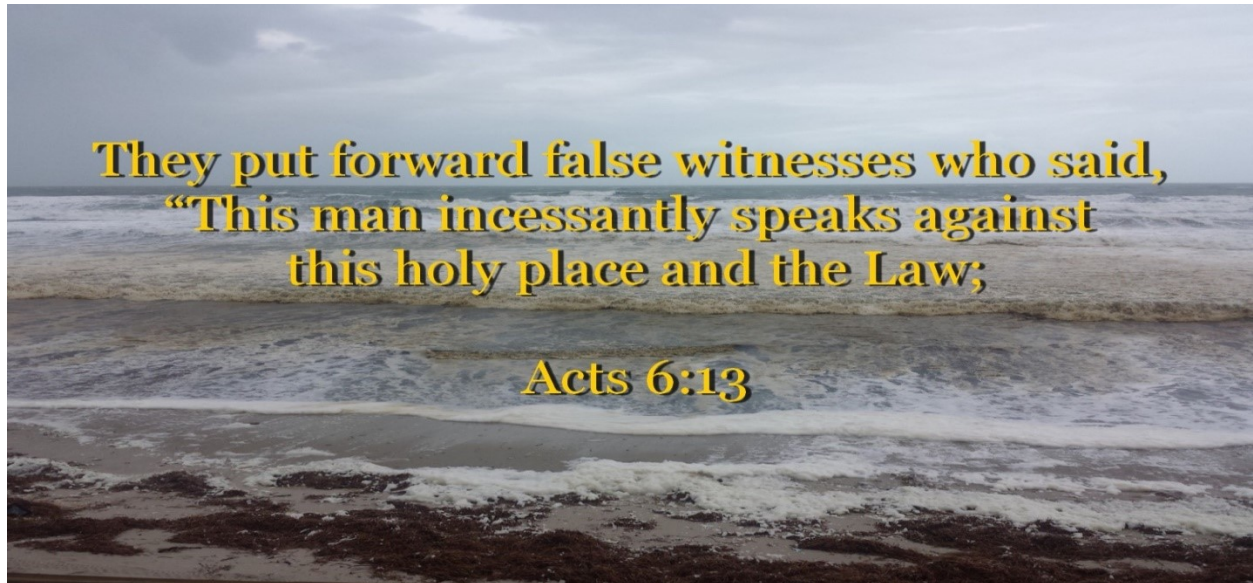
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for Stephen and his powerful testimony about the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Stephen, the man God chose to testify about Jesus to the religious Council, just as the prophets had done before the same religious Council previously?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 191

False Witnesses Today



What did the false witnesses say about Stephen? They said he incessantly speaks against the Law and this holy place.

Some Jews from the Synagogue of the Freedman lost an argument with Stephen. They then decided to kill him using the religious Council. They schemed to present false evidence against Stephen in the religious Council. They induced men to bear false witness against him regarding blasphemy against Moses and God.

The religious Council was predisposed to hate Stephen, because he preached Jesus Christ as Savior. The religious Council had already attacked the apostles, flogging them and then commanding them not to speak anymore in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The apostles declared they would not stop speaking and teaching in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The false witnesses appeared before the religious Council and gave testimony. They said that Stephen incessantly spoke against the Temple and the Law of Moses. The Jews completely rejected the truth that the Messiah

had come to Israel and His name was Jesus the Nazarene, the Holy One, anointed of God.

Speaks

1. **False**. What charges did the false witnesses bring against Stephen? They charged Stephen with multiple offenses, saying he spoke against the Temple and the Law of Moses.

2. **Speaks**. The false witnesses testified that Stephen speaks lies.

3. **Incessantly**. They claimed that Stephen incessantly spoke against the Temple and the Law of Moses.

4. **Against**. The false witnesses testified against Stephen before the religious Council. They had been induced to provide false testimony.

5. **Holy**. They claimed that Stephen spoke against the Holy Place, the Temple.

6. **Place**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews loved the Temple and no one should speak against it, because it was a holy place.

7. **Law**. We rejoice today because Christ was the end of the Law for everyone who believed, because He fulfilled the requirements of the Law for us.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by loving Stephen for always telling the truth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by loving people who told the truth, even when pressures mounted upon them to deny the truth.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the faithful witnesses who told the truth about Jesus and the Jews on the religious Council.**

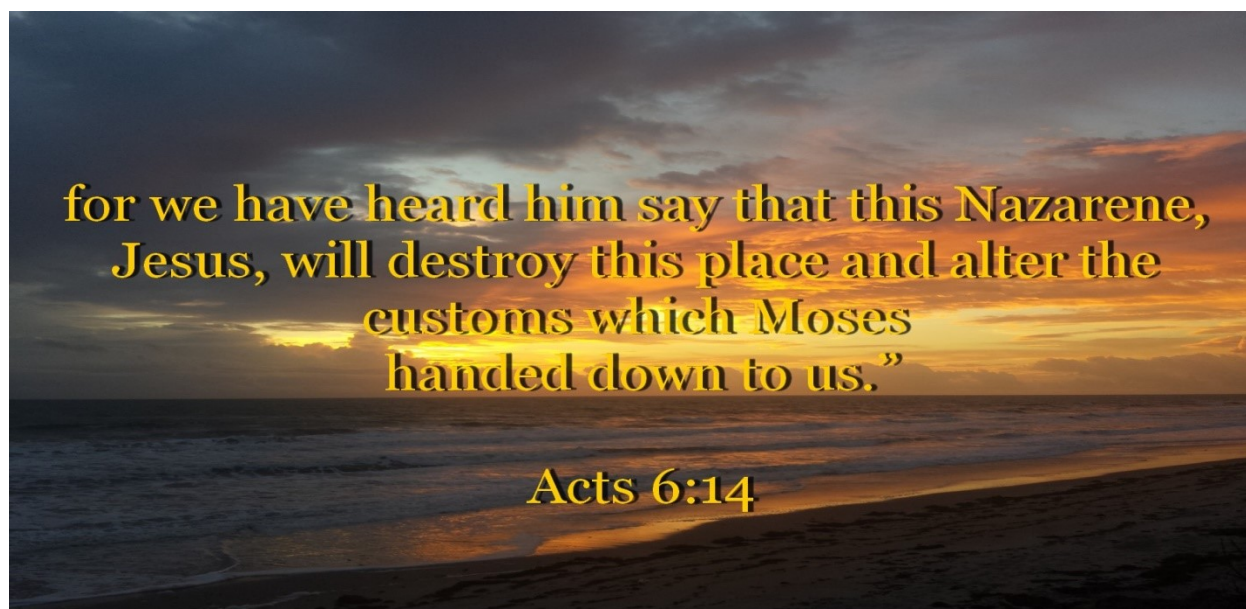
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for Stephen and the apostles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that false witnesses spoke against Stephen, but he always told the truth?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 192

Heard Today



What did the false witnesses claim to have heard Stephen say? They claimed that Jesus the Nazarene will destroy the Temple and alter the customs of Moses.

The plan of the Jews from the Synagogue of the Freedmen was working perfectly. They induced those false witnesses to go in and tell lies to the religious Council. The lies they told had this grain of truth mixed with enormous falsehoods. Nothing that Stephen had said could possibly be construed as blasphemy.

The first charge was that Jesus will destroy this Temple sounds similar to the statement of Jesus that the Jews would kill Him and that He would be raised on the third day from the dead. In fact, Stephen's reference was more likely to Jesus predicting the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 by the Romans.

The second charge was that Jesus intended to make changes to the customs of Moses handed down to the Jews. Because Jesus really was the Messiah of Israel, the purpose of the Law of Moses had been achieved in

showing people how sinful they were and how much they needed a Savior. With a Savior appearing in the flesh and dying on the cross, the Law had been fulfilled.

Customs

1. **Heard**. What were the specific charges brought by the false witnesses against Stephen? They charged Stephen with speaking against the Temple and the customs of Moses.

2. **Jesus**. Stephen testified about Jesus, said He was the Risen Savior.

3. **Nazarene**. Stephen spoke about Jesus the Nazarene, the same Person the religious Council put to death through Pontius Pilate not long before.

4. **Destroy**. Stephen also talked about Jesus prophesying that the Temple would be torn down.

5. **Place**. Stephen spoke about the prophecies of Jesus and the Jews did not like hearing any bad news about Jerusalem and the Temple.

6. **Customs**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews embraced their own interpretations of the Law of Moses, but they never understood the Law and invalidated the word of God by teaching the precepts of men.

7. **Moses**. We rejoice today because Moses provided the Law as a tutor to show people how sinful they were and how much they needed a Savior, Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by loving God for giving Stephen the strength to stand before the religious Council.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus and knowing that God will help us answer any charge laid against us because we proclaim Jesus as Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that customs of men should never replace the word of God.**

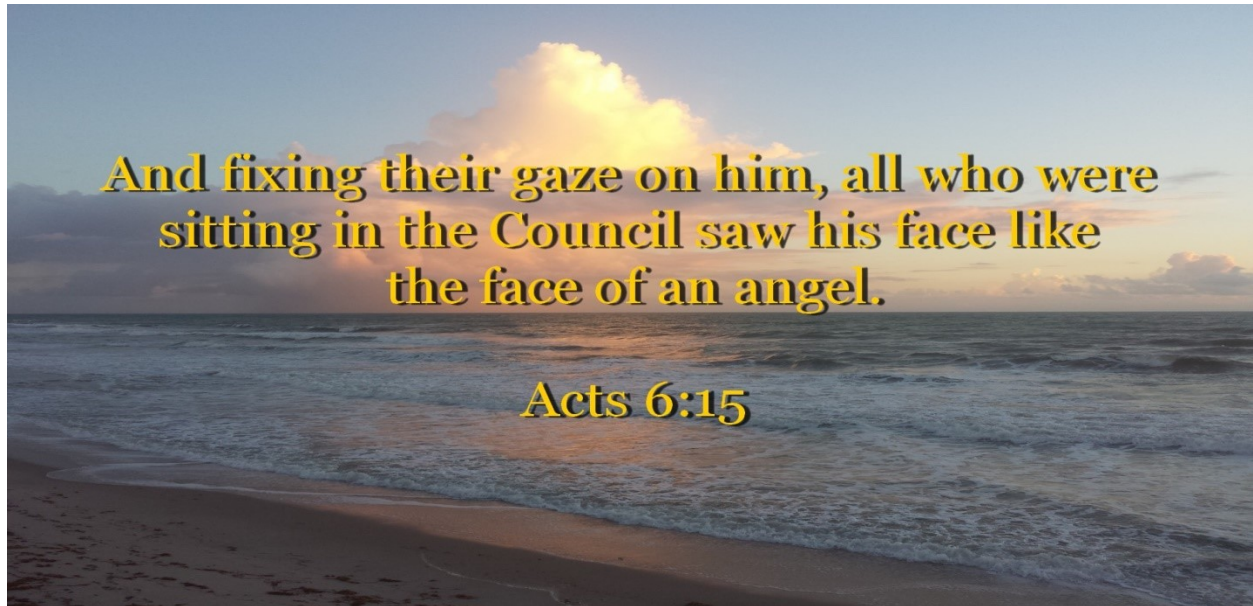
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving the word of God and never placing the customs of men above the commandments of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the Scriptures were breathed out by God, but religious customs may invalidate the word of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 193

Gaze Today



What happened when the Council fixed their gaze on Stephen? They saw his face like the face of an angel.

Stephen had argued successfully against some Jews from the Synagogue of the Freedmen. By the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, Stephen overcame all of their claims. Stephen testified about the resurrection of Jesus and showed He was the Messiah of Israel.

While the religious Council of the Jews conducted the trial against Stephen and heard the false witnesses, the Holy Spirit filled Stephen and he was presented a wonderful opportunity to testify yet again before the religious leaders of Israel about Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel. Jesus was the Cornerstone, Whom the builders rejected.

The apostles had brought the message of Jesus before the Council and the Council had denied Jesus was the Messiah and persecuted the apostles. Even so, God moved men filled with the Holy Spirit to continue the testimony to the religious leaders of the Council.

The resurrection of Jesus caused great concern for the religious Council and they took repeated action to suppress that testimony by the apostles and others.

Angel

1. **Fixing**. What did the religious Council see? They saw an angel.
2. **Gaze**. As the religious Council fixed their gaze upon Stephen, they saw an angel.
3. **Him**. The religious Council heard the charges against Stephen as he stood before the religious Council.
4. **All**. All of them fixed their gaze upon Stephen.
5. **Council**. The religious Council was used to passing judgment upon men for religious crimes and other matters.
6. **Face**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that the face of Stephen looked like the face of an angel.
7. **Angel**. We rejoice today because Stephen had the appearance of an angel standing before the religious Council, but he spoke with words of the Holy Spirit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Stephen standing before the religious Council.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the religious Council fixed their gaze upon Stephen and his face appeared to be an angel.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the faithful testimony of Stephen and his appearance as an angel before the religious Council.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the face of Stephen as he stood before the religious Council. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that Stephen looked like an angel and spoke the words God gave to him?

HALLELUJAH !

4

Stephen's Defense Today

Stephen began his defense before the religious Council by recounting the religious history of Israel from the time of Abraham forward to his present day. He described the covenant of circumcision and how Abraham became the father of Isaac and his son Jacob, whose sons became the 12 tribes of Israel.

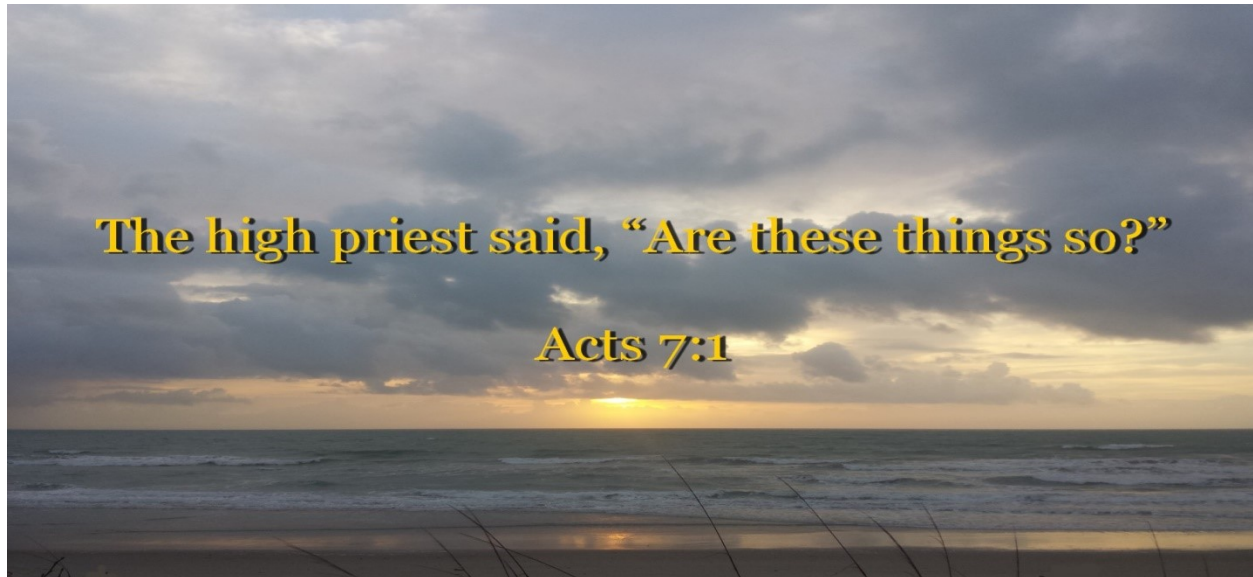
Stephen described how the brothers of Joseph, as son of Jacob, sold him into slavery in Egypt. Yet, God favored him and rescued him and granted him favor so that he became governor over Egypt and all the household of Pharaoh, King of Egypt. God used a famine to bring the family of Joseph to Egypt. The people of Israel increased and multiplied in Egypt until another king arose who knew nothing about Joseph. The new Pharaoh sought to destroy the Jews living in Egypt. God raised up a deliver named Moses to lead them out of Egypt by the power of God. Yet, the people of Israel disowned him as a ruler and deliver. Even so, God used Moses to lead the people to the promised land. On their journey to the promised land, the people of Israel repeatedly engaged in idolatry and spurned the God of Israel. Later, God raised up David who found favor in God's sight. He sought to build a Temple for God, but Solomon, his son, built the house for God.

Stephen closed his message by reminding the religious Council that they were the people of Israel who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and their ears were always resisting the Holy Spirit. They were doing just as their fathers had done before them. They killed the prophets who announced the coming of the Righteous One, who is betrayers and murderers the people of Israel had become. They had received the law ordained by angels, yet they did not keep it. Stephen convicted them of their sin, but paid the ultimate price for his faithfulness to God.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 194

High Priest Today



What did the high priest ask Stephen? The high priest asked Stephen whether these things were so.

When the apostles asked the congregation to select seven men to put in charge of the food service, they described the criteria for the congregation to select men full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit. Stephen met those criteria and he obviously had a great reputation with the entire congregation.

Stephen also was working signs and wonders among the congregation. The power of the Holy Spirit was evident in him. The Holy Spirit controlled the words he said. He proclaimed Jesus for all to hear. Multitudes of people were coming to Christ the Savior and the religious leaders were jealous and totally upset.

The religious Council schemed about stopping the apostles and others from proclaiming the resurrection of Christ. Because the multitudes of people in Jerusalem had come to Christ as Savior, the religious Council had to be very careful how they dealt with the apostles. Stephen, however, presented a different kind of target, because he was not one of the twelve

apostles. The Holy Spirit used Stephen to proclaim Christ as risen Savior, but such actions also put him squarely within the wrath of the religious Council.

These Things

1. **High**. What did the high priest say to Stephen? He asked Stephen if the charges were true.

2. **Priest**. The high priest presided over the religious Council, but he was not seeking justice, but punishment.

3. **Said**. The high priest personally questioned Stephen about what he said. He wanted to hear Stephen's defense to the charges against him.

4. **Are**. The high priest asked one question: are these things true?

5. **These**. The high priest pretended that he had an open mind, but his mind was already made up about these things. The trial was merely a formality.

6. **Things**. Living holy in the family of God means that the things Stephen said about Jesus were true, but the things he was charged with doing were not true.

7. **True**. We rejoice today because Stephen testified to the truth and gave a wonderful answer to the question of the high priest.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the question of the high priest.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the religious Council asked Stephen if the charges were true, presenting Stephen with the perfect opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the religious leaders.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for men like Stephen who seize the opportunity to speak up for Jesus.**

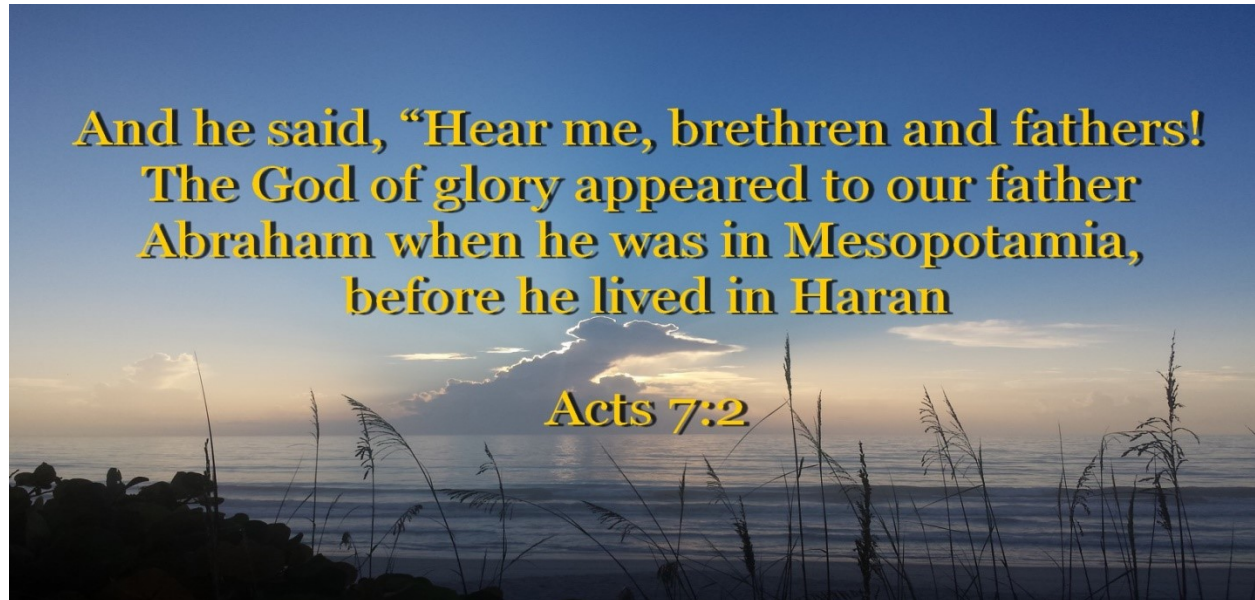
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the courage of Stephen in answering the question of the high priest. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon the Holy Spirit to provide the best possible answers to the questions posed to you about your faith in Jesus as Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 195

God of Glory Today



How did Stephen respond to the high priest's question? Stephen recited the history of Israel and once again demonstrated that Jesus was the Messiah Whom the religious Council rejected.

Stephen had been attacked by some Jews from the Synagogue of the Freedmen. Stephen showed that Jesus was thoroughly Jewish. Stephen then recounted the history of Israel beginning with Abraham.

In order to refute the claims that he was trying to undo the Law of Moses, Stephen actually went on the offensive and proclaimed Christ as the Savior and Messiah of Israel. Speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit, Stephen recounted how God first spoke to Abraham in Mesopotamia. The Jews of that religious Council considered Abraham their spiritual father. Jesus pointed out, however, that Abraham was a spiritual father only of people who had the same faith in Jesus Christ that Abraham had.

Stephen testified to the Council by citing the history of Israel, similar to the same approach that Peter used in quoting the Old Testament prophets. The Scriptures provided the backbone of the defense presented by Stephen

and for his proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While the religious Council may have thought they were protecting the religious history of Israel and its customs, in fact the religious leaders had never known the God of Israel and so opposed Jesus the Messiah, crucifying Him.

Appeared

1. **Hear**. How did Stephen open his defense? He asked the religious Council to hear him.

2. **Brethren**. Stephen appealed to the religious Council as his brothers.

3. **Fathers**. Stephen also described the faith of their fathers recorded in the Scriptures.

4. **God**. Stephen centered his defense upon the Scriptures and recounted the history of Israel, beginning with Abraham and his faith.

5. **Mesopotamia**. God called Abraham while he was living in Mesopotamia.

6. **Abraham**. Living holy in the family of God means that Stephen cited Abraham and his faith as the starting point of his defense.

7. **Haran**. We rejoice today because God called Abraham before he moved to Haran. Stephen used the history of Israel to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the religious Council.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus was Jewish.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the Old Testament history that led up to the birth of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for recording many wonderful events in Scripture that help us understand God and His ways.**

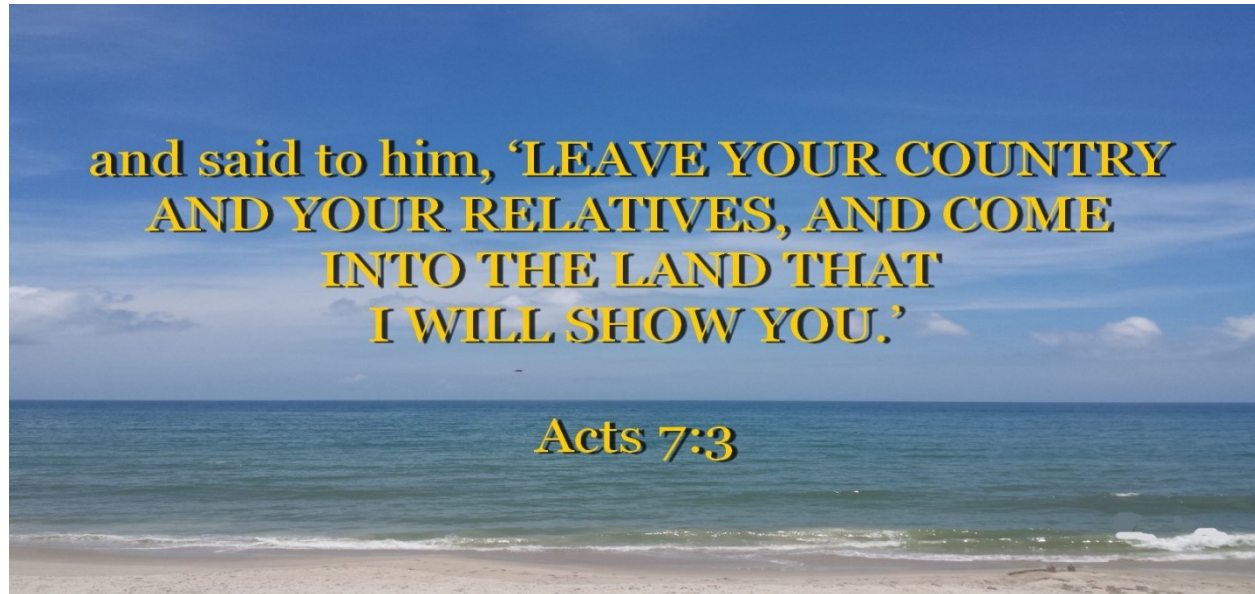
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Stephen as he recited the history of Israel. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for Abraham and his great faith?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 196

Leave Today



What did God say to Abraham? God told him to leave home.

Abraham lived in Ur of the Chaldees. One day God spoke to him and said leave your country and leave your relatives. Leaving home can be very difficult for people, but leaving home forever draws a permanent line across your life.

Abraham lived an obedient life to God. When God said leave, Abraham left. When God said leave your relatives behind, Abraham left his relatives behind. When God said come, Abraham came.

God told Abraham to go to the land that God would show him. By faith, Abraham packed up and moved to a land he had not seen. Abraham had a special relationship built upon faith with God.

God had grand plans for Abraham. The Jews looked upon Abraham as the father of the Jewish people. Abraham visited the Promised Land, although he did not own any of it. God intended for Abraham to live in that land as an alien and a sojourner. Abraham traveled with God, lived with God,

and believed in God. Abraham loved God and knew that God would take care of him, no matter where he went at God's direction.

Come

1. **Said**. How did Abraham respond to what God said to Abraham? Abraham got up and left his home in Ur of the Chaldees.

2. **Leave**. God commanded Abraham to leave home and he did.

3. **Country**. Abraham left his country, looking for a better home which God would provide.

4. **Come**. God commanded Abraham to come into the country that God would show Abraham.

5. **Land**. God showed Abraham the Promised Land.

6. **Show**. Living holy in the family of God means that God showed Abraham the land God was going to give to the descendants of Abraham.

7. **You**. We rejoice today because God told Abraham that God would give that to "you," referring to Abraham. Those promises included a land for all Israel, the physical descendants of Abraham.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the faith of Abraham.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following God as Abraham followed God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God leads us according to His plans and always fulfills His promises.**

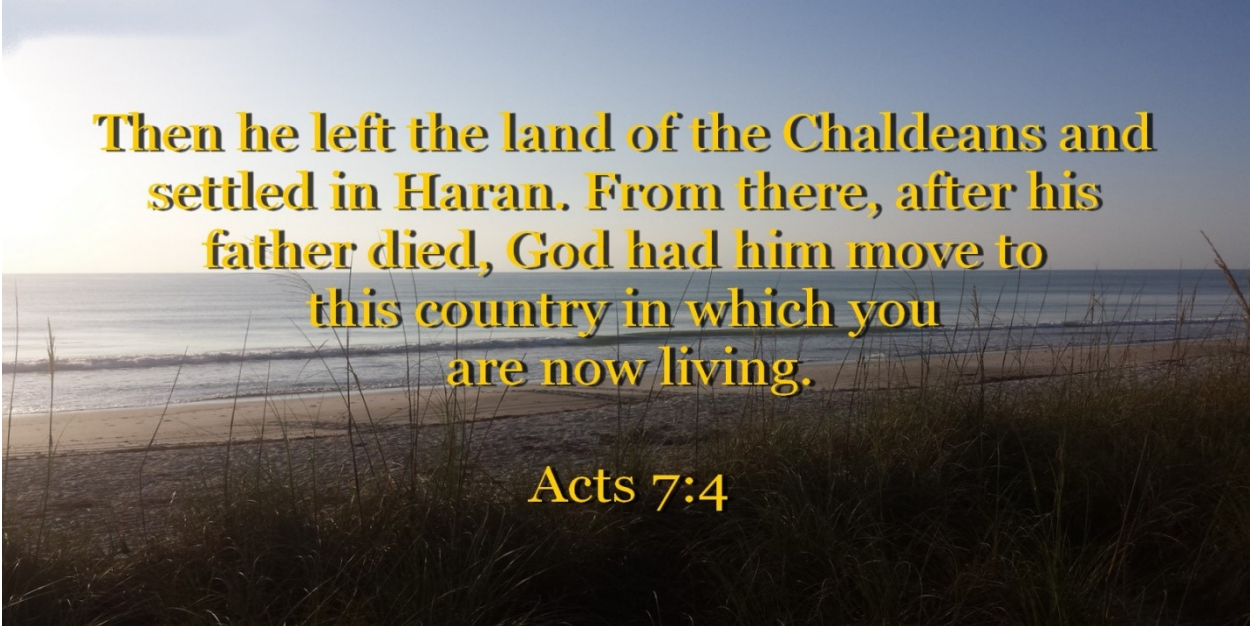
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Abraham leaving home and following God to new lands. Will you live holy in the family of God today by listening to God lead you into new places, according to His promises?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 197

Settled Today



Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. From there, after his father died, God had him move to this country in which you are now living.

Acts 7:4

How did Abraham obey God? Abraham left the land where he was living in the land of the Chaldeans. Abraham moved to Haran because God led him there. Even so, that was not his final destination.

Abraham lived in Haran until his father died. Leaving Haran marked a turning point in his life. Abraham lived as a stranger in a strange land. God kept him moving. Ultimately, Abraham was looking for the city of God and he knew he would not find that city on earth.

Abraham sojourned, meaning he did not buy a parcel of land, build his home there and stay there permanently. God had different plans for Abraham. As a man of faith, Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness.

Abraham stood out as a man of faith. He believed that God would even raise up his son if he died. God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice his son in the wilderness. Abraham stretched out his son Isaac, bound on the altar, and God spared the life of Isaac. Abraham had no

problem sacrificing Isaac because Abraham believed that God had promised him a posterity. Isaac was born when Abraham was one hundred and Sarah was ninety.

Living

1. **Left**. Why did Abraham leave home? Abraham left home and his relatives to follow God's command to leave.

2. **Land**. Abraham left his native land to follow God and live by faith in God and His promises.

3. **Chaldeans**. Abraham lived in the land of the Chaldeans, a place far removed from Israel.

4. **Haran**. Abraham followed God's leading to Haran, and stayed there for a while.

5. **Father**. When Abraham's father died, Abraham continued to follow God to new lands.

6. **Died**. Living holy in the family of God means that Abraham followed God, even as his father passed away and he had left many of his relatives behind in the land of the Chaldeans.

7. **Country**. We rejoice today because Abraham moved into the land of Israel, and sojourned there for a long time.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by following God and leaving home as He sends us to new places.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by moving when God directs us move on.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Abraham lived in faith that God would provide direction and move him from place to place, all according to God's plan for his life.**

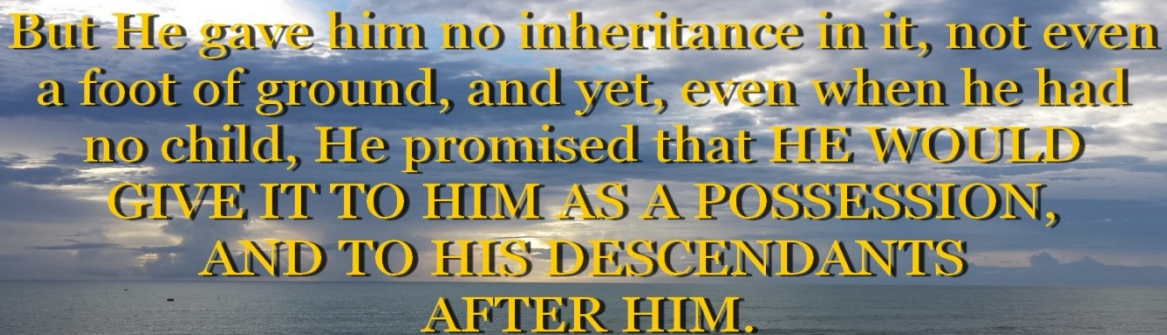
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the journey of Abraham, leaving home and relatives, to follow God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by moving according to God's plan for your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 198

Inheritance Today



But He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground, and yet, even when he had no child, He promised that HE WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM AS A POSSESSION, AND TO HIS DESCENDANTS AFTER HIM.

Acts 7:5

What did God promise Abraham? God promised Abraham a land and descendants.

God sent Abraham to the Promised Land, but he never owned that land. Abraham looked upon the land, knowing that God's promise was absolute. When God promised Abraham the land, Abraham knew that God would keep the promise.

When God promised Abraham descendants, Abraham had no children and he was advanced in age. His wife Sarah was ninety years old when she conceived and had a son named Isaac.

God works marvelous things in our lives, far beyond all that we can ask or think, according to His power. By faith we live the lives that God has prepared for us. He promised Abraham a land and descendants. Abraham trusted God and by faith God provided a land and an inheritance for his descendants.

God gave Abraham no inheritance in the Promised Land. His descendants would enjoy the Promised Land as their inheritance. The promises of God are always certainly true, but they follow God's plans not ours.

Possession

1. **Inheritance**. What inheritance did Abraham receive? God did not give Abraham an inheritance in the Promised Land.

2. **Ground**. Although Abraham lived in the Promised Land, Abraham lived there as an alien, who did not own even a foot length's of ground.

3. **Child**. God also promised Abraham a child and to provide a posterity for Abraham.

4. **Promised**. What God promised Abraham, God provided.

5. **Give**. God promised to give the Promised Land to Abraham as an inheritance, although Abraham owned none of it.

6. **Possession**. Living holy in the family of God means that God would give the Promised Land to Abraham as a possession.

7. **Descendants**. We rejoice today because God promised Abraham that Abraham would have descendants, and they would receive the Promised Land as their inheritance.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to keep His promises.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by continuing to trust God for our lifetime, no matter where He leads us, and how old we may get.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the promises of God bring blessings to all of us and we follow Him and keep His commandments.**

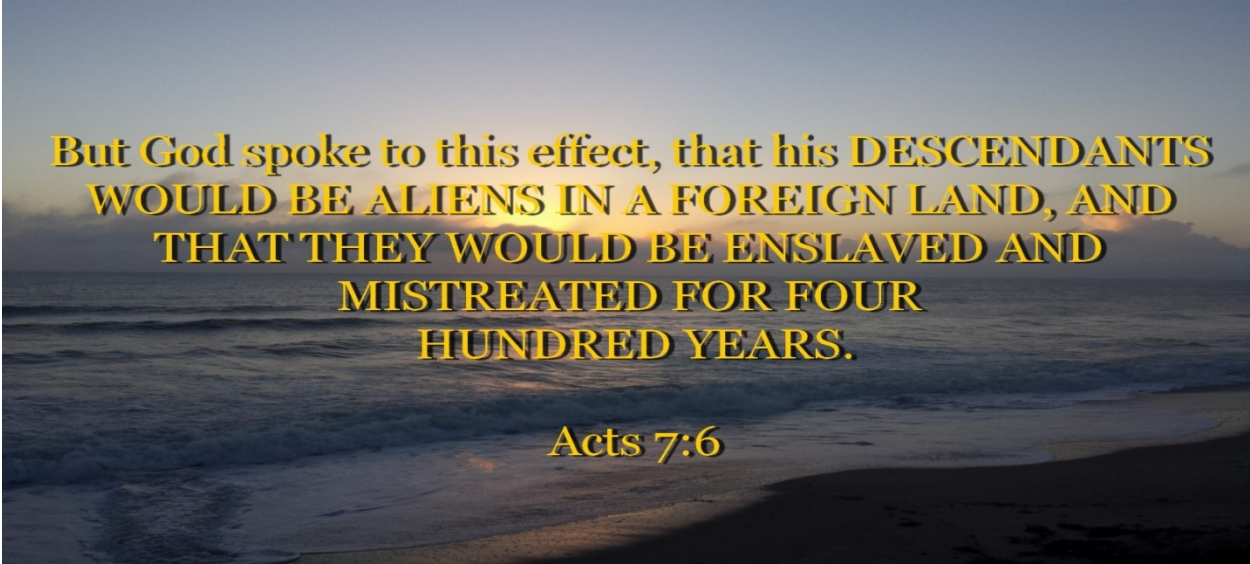
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to keep His promises, just like God kept His promises to Abraham. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the faith of Abraham that kept Abraham following God and loving God throughout his life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 199

Descendants Today



**But God spoke to this effect, that his DESCENDANTS
WOULD BE ALIENS IN A FOREIGN LAND, AND
THAT THEY WOULD BE ENSLAVED AND
MISTREATED FOR FOUR
HUNDRED YEARS.**

Acts 7:6

What did God tell Abraham about his descendants? God told Abraham that his descendants would be aliens in a foreign land and be mistreated there for four hundred years.

God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees. After living in Haran until his father died, Abraham sojourned in the Promised Land. Abraham had descendants through Isaac.

God also revealed to Abraham that his descendants would be aliens in a foreign land. They would be going down to Egypt and become slaves over time.

They were enslaved and mistreated for four hundred years. God showed Abraham the long-term future, because Abraham believed God and followed God to new lands. The faith of Abraham sustained him and caused him to do great things for God.

The Jews looked Abraham as their spiritual father. They claimed to be the children of Abraham. They also enjoyed the covenant that God made with Israel through Abraham. Yet, not everyone who was physically descended

from Abraham had the faith of Abraham. Jesus said that Abraham looked forward to see the day of Christ and saw it and rejoiced.

Mistreated

1. **God**. What did God say to Abraham about aliens? God told Abraham his descendants would be aliens in a foreign land.

2. **Spoke**. God spoke to Abraham and told him about the future of his descendants.

3. **Descendants**. As God promised, Abraham would have descendants who would inherit the Promised Land.

4. **Aliens**. Yet, his descendants would be aliens in a foreign land.

5. **Foreign**. God spoke to Abraham about his descendants living the foreign land of Egypt.

6. **Enslaved**. Living holy in the family of God means that God told Abraham that his descendants would be enslaved for four hundred years in the foreign land of Egypt.

7. **Mistreated**. We rejoice today because God foreknew that Abraham's descendants would be mistreated for four hundred years in a foreign land, and then God would deliver them from captivity and oppression.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding the plans of God, which span centuries and millennia and eternity.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God had plans for the descendants of Abraham, and they would go through some difficult times before God delivered them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving God more for showing us the faith of Abraham and the ups and downs his descendants would face in the future.**

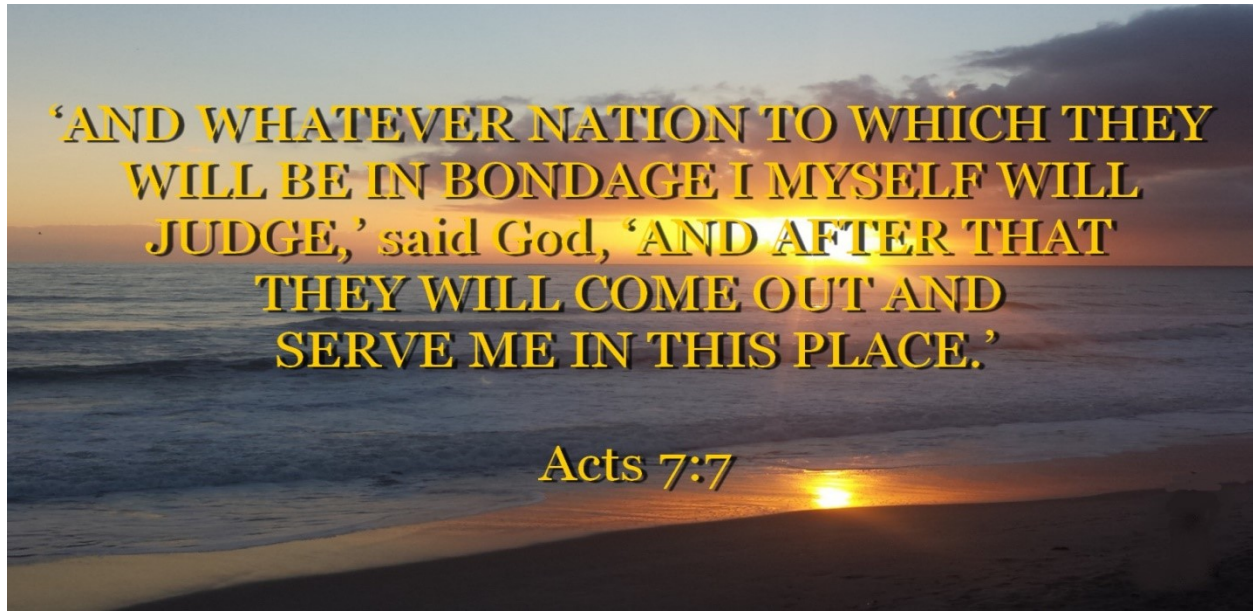
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God works over many generations to keep His promises to Abraham. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering God has plans for our lives which span generations?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 200

Bondage Today



What deliverance did God promise Abraham? God promised to deliver his descendants and judge the nation who oppressed Abraham's descendants.

When the descendants of Abraham were held in bondage in Egypt, God had already promised Abraham long before that he would judge the people of Egypt for oppressing the people of God. That judgment culminated in a series of plagues. The last plague took the lives of the firstborn of the people of Egypt and their animals.

Pharaoh of Egypt allowed the people of Israel to leave. Pharaoh then changed his mind and chased them with his army. The people of Israel crossed the Red Sea on dry ground, but the water swallowed the Egyptian army as they followed on their horses and chariots and died in the water as it closed upon them.

God raised up Moses to lead the people of Israel, the descendants of Abraham, to the Promised Land. God then helped those people drive out the inhabitants of the Promised Land, but the people did not follow through on

His orders. The land became polluted with idols over time and the country split into two parts.

Judge

1. **Nation**. What happens to nations who mistreat the descendants of Abraham? God will take action against them.

2. **Bondage**. The descendants of Abraham would be sent into bondage in a foreign land where they would be enslaved and mistreated.

3. **Judge**. God takes notice of such oppression of the descendants of Abraham and will judge the oppressors.

4. **Come**. God promised those descendants of Abraham would come out of that foreign land.

5. **Serve**. God also promised that the descendants of Abraham would serve God.

6. **Me**. Living holy in the family of God means that God seeks people to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. He told Abraham that the descendants of Abraham would serve “Me.”

7. **Place**. We rejoice today because God loves for His people to serve in the each place that God sends them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God acts as a righteous and holy judge.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by looking forward to serving God wherever He leads us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His wonderful plans that span generations and take people from one place to another.**

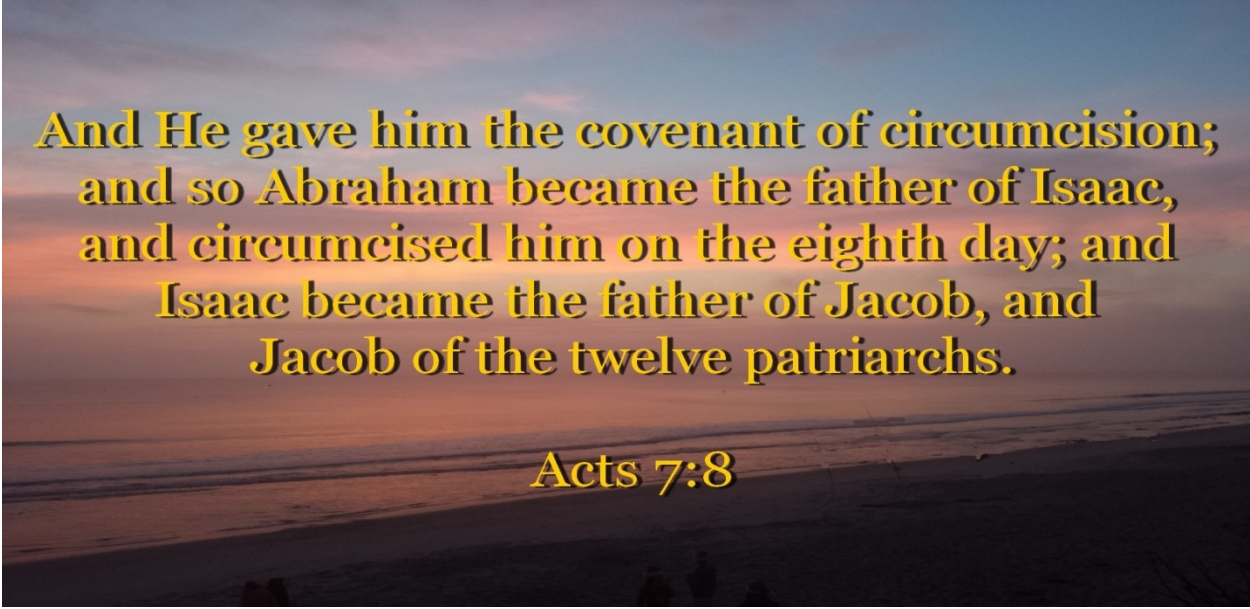
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God judges oppressors and delivers His children at the right time. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God more because He always knows everything that happens in our lives and He will never leave us or forsake us?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 201

Covenant Today



And He gave him the covenant of circumcision;
and so Abraham became the father of Isaac,
and circumcised him on the eighth day; and
Isaac became the father of Jacob, and
Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

Acts 7:8

What did God give Abraham? God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision.

God made a spiritual covenant with Abraham. The sign of the covenant was circumcision, the cutting of the male foreskin performed on the eighth day after birth. Circumcision alone meant nothing. God gave it as an outward sign of inward faith in God for salvation.

God promised Abraham a posterity. Abraham became the father of Isaac, and Isaac was circumcised on the eighth day, just like Jesus. Isaac became the father of Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel.

Stephen was reciting this entire history for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the religious Council. Stephen knew the religious history of Israel very well and could recite it from memory, even when his life was on the line and he was under tremendous pressure.

The covenant that God cut with Abraham included both a posterity and the possession of land for his descendants. Abraham himself only sojourned in the land. He was looking for the city of God and saw the day of Jesus Christ and rejoiced in it.

Circumcision

1. **Gave**. What is a covenant? God gave a promise to Abraham, which amounted to a covenant. God made different kinds of covenants in the Old Testament. Some covenants required obedience, and some covenants did not depend upon obedience. Covenants involved a promise of blessing from God according to a particular agreement between the parties.

2. **Covenant**. God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. God required the males of Israel to be circumcised in their flesh as a sign of spiritual devotion to God.

3. **Circumcision**. The males of Israel were to be circumcised on the eight day of their life, as a physical symbol of the covenant relationship between Israel and God.

4. **Isaac**. Isaac was born to Abraham and then circumcised as a sign of the covenant with God.

5. **Eighth**. God directed that males be circumcised on the eighth day.

6. **Jacob**. Living holy in the family of God means that Isaac had a son named Jacob, just as God promised Abraham that he would have descendants.

7. **Patriarchs**. We rejoice today because Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs who fathered the twelve tribes of Israel.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God always keeps His promises.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that cutting the flesh was of no eternal value, but faith in God for salvation produced eternal life for people in the Old and New Testaments.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon God to keep His promises always.**

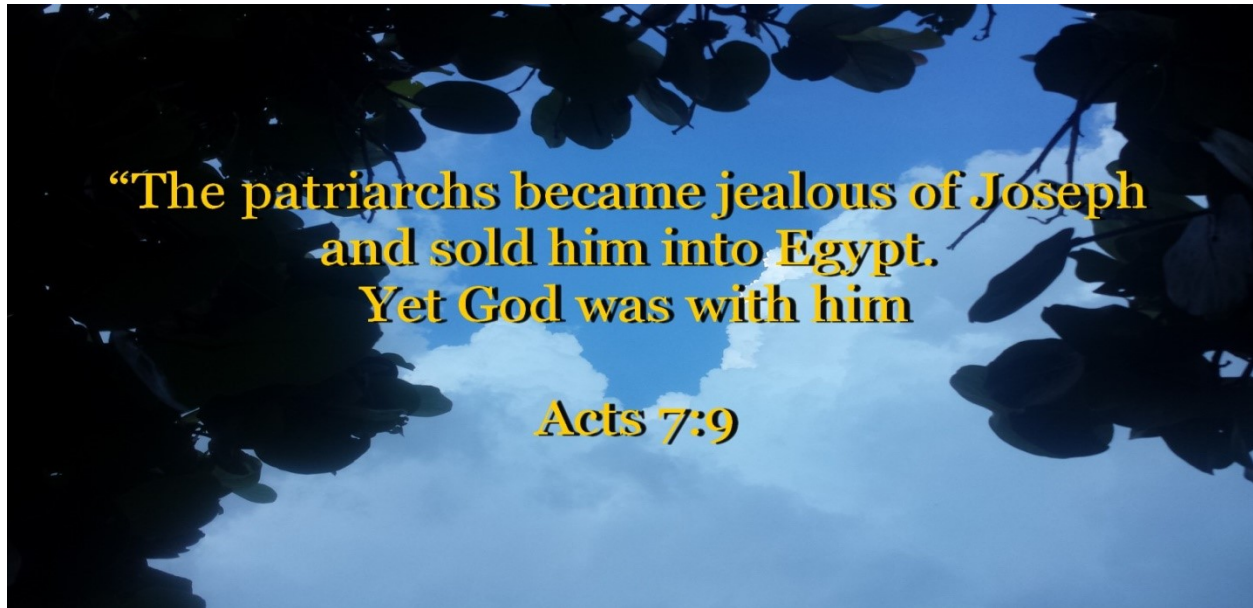
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God made some covenants in the Old Testament that still remain in effect today. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God for His wonderful long-range plans that bring blessings into our lives thousands of years after Abraham was born?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 202

Patriarchs Today



What happened to Joseph? His brothers sold him into slavery.

Jacob had twelve sons. One of those sons was named Joseph and Jacob favored Joseph. The other eleven sons became jealous of Joseph. Joseph also had dreams and in those dreams the sun moon and stars bowed down before him.

The patriarchs (his brothers) did evil towards Joseph because of the favor from Jacob and the dream that Joseph had about his greatness. In fact, some of the brothers wanted to kill him outright. One brother interceded for Joseph and suggested he be sold as a slave. The brothers agreed and he was sold into bondage.

Joseph became the slave of a rich man in Egypt. Although his brothers abandoned him and told their father that Joseph had died, God was with Joseph in Egypt. Even so, Joseph suffered hard times in Egypt. He also spent time in jail there, being falsely accused. Joseph understood dreams and became valuable to Pharaoh because he understood dreams and also proved to be an excellent administrator for the country. When Stephen recounted

the history of Joseph, Stephen emphasized Joseph's rise to power after being mistreated by the patriarchs.

Jealous

1. **Patriarchs**. Why were the patriarchs jealous of Joseph? Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colors and his brothers became jealous.

2. **Jealous**. The jealous brothers plotted evil against Joseph and intended to kill him.

3. **Joseph**. Joseph was sold by his brothers after one brother urged the other brothers not to kill Joseph, but to sell him to Midianites who saw to it that he was sold as a slave in Egypt.

4. **Sold**. Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt.

5. **Egypt**. Joseph came into Egypt against his will, but God willed for Joseph to be in Egypt and be a great help to his entire family when tough times hit the family of Jacob many years later.

6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that Joseph knew that God was with him, even as he suffered as a slave in Egypt.

7. **Him**. We rejoice today because God is with us, just as God was with Joseph.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God blesses us even when we must first suffer affliction.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some family members can do very evil things to their siblings.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon God to be with us even when other people mistreat us and cause us great harm.**

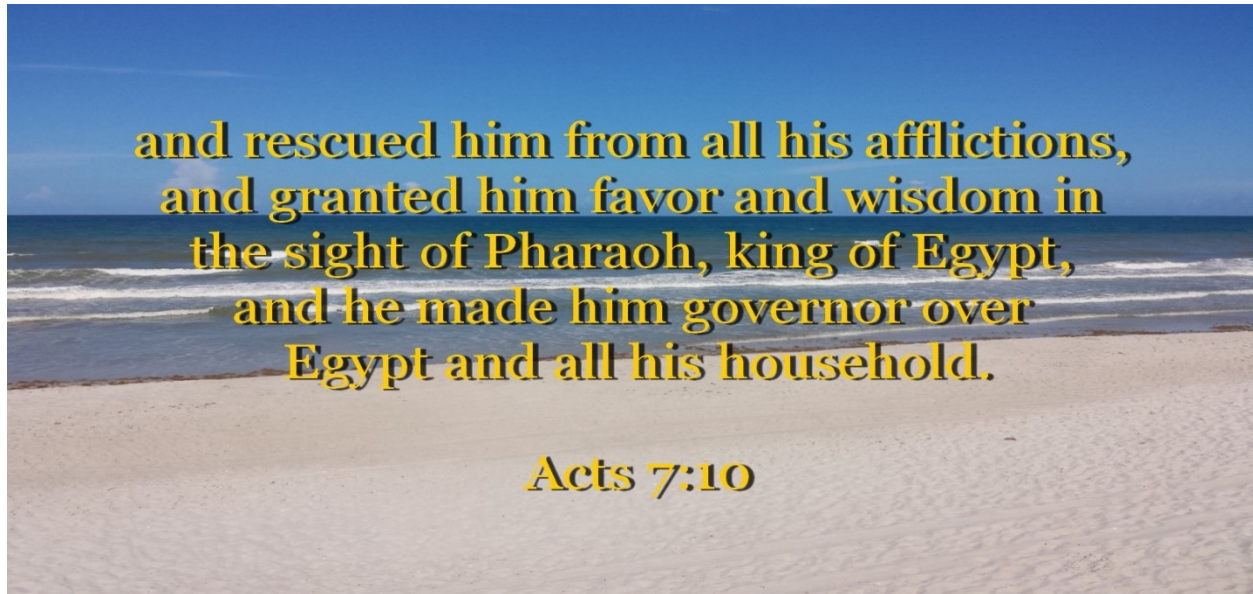
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God helped Joseph even in his slavery?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 203

Rescued Today



How did God help Joseph? God rescued Joseph from all his afflictions.

Joseph went down into Egypt as a slave. He descended even further by going to an Egyptian jail as a prisoner. The charges against him were all trumped up, but he was incarcerated even so. While in jail, Joseph interpreted dreams and ultimately gained favor with Pharaoh.

Stephen emphasized how God helped Joseph in Egypt. Just because Joseph was in prison did not mean that God would not bless him. God granted Joseph favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh.

Joseph interpreted an important dream for Pharaoh. Joseph interpreted the dream as a message from God that Egypt would have seven years of surplus followed by seven years of famine. Pharaoh then elevated Joseph to a position of preparing for that famine. God blessed Joseph and he continued to rise in the estimation of Pharaoh.

Pharaoh made Joseph governor of Egypt and over all the household of Pharaoh. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, but God elevated Joseph

from the prison to be the governor of all Egypt. Joseph established a personal relationship of trust with Pharaoh.

Wisdom

1. **Rescued**. How did Joseph get out of his afflictions in Egypt? God rescued Joseph from his afflictions.

2. **Afflictions**. Joseph was laid in chains for a time and held in prison. He was falsely accused of rape and afflicted in many ways.

3. **Granted**. God loved Joseph and granted Joseph favor.

4. **Favor**. The favor of God helped Joseph interpret dreams and also provided a way out of affliction.

5. **Wisdom**. Through the wisdom of God, Joseph was taken out of prison and elevated to governor of Egypt.

6. **Pharaoh**. Living holy in the family of God means that Pharaoh helped Joseph prepare Egypt for famine and made him administrator of Egypt's food supplies.

7. **Governor**. We rejoice today because Joseph became the governor of Egypt and used his position to help Jacob and his family when famine came.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God can help prisoners find favor with people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the way that God lifted Joseph out of prison and put him in charge of the food supply of Egypt.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never giving up on God and His promises.**

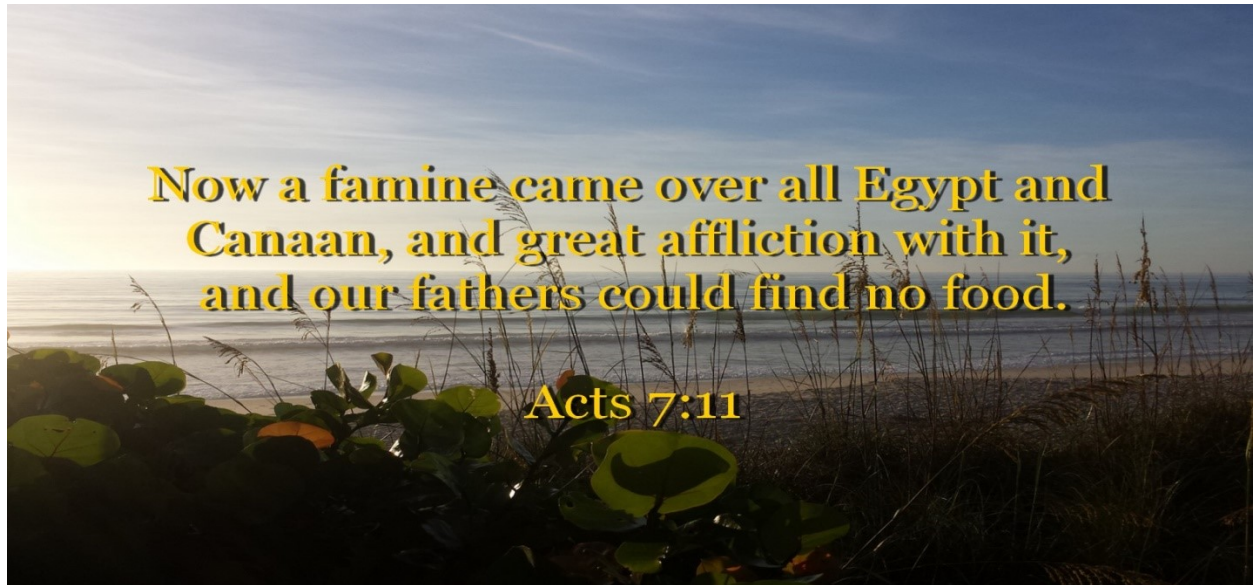
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God helps the afflicted and bestows His favor upon those people who love Him and believe in Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking to God for favor and wisdom in our lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 204

Famine Today



What trouble befell Egypt and Canaan? Great famine came over all Egypt and Canaan.

As Stephen recounted the history of Israel to the religious Council, Stephen spent time talking about Joseph. Joseph rose to power in Egypt by gaining favor with Pharaoh. God rescued Joseph from prison and made him governor of all Egypt.

As Joseph predicted, great famine came over the land of Egypt and Canaan. The patriarchs lived in Canaan and the famine greatly afflicted them. By this time, Joseph was governor of Egypt and it stockpiled great resources to meet the famine. In fact, Egypt had grain to sell during the famine because of the wise management of Joseph.

The brothers of Joseph sold him into slavery because of their jealousy. Those brothers had no idea that Joseph would rise from being imprisoned as a slave to governor of all Egypt and in charge of the food supply. God raises up one while He abases another. Joseph did not forget about his brothers.

Stephen told the story of Israel to the men of Israel standing before him. He showed great familiarity with the details of the patriarchs and the sons of Jacob.

No Food

1. **Famine**. Was Egypt ready for famine? Yes, Joseph had prepared the land of Egypt for famine and had a surplus of grain when famine came.

2. **Egypt**. Joseph was the governor of Egypt and controlled the food supply of Egypt.

3. **Canaan**. The famine reached into Canaan, where Jacob and his family lived.

4. **Great**. The famine brought great affliction to the people in Canaan.

5. **Affliction**. Jacob and his family needed food because of the affliction of the famine.

6. **Fathers**. Living holy in the family of God means that the fathers of Israel could find no food in Canaan.

7. **Food**. We rejoice today because God had a plan to provide food to the family of Jacob by making Joseph the governor of Egypt many years before the famine struck.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by laying plans for deliverance long before the famine strikes.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God delivered Joseph and his family from great affliction.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to take care of us when great afflictions arise because God knows all the problems that lie ahead of us.**

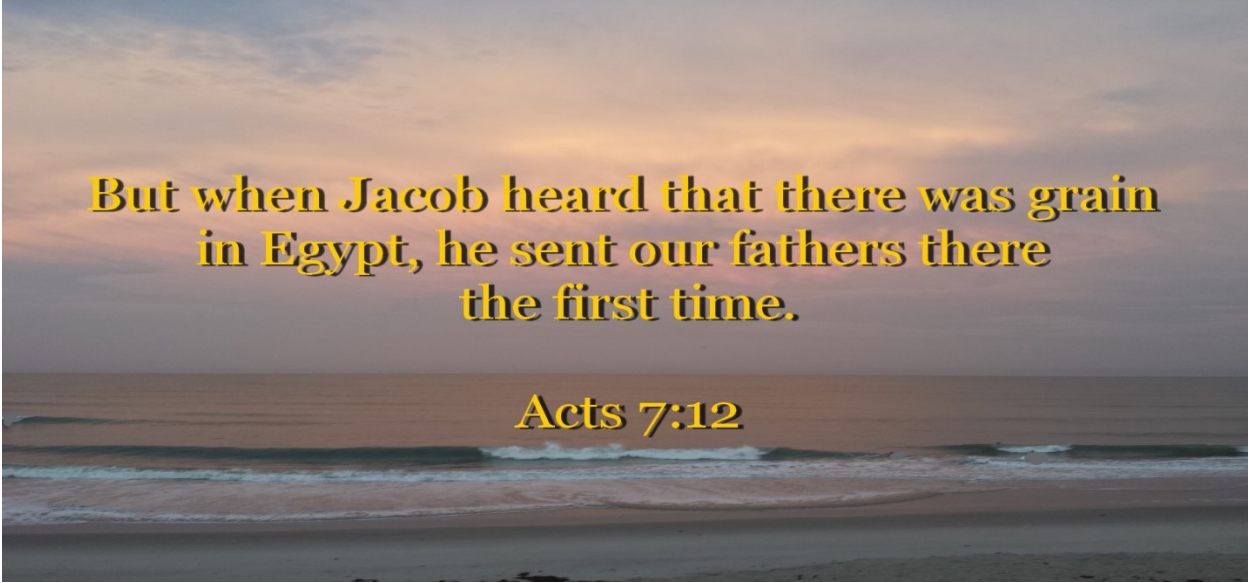
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that in times of great affliction God has already laid His plans for helping His children. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the way God used Joseph to help the patriarchs who sold him into slavery?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 205

Grain Today



But when Jacob heard that there was grain
in Egypt, he sent our fathers there
the first time.

Acts 7:12

What did Jacob do when he heard about food in Egypt? Jacob sent his sons to go buy food in Egypt.

Jacob lived many years, but never forgot about his son Joseph. The other boys dipped the robe of many colors which Jacob had given to Joseph in some blood. Those boys then took that robe dipped in blood to their father Jacob and said Joseph had died. The patriarchs had pulled a fast one on Jacob. They had no idea of God's plan and purpose for Joseph and that the dream of Joseph was actually a prophecy of everyone's future.

Jacob sent his sons down to Egypt the first time looking to buy some food. Jacob had no idea that Joseph had become the governor of Egypt and was in charge of the food supply. The sons of Jacob, likewise, had no idea they were going to go to Joseph, the governor of Egypt. Joseph keenly remembered what his brothers had done to him. When they appeared to buy food from Joseph, Joseph made plans on how to deal with his brothers.

Stephen showed that the patriarchs were not righteous in all they did. In fact, the brothers of Joseph severely mistreated him.

Egypt

1. **Jacob**. Why did Jacob send the patriarchs to Egypt? He sent the patriarchs because he heard that Egypt had food.
2. **Heard**. News of the food in Egypt traveled to Jacob in Canaan.
3. **Grain**. Because of Joseph had God's wisdom and favor, Egypt had stored enough food to help many people survive the famine.
4. **Egypt**. Jacob sent the patriarchs to Egypt to buy food and bring it back to Canaan.
5. **Sent**. He sent the patriarchs because he trusted them to buy the grain and then return to Canaan with the food. The trip may pose dangers.
6. **Fathers**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jacob sent the fathers of Israel to Egypt looking to purchase grain so that the family would survive the famine in Canaan.
7. **First**. We rejoice today because God had planned for the patriarchs to survive, just as God had promised Abraham a posterity, but also captivity for the people of Israel.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by looking to God for our daily food and also for food when times get tough.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by having friends and family we can send to bring back food during a famine.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by helping one another when famine strikes.**

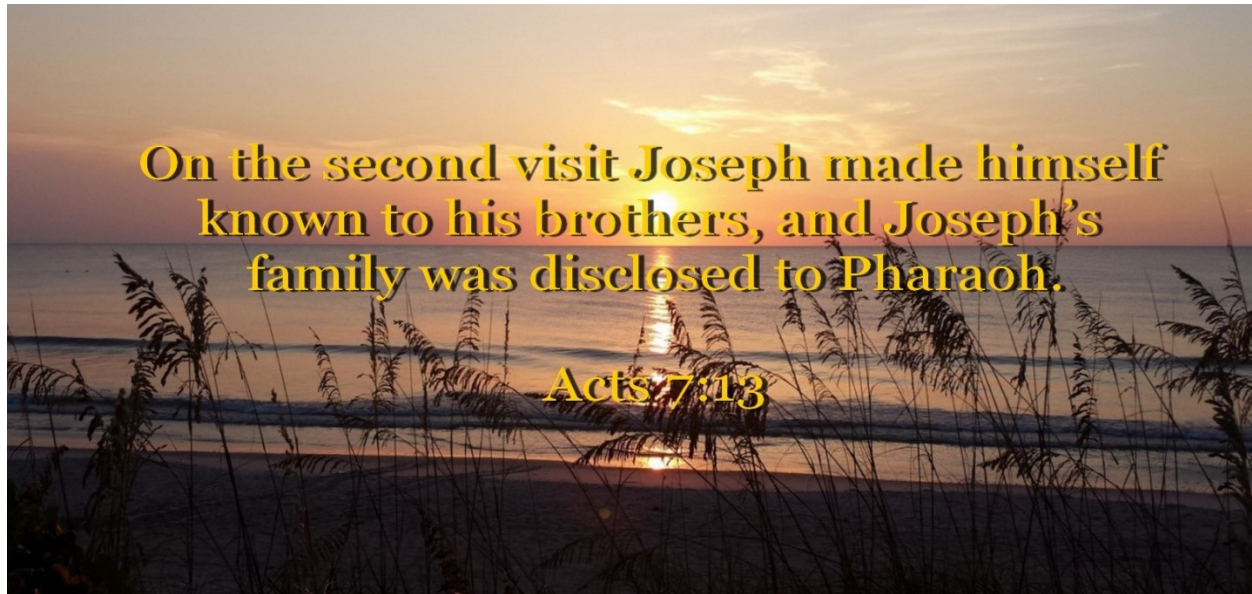
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the way God helps people survive a famine by preparing enough grain to feed multitudes of people for years. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for His marvelous provision today because of His actions yesterday?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 206

Joseph Today



What happened on the second visit of the patriarchs to Egypt? Joseph made himself known to them.

Stephen selected parts of the story of the patriarchs moving to Egypt. He summarized long periods of time and important events. Stephen's goal was to prove to the religious Council that Jesus the Nazarene was the Messiah of the Old Testament. Stephen also wanted them to know that there was salvation in no one else and that they had made a terrible mistake regarding Jesus. They made the same spiritual mistakes that their fathers had made before them.

Joseph made himself known to his brothers on their second visit to Egypt and also disclosed his family to Pharaoh. On the first visit, Joseph put their money for the grain in their own saddlebags. When they discovered it, they became very afraid of Joseph. They did not know that Joseph was working a plan to reveal himself to them. Joseph had every right to kill all of them for what they had done to him by selling him into slavery in Egypt.

Joseph intended to provide grain for his family in Canaan. He also wanted to be sure that his family benefited from his high position in Egypt. Therefore, he revealed himself to them at just the right time.

Disclosed

1. **Second**. When did Joseph disclose himself to his brothers? Joseph disclosed himself on their second visit to Egypt.

2. **Visit**. The patriarchs were visiting Egypt for food during a famine.

3. **Joseph**. The patriarchs had sold their brother Joseph into bondage in Egypt.

4. **Known**. Joseph had not seen his brothers in many years and they did not recognize him.

5. **Brothers**. The brothers of Joseph had no idea that the Egyptian governor they were buying food from was actually their brother.

6. **Disclosed**. Living holy in the family of God means that Joseph had a special plan for dealing with his brothers. He caused them some consternation at first, but then disclosed to them that he was the brother they sold into slavery because they were jealous of him.

7. **Pharaoh**. We rejoice today because Joseph followed God's plan for his life, and prospered in the house of Pharaoh. Joseph also disclosed to Pharaoh his family from Canaan.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the story of Joseph disclosing himself to his brothers and Pharaoh.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God prospered Joseph when he was separated from his family for many years.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by creating family harmony when it is in our power to forgive others for the wrongs they have inflicted upon us.**

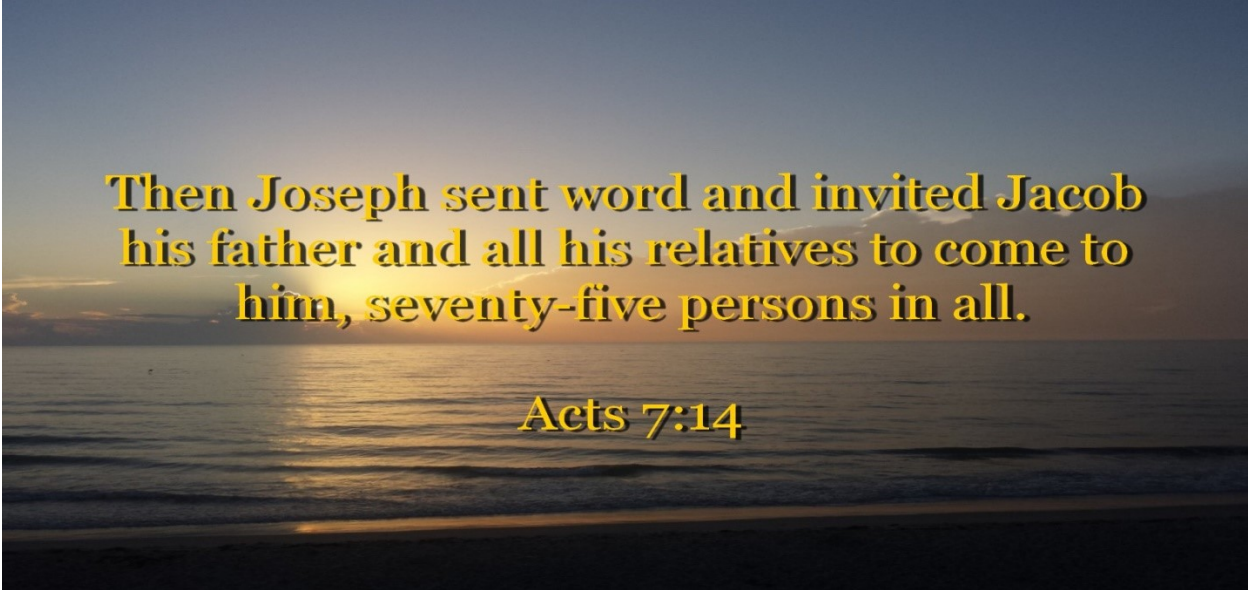
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by seeking peace and harmony in the family and letting old sins rest in peace. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Joseph disclosed himself to his brothers who sold him into slavery?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 207

Invited Today



Then Joseph sent word and invited Jacob his father and all his relatives to come to him, seventy-five persons in all.

Acts 7:14

After Joseph revealed his identity, what happened next? Joseph invited Jacob and the family to come to Egypt.

Joseph displayed great grace and forgiveness to his brothers. He even invited them to come to Egypt. Joseph also loved his father and invited him and his relatives to come live in Egypt too. About seventy-five persons in all went to Egypt to live with Joseph.

God told Abraham that his descendants would be enslaved for four hundred years. Joseph had no idea that his family would be enslaved in Egypt. During Joseph's lifetime, things went well for Jacob and the family. Eventually, a new Pharaoh would arise who did not know Joseph or his family and enslaved them.

By the time of Moses, a huge multitude of Jews would come out of Egypt. God led them out of the bondage of Egypt and to the Promised Land, but that journey took more than forty years because of their unbelief.

Stephen recounted the history of Egypt to remind the religious Council of the very bad deeds of the patriarchs towards Joseph. They were mistreating the apostles and disciples of Jesus in the same way.

Relatives

1. **Joseph**. Why did Joseph invite his father to Egypt? Joseph invited Jacob and the entire family to join him in Egypt because he could provide for them there and supply them with food.

2. **Sent**. Joseph sent the invitation to Jacob and the family because they had sent the patriarchs to Egypt seeking food.

3. **Word**. Joseph sent word, but he did not leave Egypt to go see them.

4. **Invited**. Joseph honored his father, and did not compel Jacob to come to Egypt.

5. **Father**. Joseph loved his father and wanted to take care of his father.

6. **Relatives**. Living holy in the family of God means that Joseph forgave his brothers for their acts in selling him into slavery in Egypt.

7. **Seventy-Five**. We rejoice today because Joseph received seventy-five people from Canaan when the patriarchs moved to Egypt for relief from the famine.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Joseph cared for his father and relatives.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Joseph forgave his brothers and made peace with his family.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by forgiving family members who have treated us badly and making peace with them.**

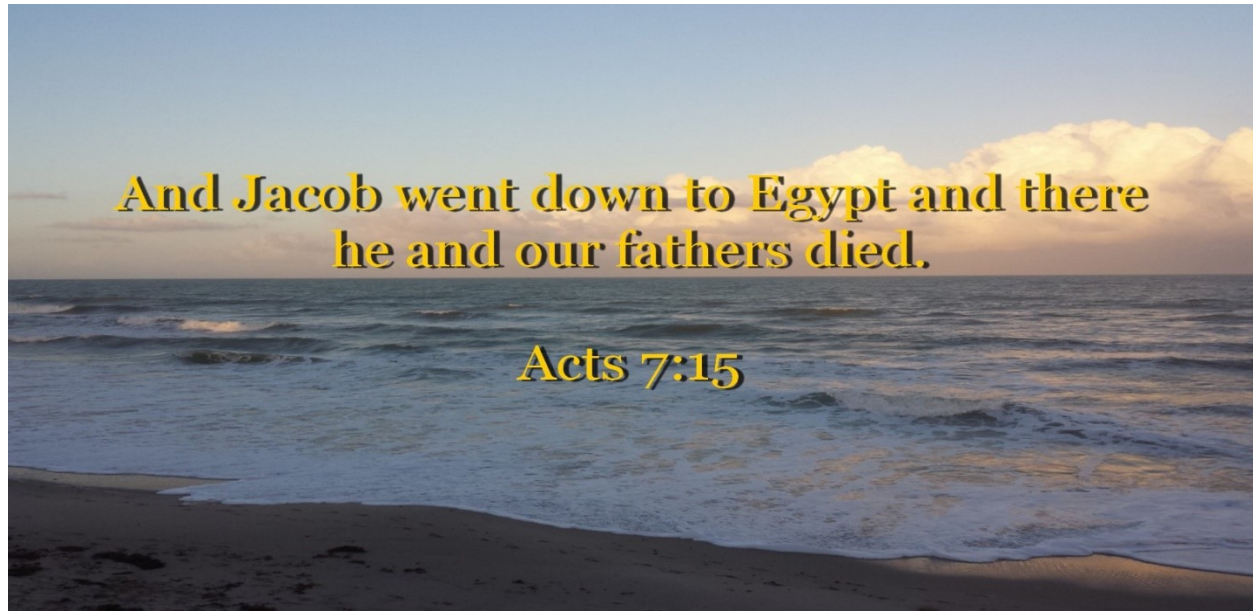
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by making peace with family members and providing for their needs according to our means. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking care of the needs of your family according to your means?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 208

Jacob Today



Where did Jacob and the patriarchs die? Jacob went down to Egypt and there both Jacob and the patriarchs died.

Jacob and the patriarchs went down to Egypt to avoid famine in Canaan. They lived there and died there. They died as strangers in a strange land.

The promises to Abraham remained intact. God promised that the descendants of Abraham would inherit the Promised Land. The patriarchs left children behind that became the twelve tribes of Israel. Those twelve tribes would leave the bondage of Egypt by the power of God.

Stephen reminded the religious Council that the patriarchs and Jacob himself all perished outside the land of Israel. The inheritance that God promised for the people of Israel included years of suffering before they realized that inheritance.

Stephen showed the religious Council how the children of the patriarchs suffered in Egypt. The patriarchs themselves sold Joseph into

slavery in Egypt and the children of the patriarchs suffered the same kind of slavery the patriarchs imposed upon Joseph.

Died

1. **Jacob**. Did Jacob accept Joseph's invitation? Jacob accepted Joseph's invitation to come to Egypt.

2. **Down**. Jacob and his family went down to Egypt to join Joseph with the blessing of Pharaoh.

3. **Egypt**. Joseph had stored up grain in Egypt during the good years so that people could buy grain from the government during the famine. Jacob and his family moved to Egypt during the famine.

4. **He**. Jacob moved to Egypt at the invitation of Joseph, the governor of Egypt and a very powerful ruler.

5. **Our**. Stephen referred to the patriarchs as our fathers, meaning they were all Jews, even if Stephen had a Hellenistic name.

6. **Fathers**. Living holy in the family of God means that the fathers of Israel died in Egypt, but they had made peace with Joseph.

7. **Died**. We rejoice today because the brothers of Joseph died in Egypt, but they were there at the invitation of Joseph, the brother they tried to kill many years earlier.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the reconciliation and reunion of the patriarchs with Joseph in Egypt.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering how God blessed Joseph and exalted him so that he could take care of Egypt and his family.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God plans many things to work out in our lives, but some relationships are reconciled after decades of separation.**

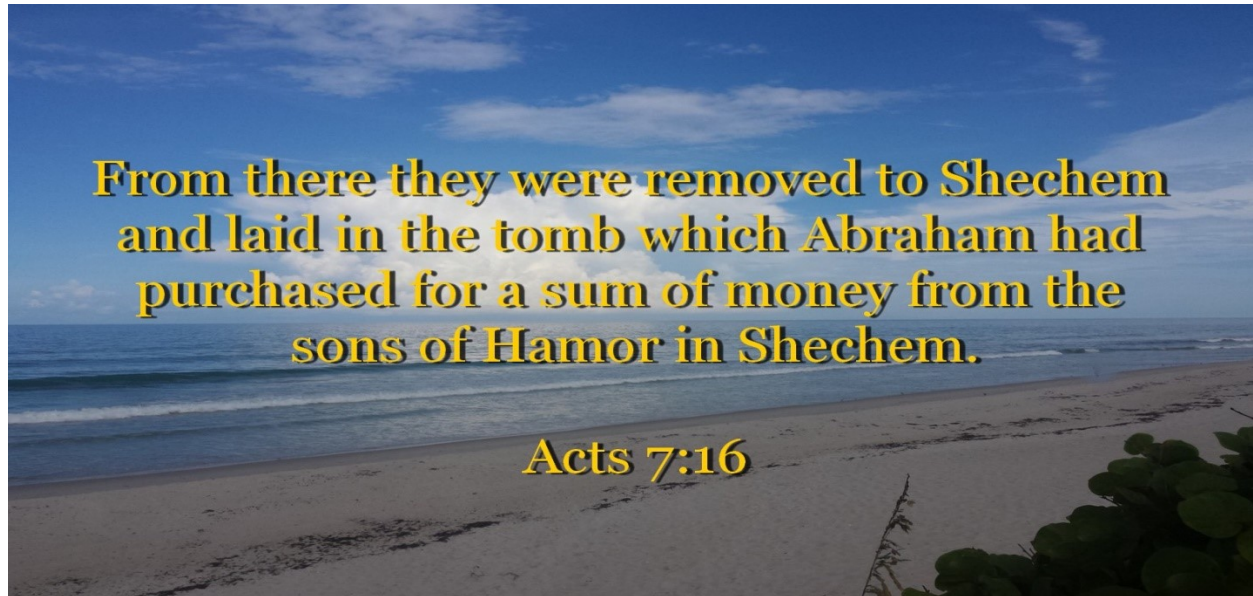
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by knowing that God works all things for good in the lives of the people who love Him and obey Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God for His plans to bring families back together at the right time and place?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 209

Shechem Today



What happened to the bones of Joseph? The book of Joshua records that the bones of Joseph were removed from Egypt when the people left.

The bones of the fathers of Israel were buried in the tomb which Abraham purchased from the sons of Hamor at Shechem. They were not left behind in Egypt.

Stephen included historical details that resonated with the religious Council. As Stephen recited the history of Israel, the Holy Spirit helped him with his defense. Stephen also proclaimed the downsides of Israel's history. The patriarchs had their problems and did some very evil things to Joseph in particular.

Stephen preached words of conviction to the religious Council. They were following in their father's footsteps by persecuting the righteous people. The religious Council never knew the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The religious Council never knew the God of Joseph.

When Jesus appeared before them, the religious Council did not recognize Jesus as the Son of God. In fact, Jesus was God in the flesh but they never knew God, and so did not recognize Jesus.

Tomb

1. **They**. Where were the bones of the patriarchs placed? They were placed in Shechem.
2. **Removed**. Jacob and his sons died in Egypt.
3. **Shechem**. Abraham had purchased a tomb in Shechem from the sons of Hamor many years previously.
4. **Laid**. The remains of the patriarchs were not left in Egypt, but placed in a tomb in Shechem.
5. **Tomb**. None of the remains of the patriarchs were left in Egypt.
6. **Abraham**. Living holy in the family of God means that God blessed Abraham and he bought a place with a cave for his wife and others.
7. **Hamor**. We rejoice today because the sons of Hamor sold some land to Abraham which became and burial place for the patriarchs.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the final resting place for the bodies of the patriarchs was not in Egypt, but in the Promised Land.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the patriarchs wanted to be buried in the Promised Land, the place God promised to them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by holding on to the promises of God for all generations.**

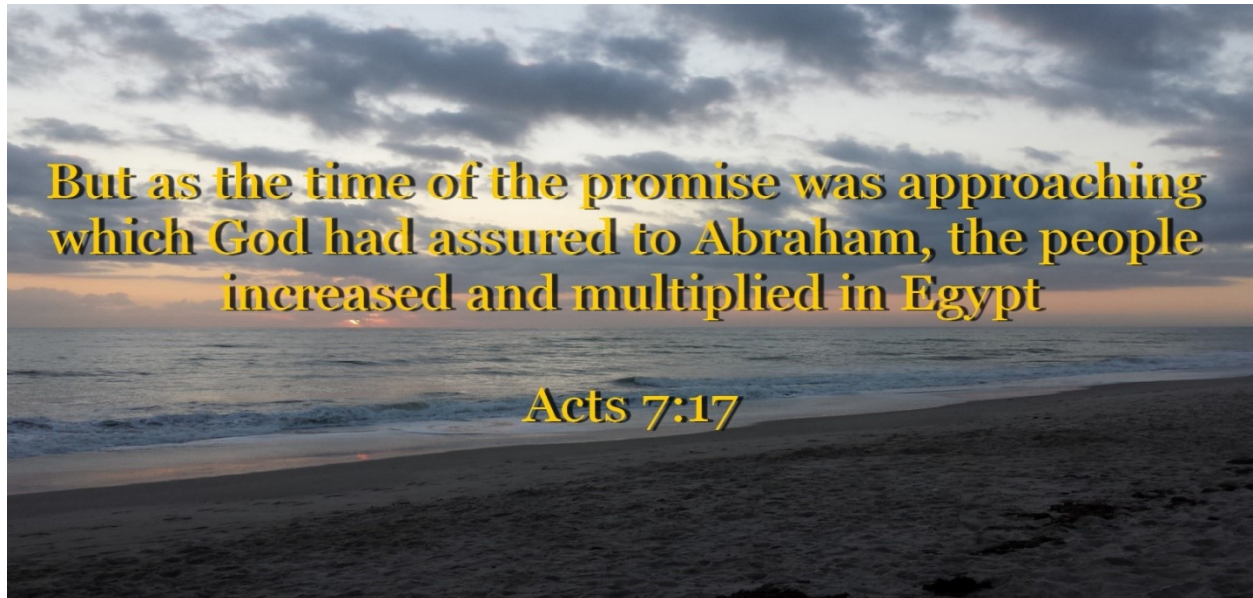
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by appreciating the way God makes and keeps promises. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God for always keeping His promises to all generations?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 210

Promise Today



What happened to the people of Israel living in Egypt? They increased and multiplied in Egypt.

Stephen recounted the history of Israel, highlighting both good and bad parts of that history. Stephen emphasized God's covenant with Abraham. Part of that covenant included a promise that God would deliver His people from four hundred years of bondage in Egypt.

As the time of the promised deliverance drew near, the people of Israel increased and multiplied in Egypt. By this time, Joseph had passed away and the new Pharaoh considered the size of the people of Israel to be a danger to the welfare of Egypt. Please recall that when Jacob went down to Egypt the entire group going into Egypt numbered seventy-five people.

As a man of great faith, Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness. He lived by faith and trusted God to provide a posterity to him. God explained that that posterity would cause the entire world to be blessed.

Stephen knew the God of Abraham, but the religious Council did not and so persecuted Stephen. As Stephen testified to the religious Council, he recounted the Scriptures just like Peter before him.

Multiplied

1. **Time**. What time was it for the descendants of Abraham? The time had come for them to be rescued from slavery in Egypt.

2. **Promise**. God promised Abraham that his descendants would flourish in Egypt, but they would also be enslaved for four hundred years.

3. **God**. God made a covenant with Abraham and God always keeps His promises.

4. **Assured**. God assured Abraham that His promises would come true at the right time.

5. **Abraham**. Abraham trusted God and loved God.

6. **Increased**. Living holy in the family of God means that the people of Israel multiplied and increased in captivity.

7. **Multiplied**. We rejoice today because captivity did not break the promises of God, but God kept His promises to Abraham even while his descendants suffered in captivity.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God always keeps His promises.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God makes promises for generations.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that generations may count upon the promises of God.**

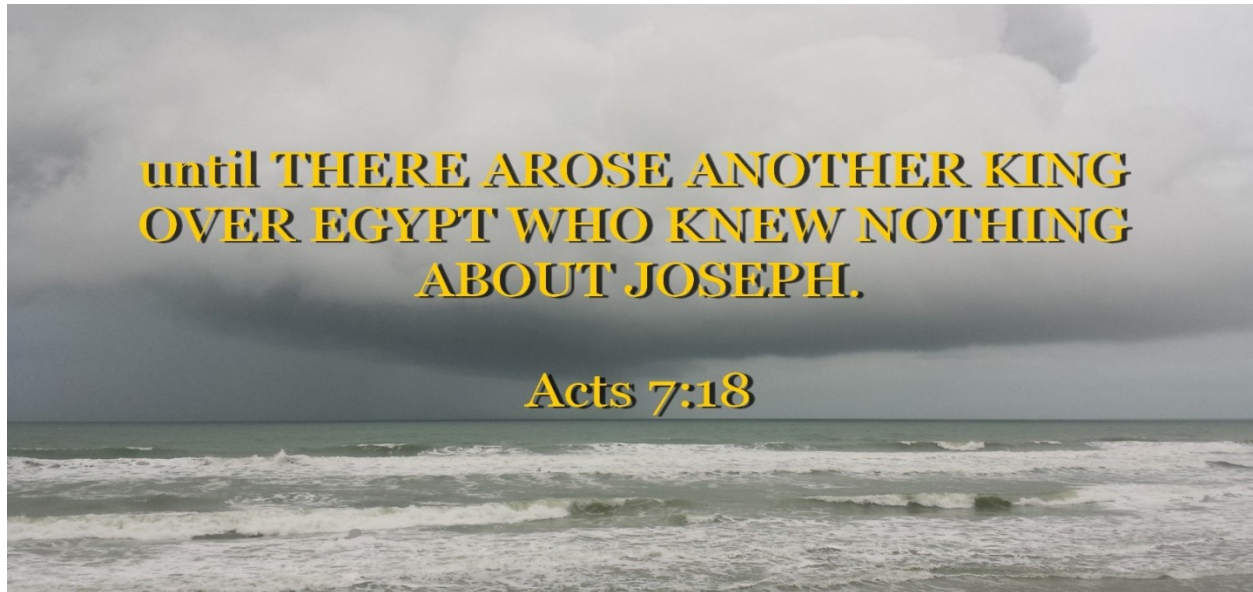
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remember the promises of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He keeps His promises for all generations?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 211

Another King Today



How long did the people of Israel prosper in Egypt? They prospered until another king arose who knew nothing about Joseph.

Abraham received promises from God regarding a posterity and a land. God promised Abraham that through his posterity all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

God granted the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants as a possession for all generations. Abraham himself lived as a sojourner in the land and raised his sons there. Isaac became the heir of Abraham according to the promise of God. Then Isaac had a son named Jacob, who in turn had twelve sons. Those twelve sons became the twelve tribes of Israel. When famine arose in Israel, Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy grain.

Little did Jacob know that his sons had lied to him about the death of Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob. Decades earlier the brothers of Joseph sold him into slavery because of jealousy. They resented the coat of many colors Jacob gave to Joseph.

Stephen recounted the history of Israel. He emphasized some of the failures of the patriarchs. The religious Council understood Stephen was really talking about their failures to obey God and know Him as Savior.

Knew Nothing

1. **Until**. What changed in Egypt? Another king arose in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph.

2. **Arose**. Another king arose, and the people of Israel would suffer greatly.

3. **Another**. The Pharaoh Joseph knew had passed away and a new king arose.

4. **King**. The new king did not know about the great things that Joseph had done for Egypt. The glories of men pass away quickly, but the glory of God endures forever.

5. **Egypt**. The kings of Egypt could be very harsh in their treatment of people.

6. **Nothing**. Living holy in the family of God means that the new king of Egypt did not know about the great things Joseph had done for Egypt, and the people of Israel began to suffer under the new king.

7. **Joseph**. We rejoice today because God used Joseph to help Jacob and his family survive the famine, but over time the people of Israel would suffer for many years in Egypt, just as God revealed to Abraham.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that kings change and conditions in the kingdom change.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by always trusting in God and not in human kings and kingdoms.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God works out His plans through many kings and many kingdoms.**

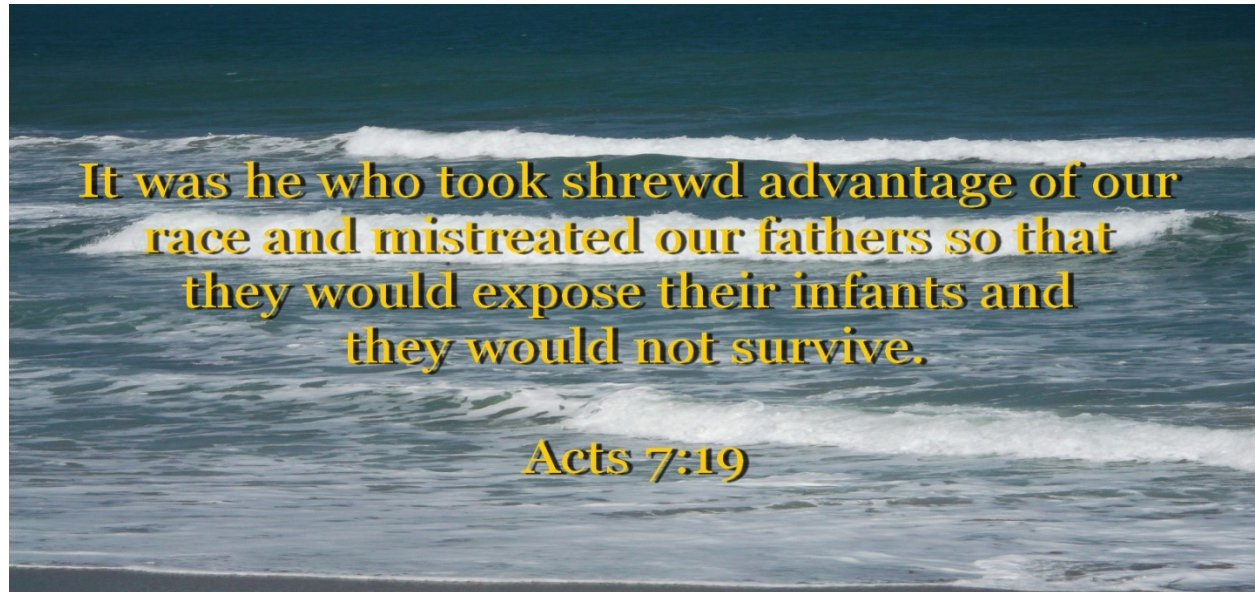
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that kings and kingdoms change, but God remains the same forever. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God for His unchanging love?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 212

Mistreated Today



What did the new king of Egypt do to the people of Israel? The new king of Egypt took shrewd advantage of the people of Israel.

The new king of Israel of Egypt knew nothing about Joseph. The previous pharaohs knew that Joseph had brought Egypt through a great famine. Joseph interpreted the dream for Pharaoh about seven bountiful years followed by seven lean years. Joseph gathered the grain from the bountiful seven years and stored it throughout Egypt. When the famine came, Joseph sold the grain to the people of Egypt and others. By his administration, the Egyptian sold their land to the Pharaoh in exchange for grain.

By Joseph's wise management, all of Egypt was transformed and brought under the power of Pharaoh. Pharaoh understood what Joseph had done and made him governor of Egypt. When the famine struck, Egypt had plenty of grain, even a surplus for sale to others.

The new king of Egypt decreed that the infants of Israel must be exposed, so that they would perish. The new king understood the dangers posed by the people of Israel and their great numbers in the land of Egypt.

Infants

1. **He**. How did the new king take advantage of the people of Israel? He instituted strict population control.

2. **Shrewd**. The new king took shrewd advantage of the people of Israel. He did not know about Joseph.

3. **Our**. Stephen used the phrase “our fathers” to remind the religious Council that the government officials caused great problems for the people of Israel.

4. **Race**. Stephen identified himself with the race of Jews.

5. **Mistreated**. The new king mistreated the people of Israel by commanding that the infants of Israel be exposed to the elements so that they would die.

6. **Expose**. Living holy in the family of God means that the king of Egypt tried to kill the infants of Israel, just like Herod had killed the children of Bethlehem after Christ was born there.

7. **Infants**. We rejoice today because God loves infants and they go to heaven upon death.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the king who tried to kill the infants of Israel.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the brutality of some kings and government officials.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God had made promises to Abraham which included an enduring posterity.**

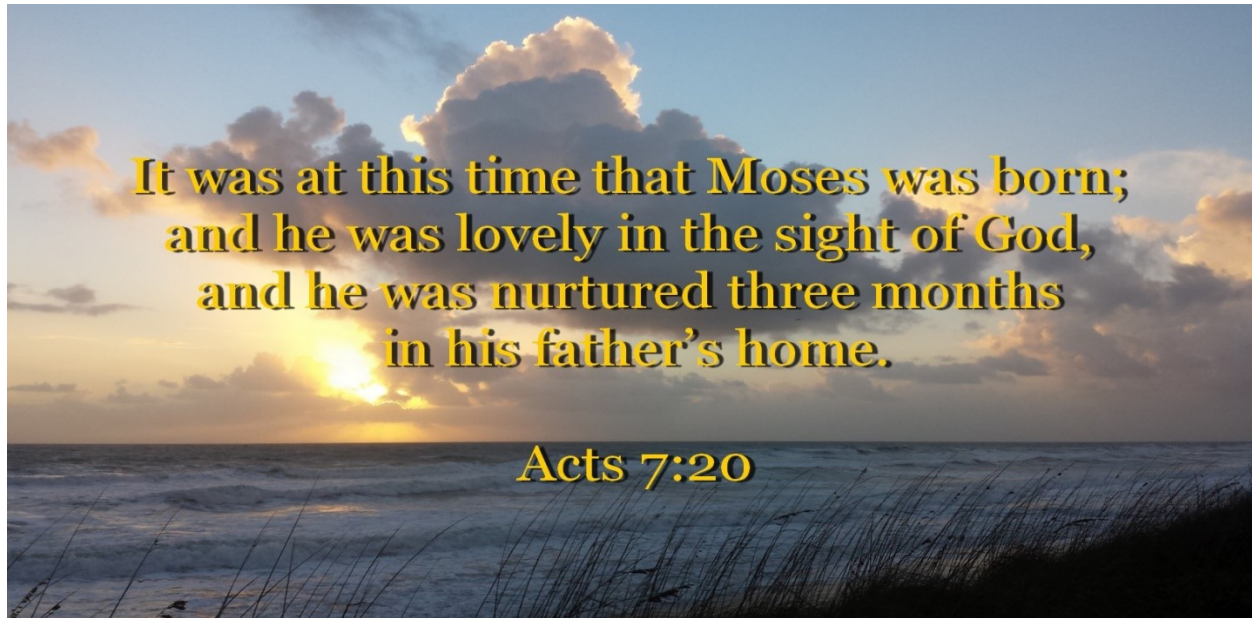
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to preserve the people of Israel as His own possession. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to keep His promises, even when kings kill the infants by promoting abortion?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 213

Moses Today



When was Moses born? Moses was born during this time where the infants of Israel were condemned to death.

The parents of Moses loved their son. Moses was lovely in the sight of God. He was nurtured three months in his father's home. God had great plans for Moses.

The king of Egypt had decreed that the infants of Israel must be exposed, intending their death. The people of Israel had multiplied rapidly in Egypt. The new king knew nothing about Joseph and the great help he had been to all of Egypt. The new king only saw the danger posed by the multitude of the people of Israel. Strangers living in his kingdom with strange practices and strange religion concerned the new king. He took decisive action to stop the growth of the people of Israel inside Egypt.

Moses was born at just the right time. The campaign against the people of Israel had begun in earnest by the new king. He started by exposing their infants so that they would perish. The new king, however, intended more

than limiting population growth of the people of Israel. He intended to enslave them permanently.

Nurtured

1. **Time**. What time was Moses born? Moses was born during the time of infants being killed.

2. **Moses**. God had selected Moses to lead the people of Israel.

3. **Lovely**. Moses was lovely in the sight of God.

4. **Nurtured**. Moses was nurtured three months in his father's home.

5. **Months**. During those three months, Moses escaped for a while from being exposed to the elements.

6. **Father's**. Living holy in the family of God means that living in your father's home provides a nurturing atmosphere for growth and development.

7. **Home**. We rejoice today because Jesus has prepared a place in His Father's house in heaven for every believer to live with Jesus and be nurtured there.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Moses was lovely in the sight of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He nurtures us every day.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking forward to the day when Jesus will receive us in heaven and we will live in His Father's eternal house.**

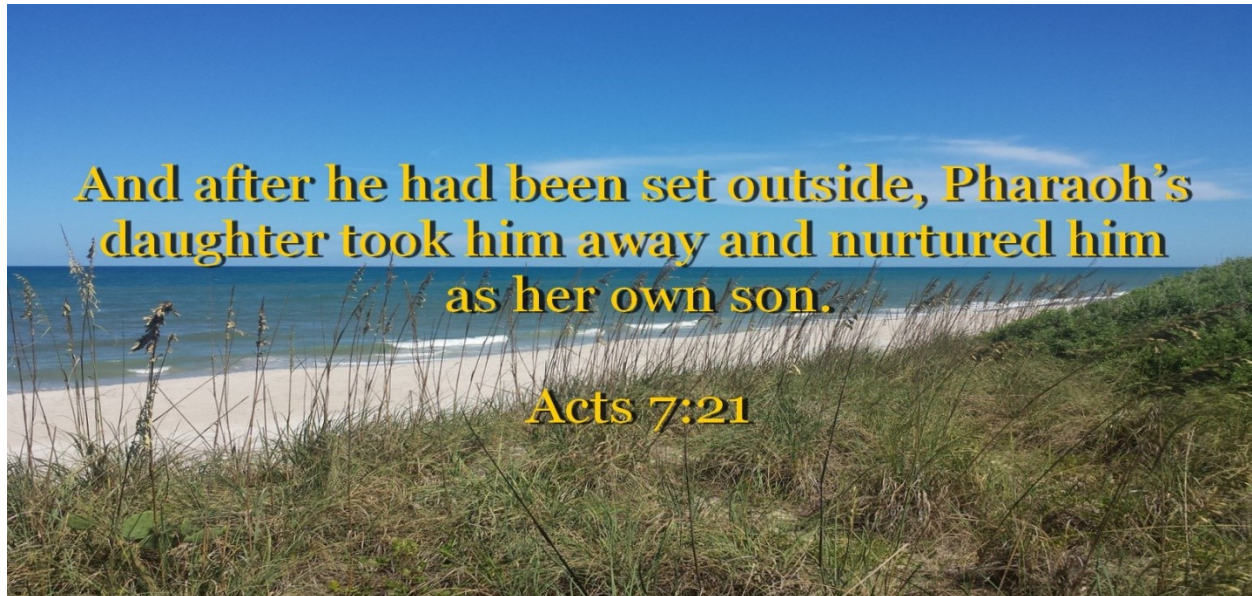
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving God for being our Father and He calls all of His children beloved. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for being your eternal Father?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 214

Pharaoh's Daughter Today



Who raised Moses? The daughter of Pharaoh raised Moses as her own son.

Pharaoh issued a decree that all the Hebrew children should be exposed so that they would die. Moses was set among the bullrushes and the daughter of Pharaoh found him, nurtured him, and raised him as her own son.

While her father Pharaoh sought to kill Hebrew infants, the daughter of Pharaoh raised the Hebrew boy who would deliver the people of Israel from the land of Egypt and the grasp of Pharaoh. Moses received the best of everything growing up in the household of the daughter of Pharaoh. The deliverer of the people of Israel grew up among the elite of Egypt.

Stephen summarized the story of Moses with the intention of showing the religious Council the supernatural works of God in the life of Moses. Stephen displayed not only great knowledge of the history of Israel, but also a keen sense of how to weave a narrative together to convict the religious

Council of its wrongs. The religious Council never knew the God of Moses, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Nourished

1. **Set**. How did Moses survive the elements? God sent a woman to rescue him and raise him.

2. **Outside**. The new king commanded that all the infants of Israel be exposed to the elements, knowing they would die.

3. **Pharaoh's**. Pharaoh's daughter found Moses exposed and she took Moses to safety.

4. **Daughter**. The woman who found Moses was the daughter of Pharaoh, the very man who sought to kill all the infants of Israel.

5. **Took**. She took Moses and treated him as her own son.

6. **Nurtured**. Living holy in the family of God means that Pharaoh's daughter nurtured Moses and saved his life.

7. **Own**. We rejoice today because the king meant to kill Moses and other infants, but God sent the daughter of Pharaoh to save Moses and have him raised with the best Egypt had to offer.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how God used the daughter of Pharaoh to rescue Moses.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by loving God for the way He helps people and sends people to nurture them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for nurturing us and saving us from certain spiritual death.**

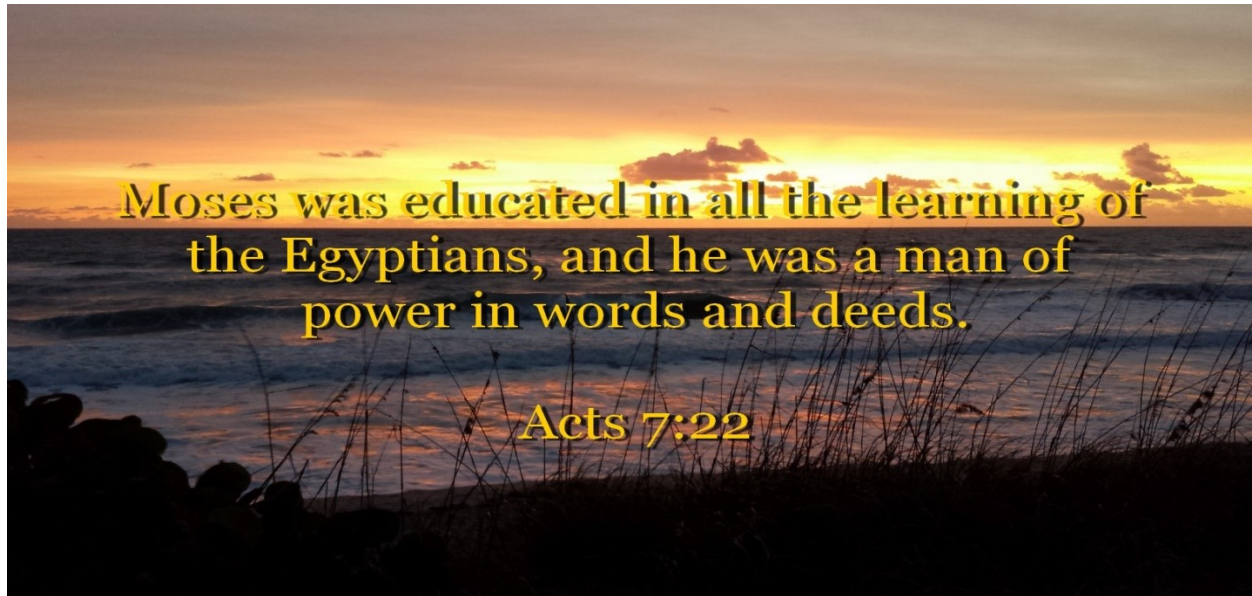
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking Jesus for rescuing us and nurturing us as His own children. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for adopting you into His family?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 215

Educated Today



What kind of man was Moses? Moses was highly educated and a powerful man in words and deeds.

Stephen described Moses for the benefit of the religious Council. Summarizing the high points of the life of Moses showed how God used Moses to deliver his people.

God spared the life of Moses at a time when many Hebrew infants were dying under the command of Pharaoh. Not only did God spare the life of Moses, he magnified Moses in the sight of men. Moses benefited from great learning from the Egyptians, skilled in mathematics and rhetoric.

Moses did not rely upon his ability to talk, because he told God that he had a thick tongue when God asked him to go talk to Pharaoh. Yet, Stephen summarized Moses as a man of power with words. Moses received the power of words from God and no one can stand against the words of God.

Stephen knew that the religious Council had many educated men sitting in judgment upon him. Stephen knew the charges against him were

total lies and fabrications of all kinds. Stephen proclaimed Christ to the religious Council, using the lives of Abraham, Moses and others.

Power

1. **Moses**. How was Moses raised in Egypt? Moses was raised as a royal son.
2. **Educated**. Moses was educated in all the learning of Egypt.
3. **Learning**. He learned about mathematics, astronomy, geometry and many other matters known to the Egyptians.
4. **Egyptians**. The Egyptians were highly skilled and technologically advanced people.
5. **Power**. Moses had different kinds of power.
6. **Words**. Living holy in the family of God means that Moses had power with words, even when he was reluctant, at times, to speak up for God.
7. **Deeds**. We rejoice today because Moses was also powerful in deeds.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Moses was well educated and powerful in words and deeds.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by knowing God will raise up leaders from the most unusual sources with the most unusual backgrounds.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for educating us in His ways and letting us walk in His ways by grace through faith and obedience.**

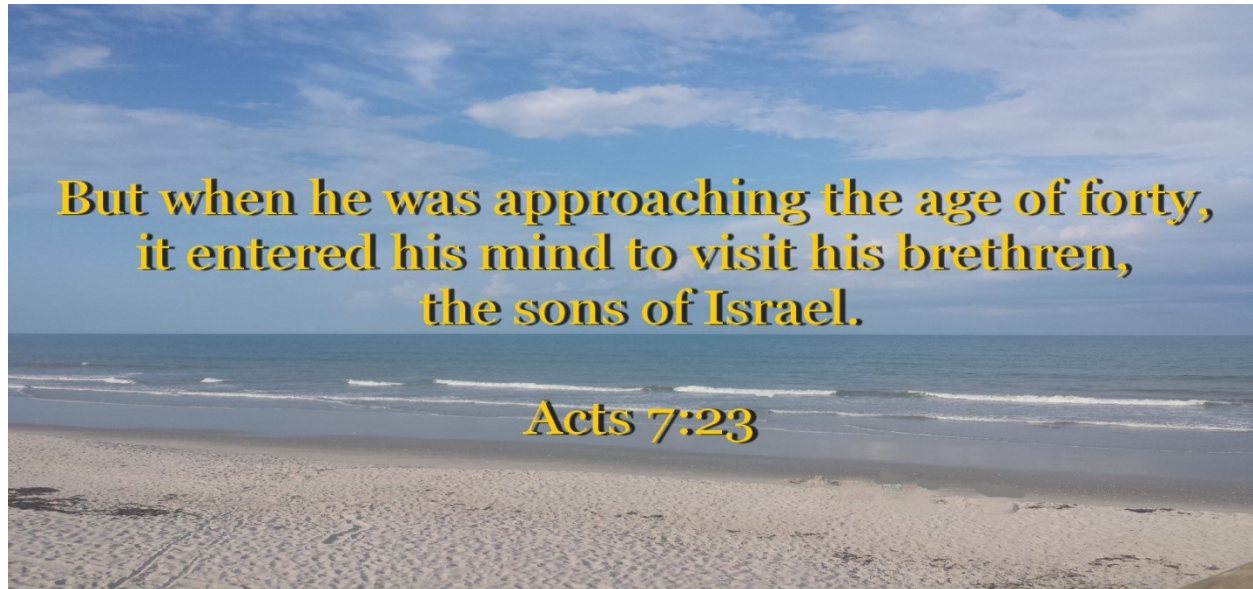
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to provide education and power only He can provide. Will you live holy in the family of God today by handling the Scriptures, as a workman skilled in his craft?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 216

Visit Today



What happened when Moses turned forty? He decided to visit the sons of Israel.

Stephen was highly selective about the material he recounted to the religious Council. For example, he left out large parts of the life of Moses. Instead, Stephen focused upon the parts that would be most helpful for the religious leaders to understand their sin regarding Jesus the Nazarene, the Messiah and Savior of the world.

Stephen said that it entered Moses's mind to visit his brethren. Moses had been raised in Egypt by the daughter of Pharaoh. He had been educated in all the knowledge of the Egyptians. Moses was a man of power in words and deeds.

Moses had two major turning points of his life. At age forty, he visited his brethren. This event had life-changing implications. At age eighty, Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt by the power of God working in him.

God brings certain times into our lives as well. In a single day, our lives can change forever, for good or for bad. Yet, God always remains in control

and directs our lives to His glory, as we submit to Him, no matter what we did yesterday.

Brethren

1. **When**. When Moses approached forty years of age, he decided to visit his brethren, the people of Israel.

2. **Forty**. The life of Moses changed when he turned forty, and it would change again when he reached eighty. At one hundred twenty years of age, Moses died.

3. **Mind**. The thought to visit his brethren entered his mind around age forty.

4. **Visit**. Moses was raised by a daughter of Pharaoh and lived among the Egyptians. He was well educated and he understood the ways of Pharaoh.

5. **His**. Moses was Jewish and identified the people of Israel as his brethren.

6. **Brethren**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Moses was raised in Egypt by the Egyptians in the house of Pharaoh by the daughter of Pharaoh. Even so, he thought of the people of Israel as his brethren and longed to deliver them from slavery in Egypt.

7. **Israel**. We rejoice today because God chose Moses to deliver His people from bondage in Egypt. God always keeps His promises and the people of Israel would be delivered from Egypt, but the time for deliverance had not yet come.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Moses visiting his brethren at age forty.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never considering ourselves too young or too old to do God's will.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by seeking God's will for our lives no matter what we have done with our lives up to this point in time.**

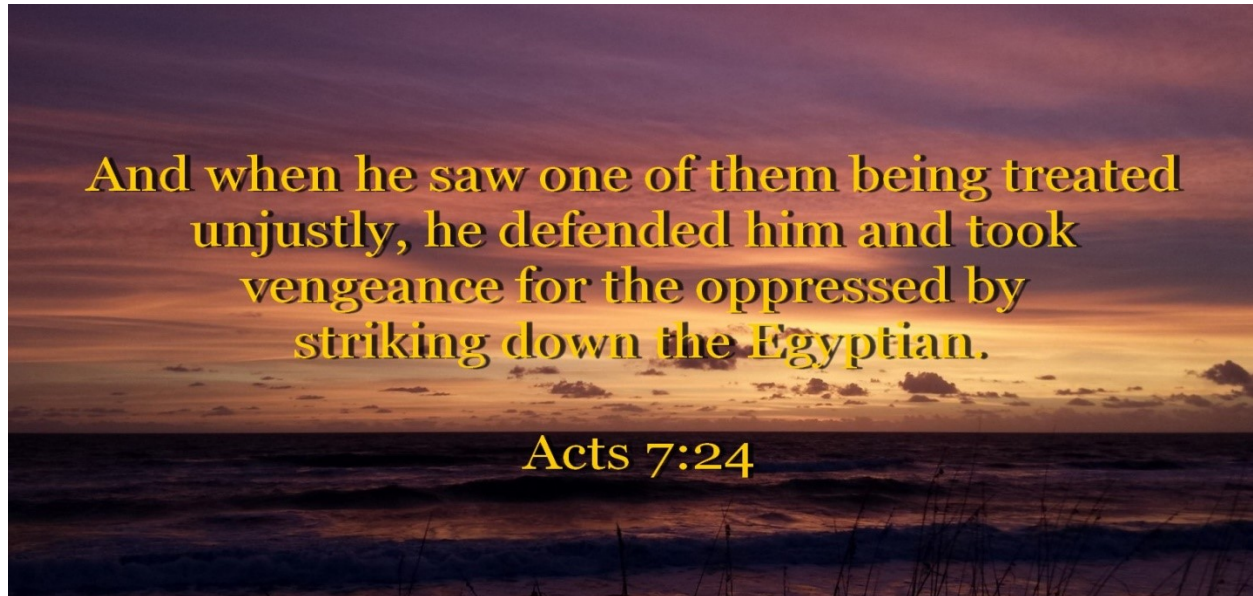
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Moses initiated contact with his brethren at forty years of age. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following God's plans for your life, no matter how old you are?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 217

Unjustly Today



What provoked Moses to action? Moses saw one of his brethren being treated unjustly.

Stephen focused upon the major change in Moses' life at age forty. He struck down the Egyptian and his life changed forever. Up until that time, Moses lived with the Egyptians and knew their ways. All that was going to change that day when he struck down the Egyptian.

Moses took vengeance that day. He paid back the Egyptian for the unjust act he did to the man of Israel. Moses was deeply provoked and acted spontaneously. One act changed Moses and his relationship to the Egyptians and to the people of Israel.

Moses took vengeance upon that man oppressing the people of Israel. Moses hoped that the people of Israel could see that he was defending them and helping them. Moses struck down one man as a symbol of God striking down the people Egypt for their oppression of the people of God. The people of Israel disowned Moses. They were not yet willing to be rescued by God

through Moses, who had a lot to learn about himself and leading other people.

Oppressed

1. **He**. When he saw oppression, what did Moses do? Moses took immediate action.

2. **Saw**. Moses saw an Egyptian oppressing a man of Israel.

3. **Unjustly**. The Egyptian treated the Hebrew unjustly and Moses felt compelled to act.

4. **Defended**. Moses immediately came to the defense of the Hebrew and took physical action.

5. **Vengeance**. Moses took personal vengeance upon the Egyptian, thinking he was acting righteously and showing the Hebrew his real intentions.

6. **Oppressed**. Living holy in the family of God means that Moses wanted to help the oppressed Hebrews.

7. **Striking**. We rejoice today because God helps the oppressed, but some people disowned Moses as he sought to help them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the zeal of Moses.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God helps the oppressed and sends help to them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon God to take vengeance, for vengeance belongs to God and He will repay.**

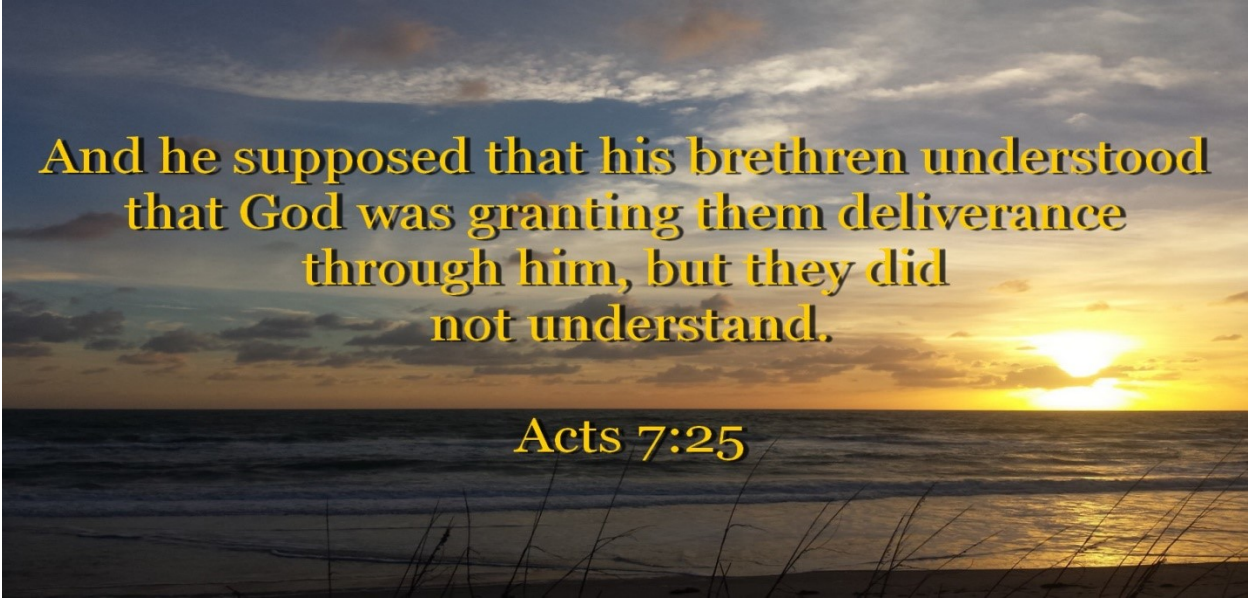
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Moses struck down a man. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God sends help, often through one deliverer?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 218

Supposed Today

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow that reflects on the water. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. In the foreground, there are some dark, silhouetted reeds or grasses. Overlaid on the image is the text "And he supposed that his brethren understood that God was granting them deliverance through him, but they did not understand." in a yellow, serif font.

And he supposed that his brethren understood
that God was granting them deliverance
through him, but they did
not understand.

Acts 7:25

What did Moses suppose? Moses supposed that his brethren would understand that God was granting them deliverance through Moses.

Moses was sadly mistaken. He struck down the Egyptian abusing the man of Israel. He thought that the people would understand he was trying to help them and rescue them and deliver them from Egypt. They were suffering greatly under the burden of the Egyptian government. He had the power to help them. The people of Israel disowned Moses on the spot.

When we suppose things are true, just because we want them to be true, that does not make them true. Moses wanted to show the people of Israel that he was on their side and ready to fight for them. In fact, Moses wanted to lead the people of Israel and deliver them from the bondage of Egypt. He thought that his symbolic act of striking down the Egyptian would communicate his intentions of deliverance quite clearly. Moses had much to learn about how God would use him to lead the people of Israel out of bondage in Egypt. The people of Israel were not yet willing to accept Moses as a ruler and judge for them.

Deliverance

1. **He**. What did Moses suppose? Moses supposed that the people of Israel would understand he wanted to help them.

2. **Supposed**. Moses supposed that the people of Israel would interpret correctly his act of vengeance against the Egyptian.

3. **His**. Although raised in Egypt by Egyptians, Moses considered the people of Israel his brethren.

4. **Brethren**. When Moses saw an Egyptian persecuting the man of Israel, Moses leapt to his defense.

5. **Understood**. Moses hoped the people of Israel would understand the true significance of his decision to strike down the Egyptian who harmed the man of Israel.

6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that Moses thought he was clearly communicating to the people of Israel that God had sent him to be their deliverer from the oppression of Egypt.

7. **Deliverance**. We rejoice today because God eventually used Moses to deliver the people of Israel from oppression in Egypt, but the people of Israel disowned him as a ruler and leader sent by God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Moses had good motive and high hopes when he defended the man of Israel.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Moses took vengeance upon the man oppressing the people of Israel.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by helping people in need, but understanding that the oppressed people may disown God's leader He sent to deliver them.**

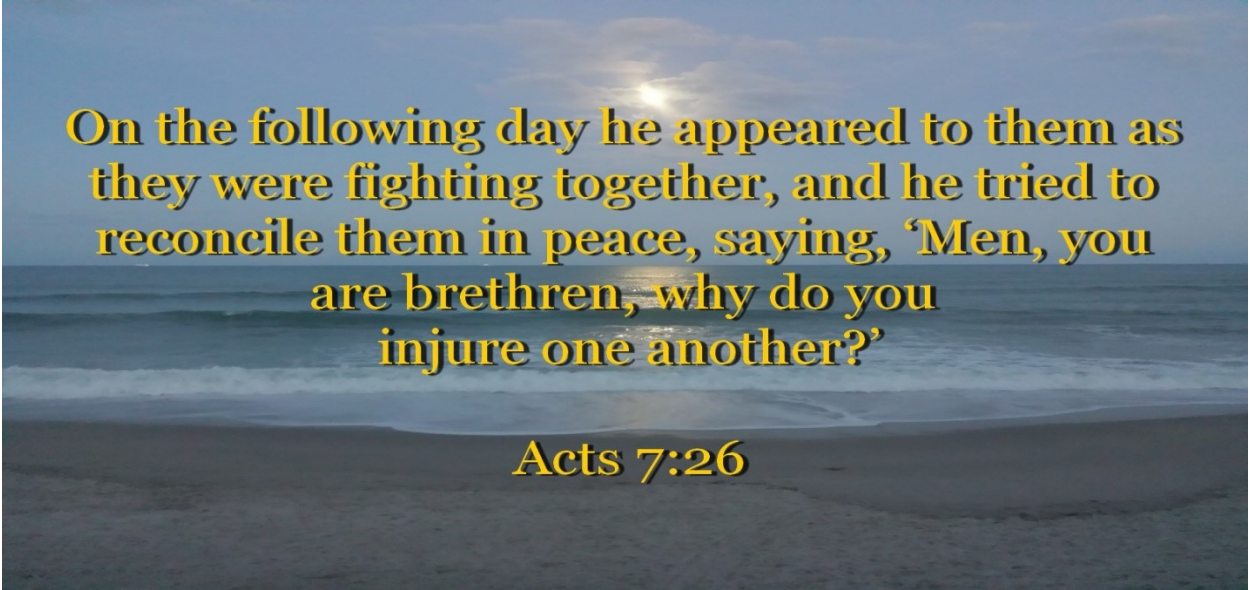
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God would use Moses to lead the people of Israel out of the oppression of Egypt. The people of Israel got off to a rocky start with Moses and they had to suffer for forty more years. Will you live holy in the family of God today by letting God guide you, even when people reject the help of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 219

Reconcile Today



On the following day he appeared to them as they were fighting together, and he tried to reconcile them in peace, saying, 'Men, you are brethren, why do you injure one another?'

Acts 7:26

What happened on the following day? Moses found two men of Israel fighting with each other.

Moses appeared to them as they were fighting with each other. He tried to reconcile them in peace. He came with the best of intentions. He asked them why they were trying to injure one another.

Moses saw himself as the deliverer of the people of Israel. He had been well trained by the Egyptians. He enjoyed the favor of Pharaoh's household. Yet, he was unknown to the people of Israel.

God had already told Abraham that his descendants would be enslaved and then set free to go to the Promised Land. Moses viewed himself as the person to take the people out of Egypt. Moses had reached forty years of age, but had struck down an Egyptian the day before and changed his life and his relationship with the people of Israel. They now saw Moses as a man who had taken personal vengeance upon an Egyptian.

Moses had much to learn about leadership. God would direct him and shape him to be the leader of Israel. He was the man God sent to Pharaoh to secure their release from bondage.

Brethren

1. **Following**. Why did Moses return to the Hebrews? He wanted to work things out with them.
2. **Appeared**. Moses appeared to them while they were fighting.
3. **Fighting**. The Hebrews were fighting with each other.
4. **Reconcile**. Moses tried to reconcile the men fighting. He came again with the best of intentions, but met unexpected obstacles.
5. **Men**. Moses asked them a simple question.
6. **Why**. Living holy in the family of God means that God sends people to meet other people at just the right time. God sent Moses to the men fighting each other to ask them why they were fighting each other.
7. **Injure**. We rejoice today because God was taking the first steps in the life of Moses to help him deliver the Hebrews from the oppression of Egypt. God started with Moses trying to reconcile Hebrews fighting among themselves and one injuring the other.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by seeking reconciliation between people injuring one another.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some people fighting one another may not take kindly to an intruder seeking to reconcile them to each other.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Moses tried to reconcile the Hebrews fighting with each other.**

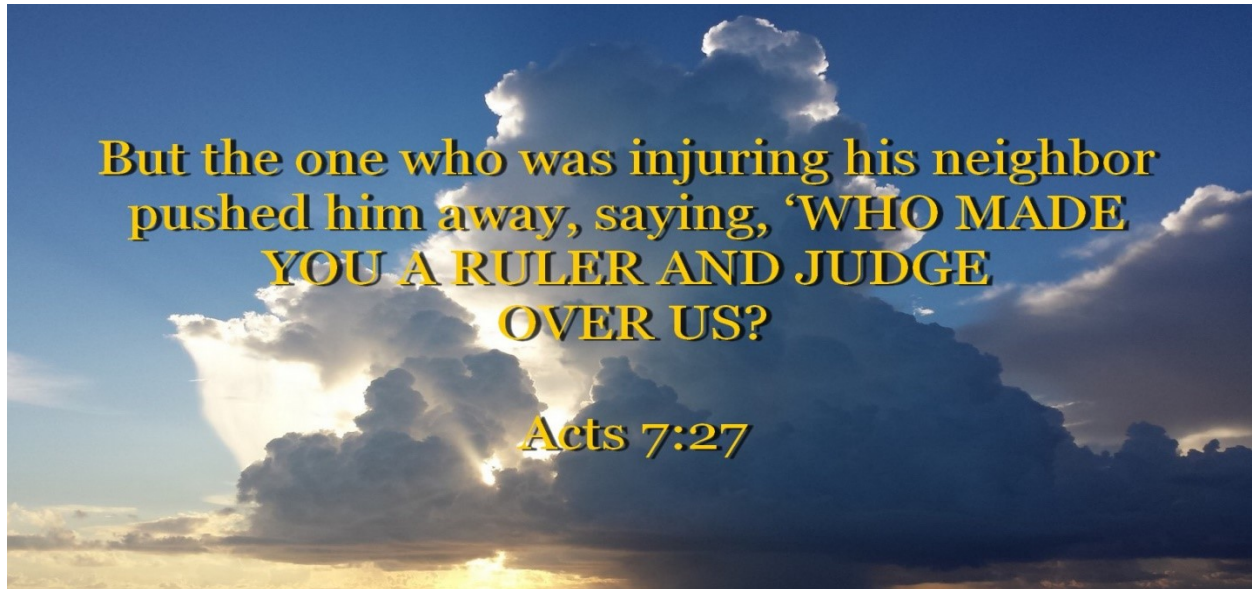
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Moses as he tried to reconcile Hebrews fighting among themselves. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Moses first killed an Egyptian and then tried to reconcile Hebrews injuring one another?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 220

Ruler Today



What happened when Moses tried to reconcile the two men fighting? They rejected the help of Moses.

As the two men of Israel were fighting with each other, Moses tried to separate them and reconcile them. The day before, Moses had slain an Egyptian in vengeance for what that Egyptian had done to a man of Israel. News traveled fast and the people of Israel saw Moses in a very different light.

When he appeared to them the next day, the men fighting asked Moses an important question. They wanted to know who had made Moses a ruler and a judge over the people of Israel. They communicated to Moses loudly and clearly that they did not want his help and they disowned him on the spot.

What Moses had meant for good the day before now turned into a problem the next day. The very people he was trying to deliver from Egypt now disowned him. Moses had a lot to learn about leadership. God would use Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, but first he would spend the next forty years as an alien in Midian.

Judge

1. **One**. How did the people fighting one another respond to Moses trying to help them? One man asked Moses an important question.
2. **Injuring**. One Hebrew was injuring another Hebrew as they were fighting each other.
3. **Neighbor**. One neighbor was fighting another neighbor, with injuries.
4. **Pushed**. The one injuring his brother pushed him away and confronted Moses with a question.
5. **Who**. The Hebrew asked about who made Moses a ruler and judge.
6. **Ruler**. Living holy in the family of God means that God sends both judges and rulers to His people, but sometimes His people do not recognize their judges and leaders immediately.
7. **Judge**. We rejoice today because Moses would act as a judge of the Hebrews, but his day as ruler and judge of the Hebrews had not yet arrived and was yet forty years in the future.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God means we must be careful and about trying to be a ruler and judge of other people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following God's plans and God's leading.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Moses trying to reconcile Hebrew neighbors fighting among themselves, but met stiff resistance.**

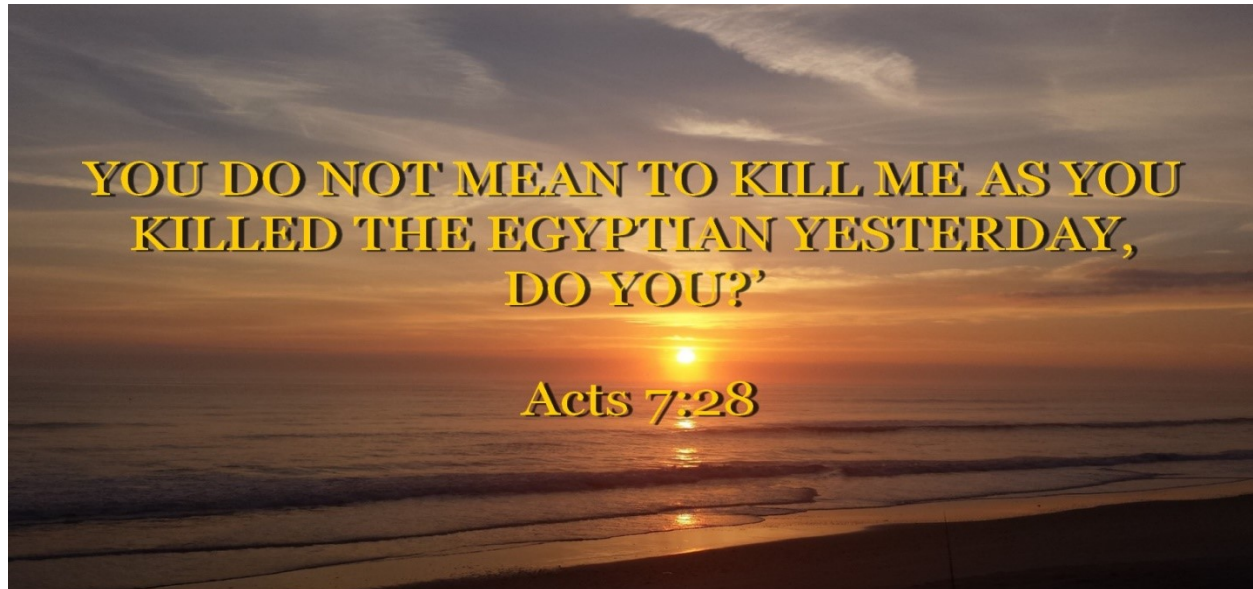
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by learning from Moses what it takes to be a ruler and judge of men. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following God's plan for your life and understanding oppressed people may disown God's chosen deliverer standing right before them?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 221

Kill Today



What did a Hebrew ask Moses? The Hebrew asked Moses if he was going to kill him too.

Moses intervened in a fight between two Hebrews. With the best of intentions, Moses sought to reconcile the two men. One had inflicted harm upon his neighbor as they were fighting.

Moses thought of himself as the deliver appointed by God to help the people of Israel escape the bondage of Egypt. Therefore, when he saw an Egyptian hurting a Hebrew unjustly, Moses killed the Egyptian on the spot. Moses did not understand the implications of that act until the next day.

The next day he saw the two Hebrews fighting with each other. At times in our lives we understand the implications of certain acts only after some time has passed. For Moses, the next day showed him the far-reaching implications of his vengeance upon the Egyptian.

As the two men fought, the Hebrew first asked Moses who made him their judge and ruler. Then that man said are you going to kill me to like you killed the Egyptian yesterday? Moses instantly comprehended the effect of

his vengeance yesterday upon the people of Israel as they saw him the next day.

Yesterday

1. **You**. What did the Egyptian say about yesterday? He said that Moses killed the Egyptian yesterday.

2. **Kill**. The Hebrew then asked his own question about whether Moses was going to kill him too?

3. **Me**. The Hebrew forcefully reminded Moses about killing the Egyptian yesterday and asked “Are you going to kill me too?”

4. **Killed**. Moses had killed the Egyptian yesterday. He thought the people of Israel would hail him as a leader and deliverer.

5. **Egyptian**. Instead, the Hebrew reminded him of the murder yesterday and implied that Moses might kill him too.

6. **Yesterday**. Living holy in the family of God means that what we did yesterday creates impressions with people that last for a long time.

7. **You**. We rejoice today because God loves you and wants to deliver you from oppression even after you first disowned the Deliverer He sent to you yesterday. Jesus died for all the sinful things we did yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that what we did yesterday will always affect our tomorrow, but for the grace of God in our lives.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that people remember what we said and did yesterday.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that he knows every yesterday, today and tomorrow and still loves us.**

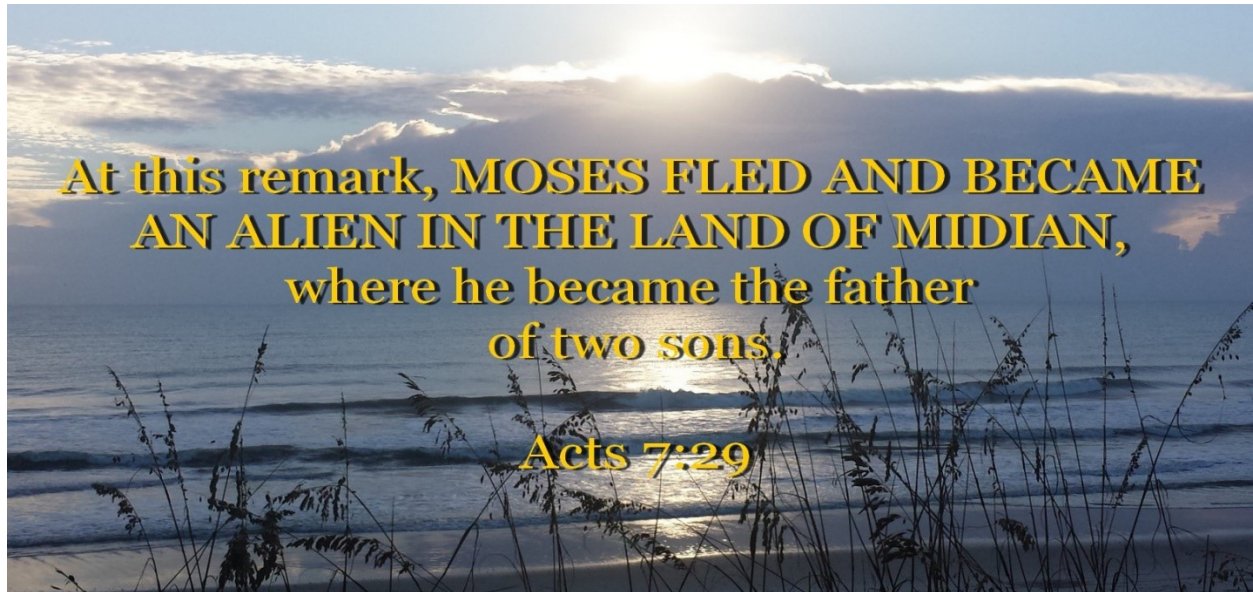
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving God today so that as we look back upon yesterday we see the glory of God at work in our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by glorifying God today so that tomorrow yesterday will look good?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 222

Fled Today



What did Moses do when he heard the remark? Moses fled.

Moses enjoyed the pleasures of Egypt. In a moment in time, he changed all that forever. When Moses struck down the Egyptian for harming the Hebrew, Moses changed his life. The people of Israel did not recognize the deliverer God had sent to them.

Moses particularly changed the perception of the Hebrews towards him. He thought of himself as sent by God to help deliver the Hebrews from the bondage of Egypt. By killing the Egyptian in an act of vengeance, the Hebrews now feared Moses would do the same to them. They did not view Moses as a deliverer, but as a slayer. Yet, they had disowned the deliverer sent by God.

Moses had a lot to learn about becoming a leader for God. Being a leader for God means he must always follow God's leading, no matter how people respond to God. Moses had begun to learn that God loves people who can be very stubborn about living in oppression.

Moses left Egypt and became an alien in the land of Midian. You may recall that the brothers of Joseph sold him to the Midianites who in turn sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt. Now Moses had gone to the Midianites fleeing Egypt and the people of God. In God's time, Moses would return to Egypt.

Midian

1. **Remark.** What did he do when he heard the Hebrew's question? Moses fled.

2. **Moses.** Moses understood that the Hebrews had disowned him because he acted in vengeance. News about yesterday traveled widely and quickly.

3. **Fled.** Moses also understood that the Egyptian government would be looking for him and so he fled out of the country.

4. **Alien.** Moses became an alien in Midian.

5. **Midian.** Midian had been a great enemy of the people of Israel and the patriarchs had sold Joseph to some Midianites who sold him into slavery in Egypt.

6. **Father.** Living holy in the family of God means that life goes on even after people living in oppression reject God and His deliverance.

7. **Sons.** We rejoice today because Moses became the father of Gershom and Eliezer. Moses called the firstborn Gershom, because Moses said he had been a sojourner in a foreign land.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He forgives us for initially disowning His Deliverer, Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Moses fled after the people of Israel disowned him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by learning that some people love oppression more than deliverance provided by God.**

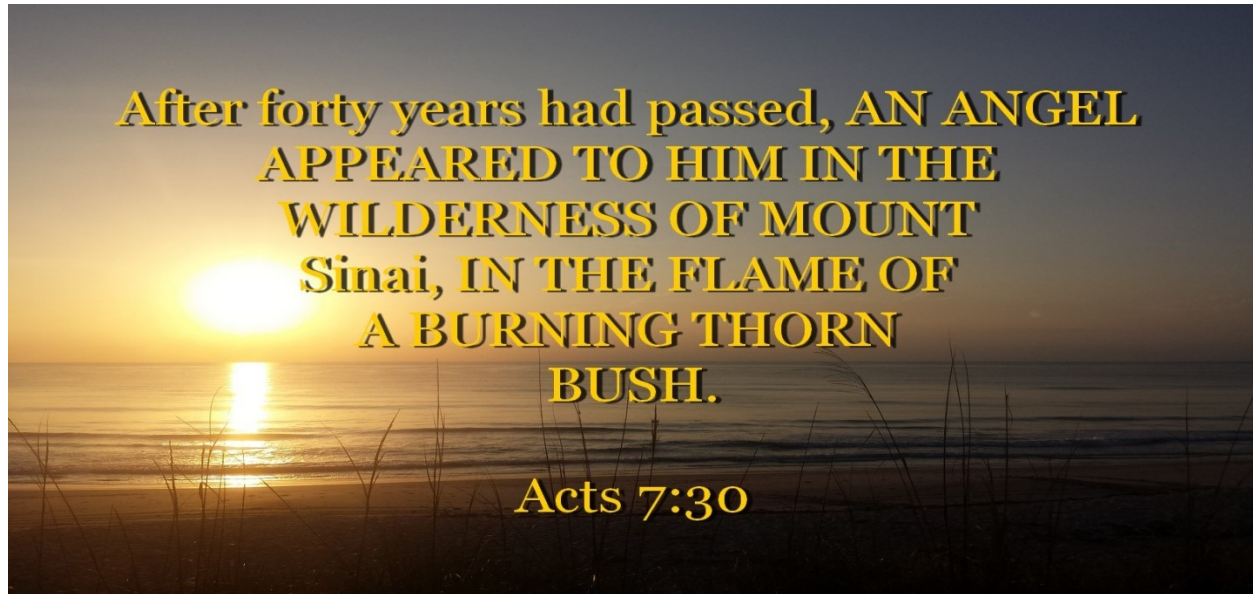
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving God for His kindness, mercy and grace in our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by forgiving people who have fled away from you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 223

Angel Today



How long did Moses live as an alien in Midian? Moses lived the next forty years in Midian.

God has a marvelous way of changing our lives. After forty years in Midian, living as an alien, God appeared to Moses in the wilderness of Mount Sinai. Moses saw God in the flame of a burning thorn bush.

Moses spent forty years in the land of Midian. The people of Israel suffered another forty years of oppression in Egypt during that time. Moses had learned some valuable lessons and the time had come for God to use Moses to deliver the people of Israel from bondage in Egypt.

Moses had to learn to walk behind God and deal with the sin of the people of Israel. Now the time had come where God appeared to Moses in the burning bush. Moses would be summoned to service, following God every step of the way. God would use Moses to deliver the people of Israel from the bondage of Egypt.

Sometimes we have forty years to learn lessons from God about living in the wilderness. God will always use us when the time is right and we submit ourselves to His leadership. We must be patient and faithful.

Burning

1. **After**. When did God speak directly to Moses? After forty years in the wilderness of Midian.

2. **Forty**. Moses fled Egypt at forty years of age, after killing the Egyptian and the people of Israel disowned him as leader and judge.

3. **Angel**. An angel of God appeared to Moses in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.

4. **Mt. Sinai**. Mount Sinai would be a very important place throughout the life of Moses.

5. **Flame**. A thorn bush burned with a flame, but was not consumed.

6. **Burning**. Living holy in the family of God means that God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and got his attention.

7. **Bush**. We rejoice today because that burning bush signaled a major turning point in the life of Moses and the ground he stood upon was holy ground.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the burning bush where God spoke to Moses.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some places in our lives will always have spiritual significance to us because God did something special at that place.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His divine plans communicated to us at the right time and right place.**

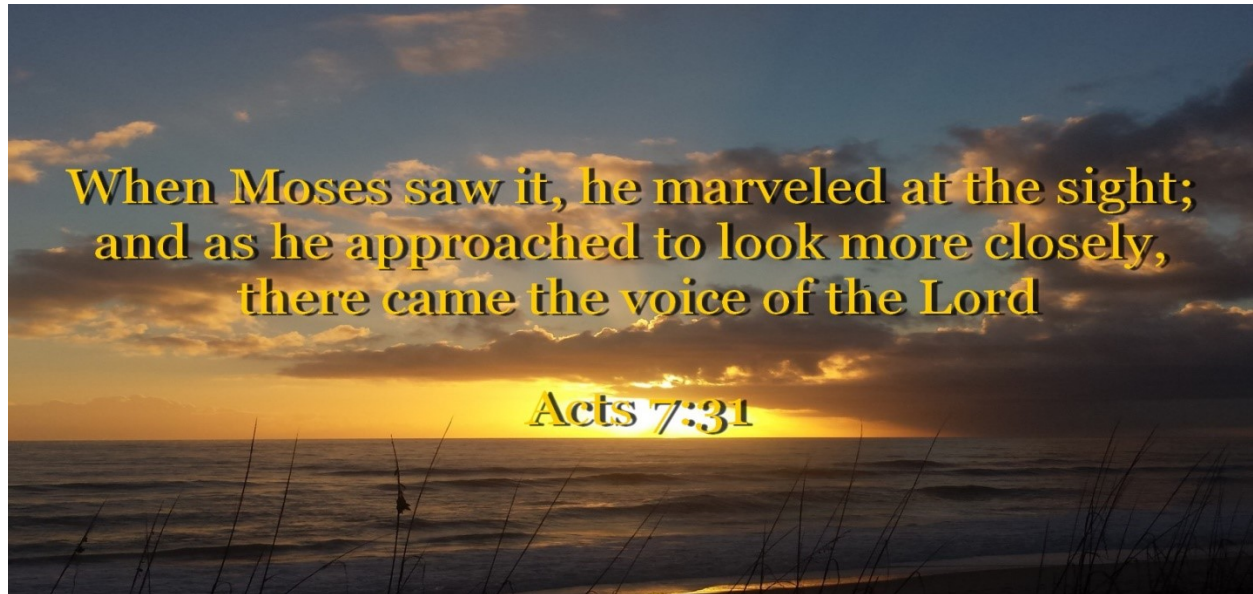
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He loves to meet us and talk with us and lead us in spectacular ways. Will you live holy in the family of God today by listening to God speaking to you through the Scriptures?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 224

Marveled Today



What did Moses see? As Moses saw the burning bush, he marveled at the sight.

After forty years of living in Midian as an alien, God appeared to Moses at the burning bush. Moses had fled Egypt because he had killed an Egyptian in hot blood. Moses then waited forty years in exile, but God chose the time to put him into service as the man to deliver the people of Israel from bondage in Egypt.

God chose a burning bush to gain Moses' attention. As Moses approached that bush, he heard the voice of Yahweh coming from the bush. God got Moses' attention in a spectacular way. Moses must have known at that instant that God had a special purpose for him.

For more than forty years Moses wanted to deliver the people of Israel from the bondage in Egypt. Moses was raised as an Egyptian, including the finest education they could offer. Yet, when Moses showed the people of Israel he was there to deliver them from bondage in Egypt, they disowned

him. They did not recognize Moses as the leader and ruler sent by God to deliver them from the bondage of Egypt.

Voice

1. **Moses**. What made Moses marvel? Moses marveled at the sight of the burning bush.

2. **Saw**. He saw the bush burning and it caught his attention.

3. **Marveled**. As Moses looked at it, he marveled because he knew something special was going on with that bush.

4. **Approached**. Moses then approached the bush and drew closer to have a better look.

5. **Look**. As Moses approached to look more closely, a voice came out of that bush burning with fire.

6. **Voice**. Living holy in the family of God means that God drew Moses to Himself through the burning bush so that He could talk with Moses up close and personal in a wilderness.

7. **Lord**. We rejoice today because Jesus as Lord spoke to Moses and changed his life forever, drawing Moses into service to lead the people of Israel out of captivity in Egypt.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the voice of the Lord calling to Moses.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God calls us to serve Him in very unique ways and in very unique places.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His calling of each individual believer by name to salvation and service for Him.**

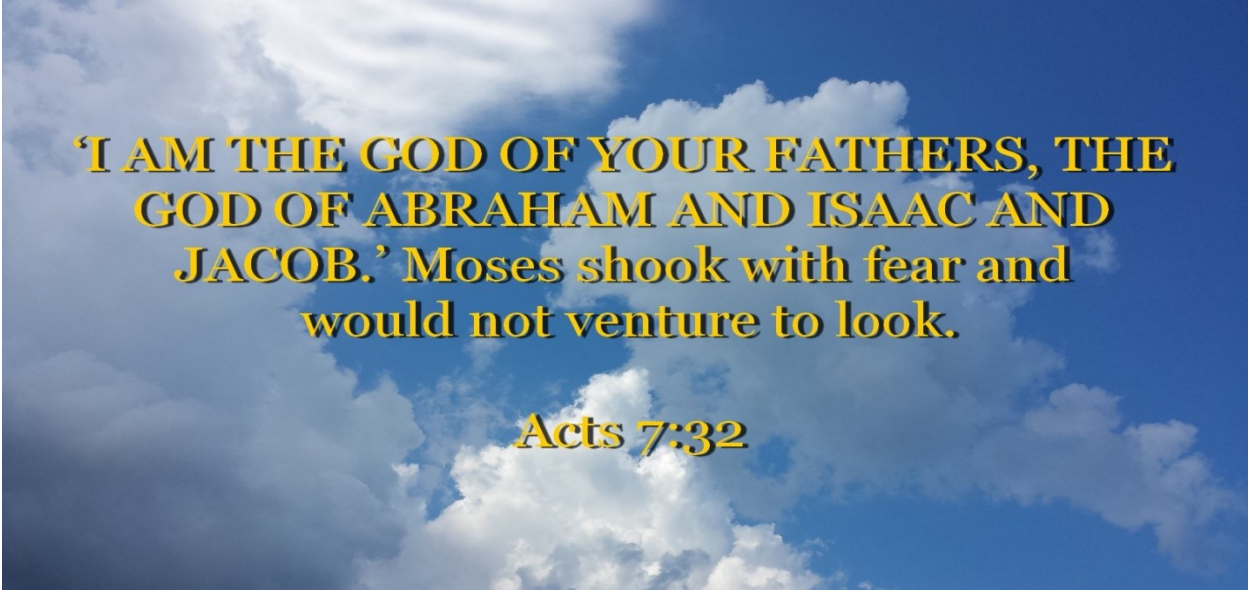
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by listening to God speak to us through His Word and preparing us for service. Will you live holy in the family of God today by walking worthy of His calling in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 225

God Today



**'I AM THE GOD OF YOUR FATHERS, THE
GOD OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC AND
JACOB.' Moses shook with fear and
would not venture to look.**

Acts 7:32

How did God identify Himself to Moses? God said, "I am the God of your father."

Genealogy makes a difference to God. God called Himself the Father of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. In the New Testament, Jesus said that God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He used that Old Testament passage to prove that God is the God of the living and not of the dead, for they all live to Him. In other words, Jesus said that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were still living, even after their bodies had died on earth.

Moses had lived as an alien in Midian long enough. God chose the time and the place to change Moses' life again. Moses was ready for service to God as a judge, a ruler and a deliverer for the people of Israel. Moses still had that memory of what had happened in Egypt. He lived in Midian as an alien, just like Abraham had lived in the Promised Land as an alien. Moses knew what it was like to live in Egypt and Midian, but he had never lived in the Promised Land and never would during his lifetime on earth. We know that all the saints will reign with Jesus in Jerusalem in the Promised Land for one thousand years in the future.

Fear

1. **I Am**. What title did God use for Himself? God declared Himself to be the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.
2. **God**. God spoke from the burning bush to Moses directly.
3. **Moses**. Hearing the voice of God and seeing the burning bush overwhelmed Moses.
4. **Shook**. Moses actually shook with fear in the presence of God and hearing His voice and seeing the bush burn.
5. **Fear**. Many people feared God when they became aware of His immediate presence, just like Moses feared God at the burning bush.
6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that Moses would not even look at God because of the fear that gripped him.
7. **Look**. We rejoice today because we can look upon God through the pages of Scripture and see there God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for calling Moses to Himself at the burning bush and talking with Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding God as someone Who creates tremendous fear in the people He draws near to His presence.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that we are secure in Jesus and can draw near to God through Jesus, the only way to the Father.**

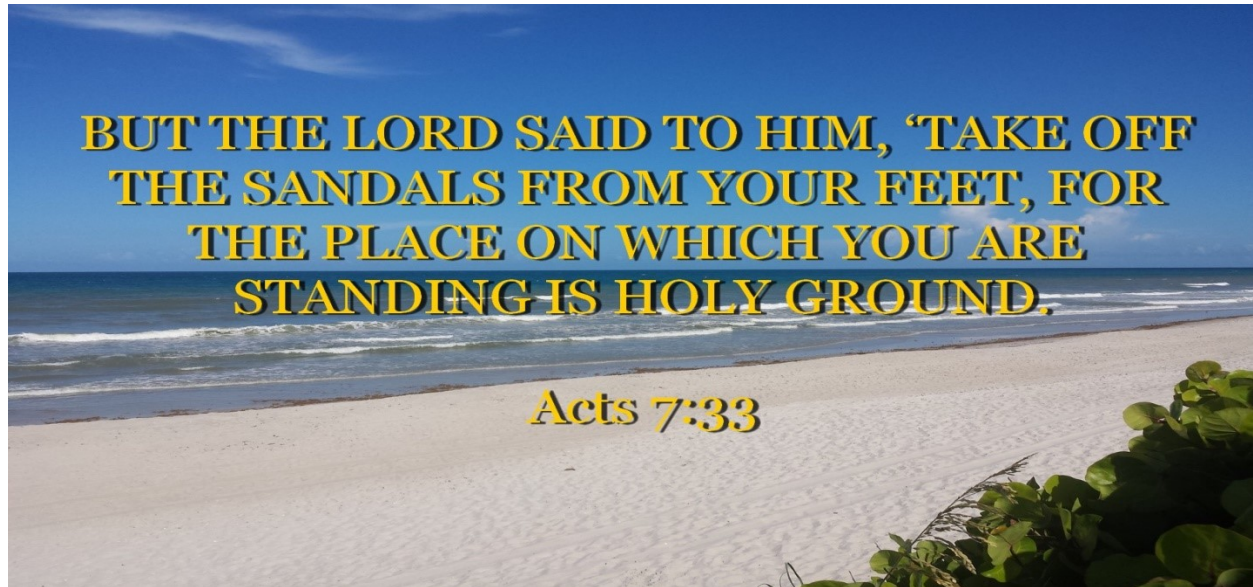
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Moses met the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the burning bush and shook with fear so that he would not look upon God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for His Holy presence in our lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 226

The Place Today



Why did Yahweh tell Moses to take off his sandals? Yahweh told Moses to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground.

For more than forty years Moses thought of himself as a deliver sent by God to lead the people of Israel out of bondage in Egypt. Moses had spent the last forty years as an alien in Midian because the people of Israel had disowned him. That single act did not prove to the people of Israel that he was their God-appointed leader. In fact, they rejected Moses on the spot.

Moses then spent the next forty years in the land of Midian. One day he saw a bush burning in the wilderness near Mount Sinai. The sight caught Moses' attention and he drew near to the bush. A voice came forth from the bush and identified Himself as the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of his fathers. Moses shook with fear and would not venture to look.

The voice then told Moses that he was standing on holy ground. Yahweh declared that the area around Mount Sinai and the wilderness where he was standing was holy. Yahweh was ready to release the people from Egypt and bring them to the Promised Land.

Holy Ground

1. **Yahweh**. What did Yahweh command Moses to do? Yahweh committed Moses to take off his sandals immediately.

2. **Said**. Yahweh spoke from the burning bush and said to Moses that he should remove his sandals.

3. **Take**. Yahweh issued the command to Moses, demanding immediate obedience.

4. **Your**. Moses wore sandals upon his feet and he was initially unaware that he was standing on holy ground. Mount Sinai would play an important role in Moses' life in the years to come.

5. **Sandals**. Yahweh commanded Moses to remove those sandals so that his feet would touch holy ground.

6. **Holy**. Living holy in the family of God means that God declares some ground to be holy and we should walk upon it barefoot.

7. **Ground**. We rejoice today because God kept His promises regarding the ground that Moses walked on and called it holy.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God called some ground holy.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for keeping His promises about land for the people of Israel.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never forgetting that God told Moses to take off his sandals and go barefoot on holy ground.**

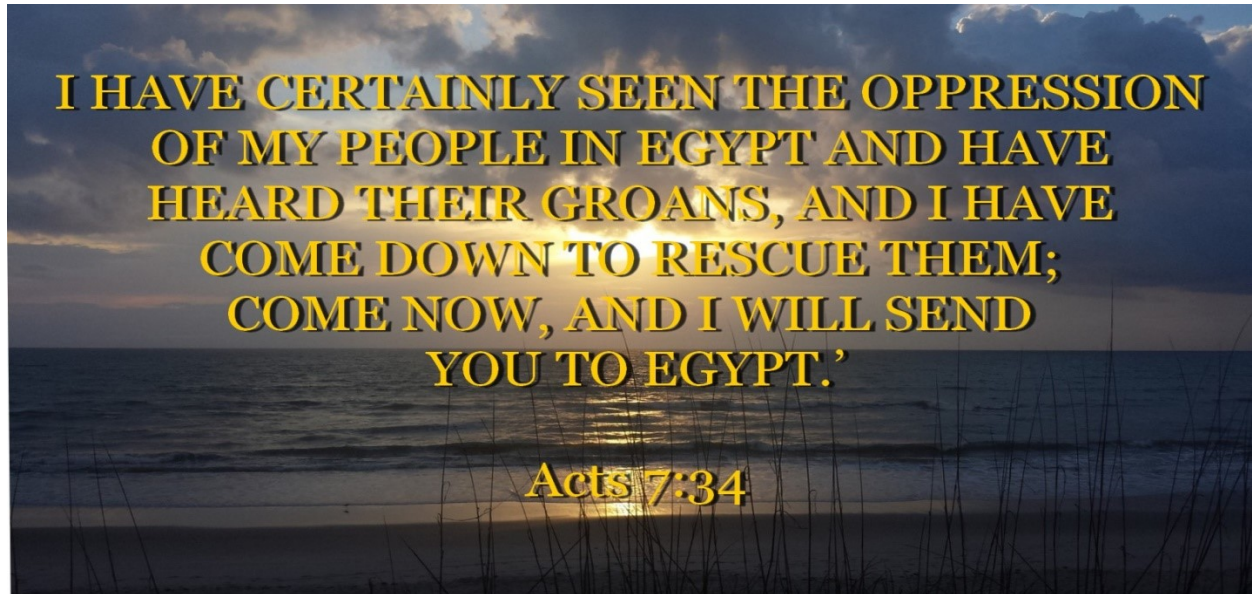
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God calls some ground holy. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God for making you holy and blameless in His sight through the blood of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 227

Oppression Today



What did Yahweh see? Yahweh saw the oppression of his people in Egypt.

As Moses drew near to the burning bush in the wilderness around Mount Sinai, Yahweh told Moses that He had seen the oppression of the people of Israel in Egypt. Moses was familiar with that oppression in Egypt and tried to do something about it forty years previously. His attempt ended in total disaster for him. The people of Israel rejected Moses as a leader and disowned Moses because they did not recognize him as their leader, judge and rescuer sent by God.

Yahweh told Moses that He had heard the groans of the people of Israel in Egypt. Throughout the history of Israel, God always listens and always knows what is going on with His people. At times, He brings suffering upon them for their disobedience to the covenants He made with them.

Yahweh declared to Moses that He had come down from heaven to rescue the people of Israel from bondage in Egypt. Moses just had a face-to-face conversation with Yahweh and trembled in fear. Moses would have

many more such conversations. God commanded Moses to come now and Yahweh would send him to Egypt. Yahweh would rescue Israel through Moses.

Rescue

1. **I**. What time was it? Yahweh said it was time for Moses to go to Egypt.
2. **Seen**. Yahweh said He had seen the oppression of His people in Egypt.
3. **Heard**. Yahweh said He had heard their groans.
4. **Come**. Yahweh said he had come down to rescue them.
5. **Rescue**. The time had come for Yahweh to rescue the people of Israel from the oppression of Egypt.
6. **Send**. Living holy in the family of God means that God has plans for rescuing them and He helps people like us to rescue His people.
7. **Egypt**. We rejoice today because God loved the oppressed people in Egypt and planned to rescue them by helping Moses to lead them out of Egypt.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by listening to God when He calls us to rescue people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon God to see our oppression, to hear our groans, and to come and rescue us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by being usable people that God can send to rescue others.**

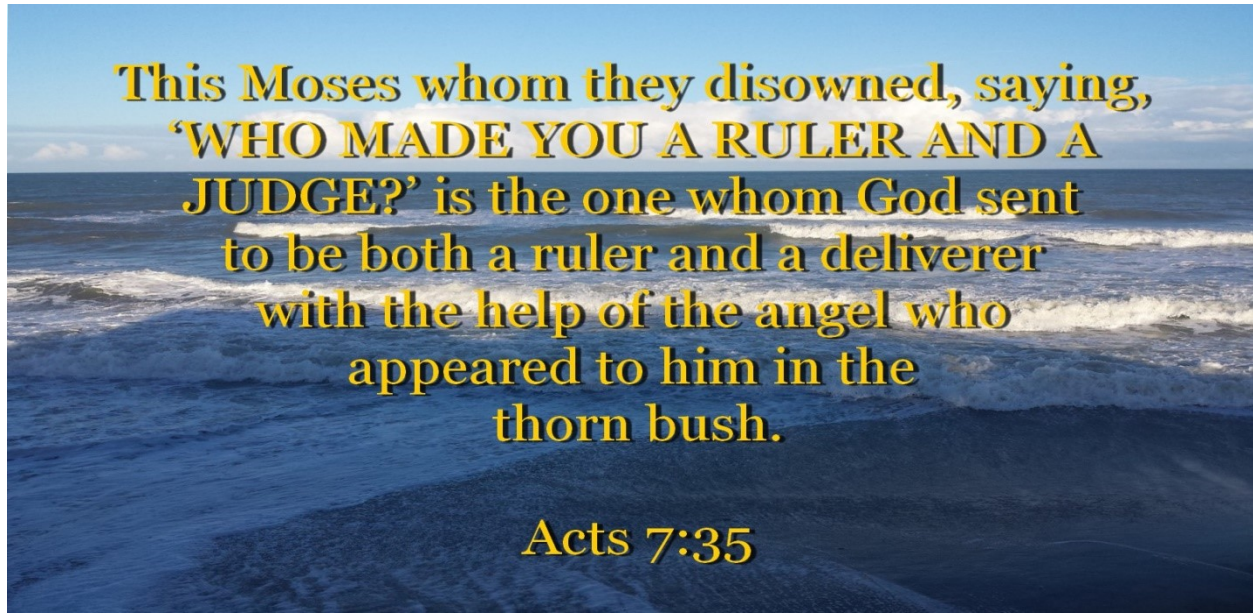
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God sees the oppression, hears our groans, and sends help to rescue us at the right time. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being willing for God to send you to rescue people?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 228

Disowned Today



Who disowned Moses? The people of Israel disowned Moses.

When that Hebrew said to Moses, “Who made you a ruler and a judge?”, he spoke for the people of Israel. Stephen cited those words as proof that the people of Israel were rejecting Moses as a ruler and a deliverer. Stephen explicitly stated that God sent him to be both a ruler and a deliverer. Furthermore, God sent an Angel to help him be a ruler and a deliverer. That Angel appeared to be Yahweh Himself. At times in the Old Testament, Yahweh appeared as the Angel of Yahweh.

Stephen continually showed that the people of Israel rejected God’s plans and covenants. The people of Israel also opposed God’s leaders and prophets. While the people of Israel highly esteemed the patriarchs, those men treated Joseph abominably. In a variety of ways, Stephen used the Scriptures to prove to the religious Council before him that the long history of Israel condemned their failures to know God, keep His commandments, and honor His servants. Stephen showed the religious Council that their

forefathers according to the flesh dishonored Jesus long before He was born of a virgin.

God Sent

1. **Moses**. How did the people of Israel reject God's rescue plan? They disowned Moses.

2. **They**. They said to Moses, "Who made you a ruler and a judge?"

3. **Disowned**. Those words showed that they disowned Moses.

4. **Sent**. God sent Moses to help the people of Israel.

5. **Ruler**. When Moses tried to help them, they asked who made him both a ruler and a judge?

6. **Judge**. Living holy in the family of God means that God sent Moses to be their ruler and judge, but the people of Israel disowned Moses.

7. **Deliverer**. We rejoice today because God still sent Moses with the help of the Angel from the burning bush to deliver the people of Israel from the oppression of Egypt, even after they initially disowned Moses.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the people of Israel disowned Moses.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some oppressed people reject the deliverer that God sent to them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding the God sends deliverers at the right time and place, but the oppressed do not always comprehend God's plans.**

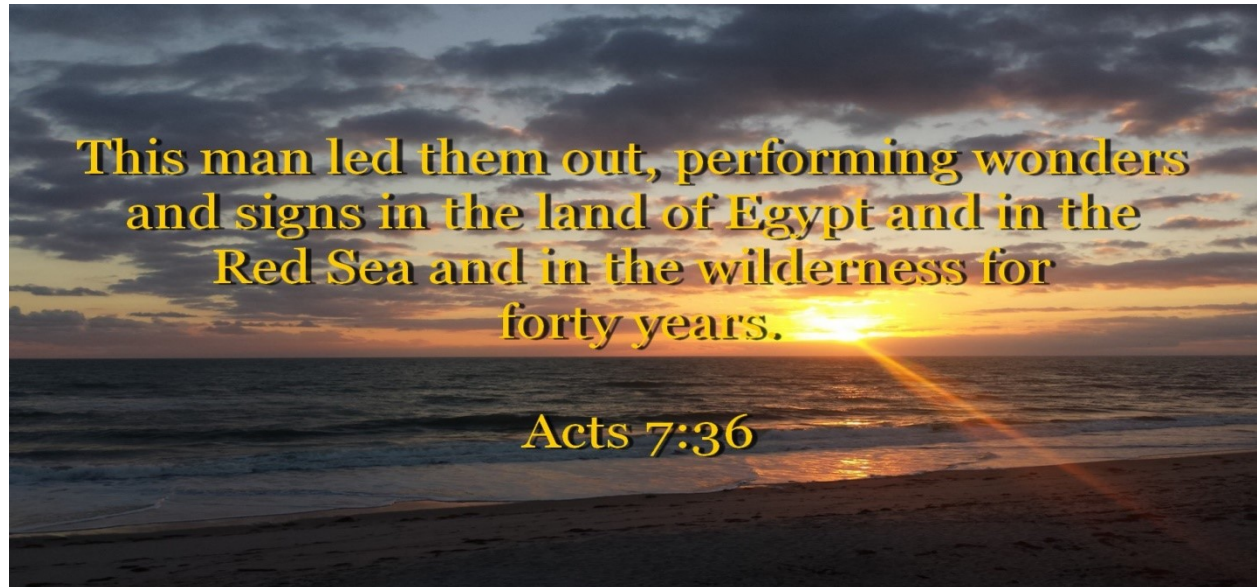
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that people have an evil tendency to reject God's plans and His deliverance. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying that God will open your eyes to His deliverance?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 229

Performing Wonders Today



Who performed wonders and signs? Moses led the people out of Egypt, performing signs and wonders in the land of Egypt and the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years.

As Stephen recounted the history of Israel to the religious Council sitting in judgment upon him, he emphasized the spiritual failures of the people of Israel from start to finish. Stephen focused upon the failures of the people of Israel to honor and respect the leaders God appointed for them.

As Stephen reviewed the life of Moses, Stephen reminded the religious Council that signs and wonders attended the leadership of Moses during the time in Egypt, during the crossing of the Red Sea, and during the travel through the wilderness for forty years. The evidence could not be more overwhelming that the people of Israel ignored the power of God at work in Moses and repeatedly rejected him as the leader and deliverer sent from God.

Stephen used the Bible to prove his points to the religious Council. While defending himself against the charge of blasphemy, Stephen eloquently and powerfully showed that the people of Israel were guilty of

many sins, including blasphemy and dishonoring the leaders God sent to Israel.

Forty Years

1. **Man**. Who led the people out of Egypt? Moses, the man they disowned, led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

2. **Led**. Moses led them out of Egypt after they disowned him.

3. **Performing**. Moses performed both wonders and signs many times during those forty years he led the people of Israel.

4. **Wonders**. The wonders caused people to take note of God's supernatural activity among them so that they were amazed.

5. **Signs**. The signs confirmed that God had sent Moses to rescue them, judge them, deliver them and lead them by God doing supernatural things.

6. **Egypt**. Living holy in the family of God means that Moses performed those signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness for forty years.

7. **Wilderness**. We rejoice today because God continued to perform signs and wonders through Moses as he rescued the people of Israel, but because of their unbelief they died in the wilderness over forty years.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the signs and wonders God performed to confirm the ministry of Moses.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that signs and wonders did not save the people of Israel from their unbelief in the wilderness.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving God for His great patience in preserving a people for His own Name.**

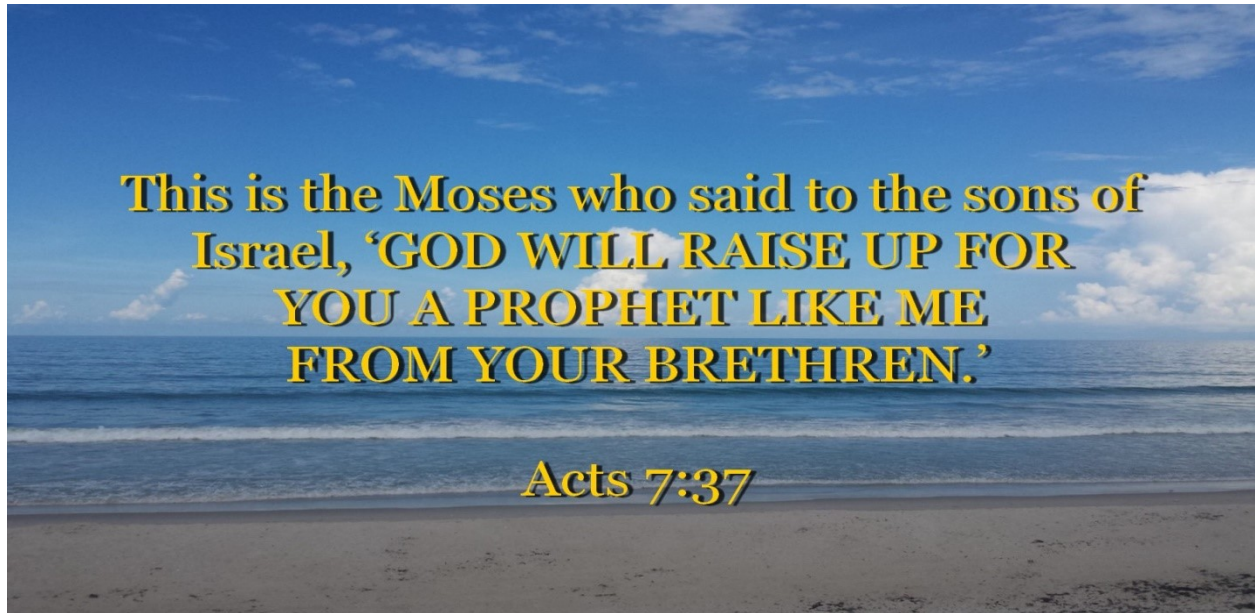
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving God for His desire to help the oppressed and rescue them using signs and wonders for forty years. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for His steadfast love?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 230

Prophet Today



What did Moses prophesy about a prophet? Moses prophesied that “God will raise up a prophet like me from your brethren.”

Stephen also quoted Moses: “God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren.” Stephen powerfully used the Old Testament, with specific quotations about Jesus Christ, to prove that the people rejected Jesus just like they rejected Moses as a deliverer and leader.

Stephen, speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit, showed how the people of Israel repeatedly rejected God, despite His blessings upon them. Yahweh had used Moses, with the help of the Angel of Yahweh, to rescue the people from Egypt by performing wonders and signs. Yahweh performed more wonders and signs at the Red Sea when the water parted and the people of Israel passed on dry ground. Yahweh had performed more wonders and signs in the wilderness for forty years. Because of their unbelief, that entire generation had to die in the wilderness, despite all the blessings, signs and wonders God performed for the people of Israel through Moses.

Therefore, when Moses prophesied that God would raise up a Prophet like him, that Prophet would work signs and wonders and be a blessing to Israel, only to be rejected as the Rescuer and Leader of the people of Israel.

Like Me

1. **Moses**. What did Moses prophesy? Moses prophesied that a Prophet would come from Israel.

2. **God**. Moses said that God would send a Prophet in the future.

3. **Raise**. Moses said that God would raise up a Prophet.

4. **You**. Moses said God would raise up the Prophet from among the people of Israel, indicating He was born as a human being in Israel.

5. **Prophet**. Moses called that man a Prophet, indicating He would do signs and wonders among the people of Israel and be disowned by the people of Israel.

6. **Me**. Living holy in the family of God means that God raised up a Prophet named Jesus of Nazareth, who fulfilled Moses' prophecy that God would raise up a Prophet like me.

7. **Brethren**. We rejoice today because Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, from among the brethren of Israel, just as Moses prophesied that a deliverer would come.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the prophecy of Moses about the Prophet God would raise up from among the people of Israel.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus as the Prophet God raised up and confirmed with signs and wonders.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus and thanking God that we no longer disown Him.**

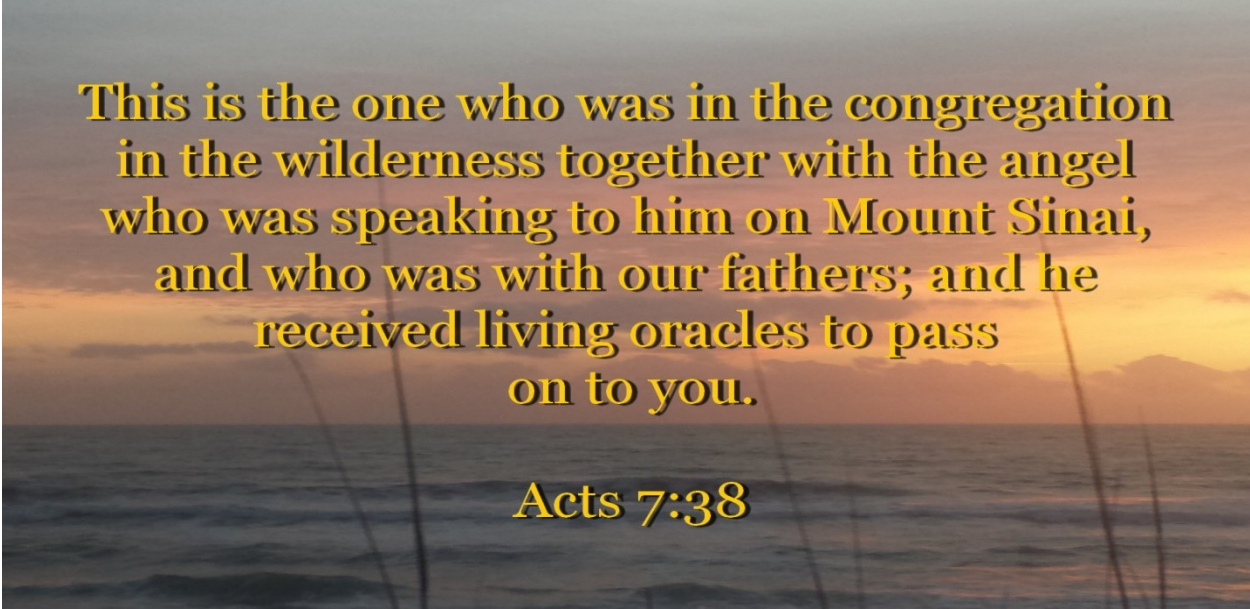
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for loving people who first disowned Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising Jesus for the loving way He rescued all of us from the oppression of sin and death?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 231

Speaking Today



This is the one who was in the congregation
in the wilderness together with the angel
who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai,
and who was with our fathers; and he
received living oracles to pass
on to you.

Acts 7:38

Who did Moses talk to on Mount Sinai? Moses talked to the Angel of Yahweh.

Stephen identified Moses as the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the Angel Who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai and who was with our fathers.

Stephen reminded the religious Council that Moses was part of the congregation of the people in the wilderness. God delivered them from the oppression of Egypt through the leadership of Moses, who was following God Who came down to rescue the people. The Angel of Yahweh also was with Moses.

The Angel of Yahweh was also with Moses on Mount Sinai. Moses spoke with Yahweh on Mount Sinai. Like the burning bush where Yahweh spoke to Moses and the Angel of Yahweh spoke to Moses, so also on Mount Sinai. Yahweh and the Angel of Yahweh may be the same Person.

Moses was also with the fathers of Israel, who died in the wilderness because of their unbelief. Stephen highlighted the spiritual failures of the fathers.

Living Oracles

1. **One**. Who was Moses? Moses was the one God sent as a deliverer to the people of Israel.

2. **Congregation**. Moses was also the one who was with the congregation in the wilderness.

3. **Angel**. Moses was the one who went to Mount Sinai.

4. **Speaking**. Moses was the one who was speaking with the Angel of Yahweh who spoke to him on Mount Sinai.

5. **Mount Sinai**. Moses went on Mount Sinai at the request of God.

6. **Fathers**. Living holy in the family of God means that Moses received revelation from God on the mountain and brought it down to the fathers of Israel.

7. **Oracles**. We rejoice today because Moses received the ten words on Mount Sinai as an oracle from God about how the congregation of Israel should live before God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering who Moses was and what he did for the congregation of Israel.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Moses went up on Mount Sinai to receive revelation from God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how Moses served the congregation of Israel and spent time with them in the wilderness.**

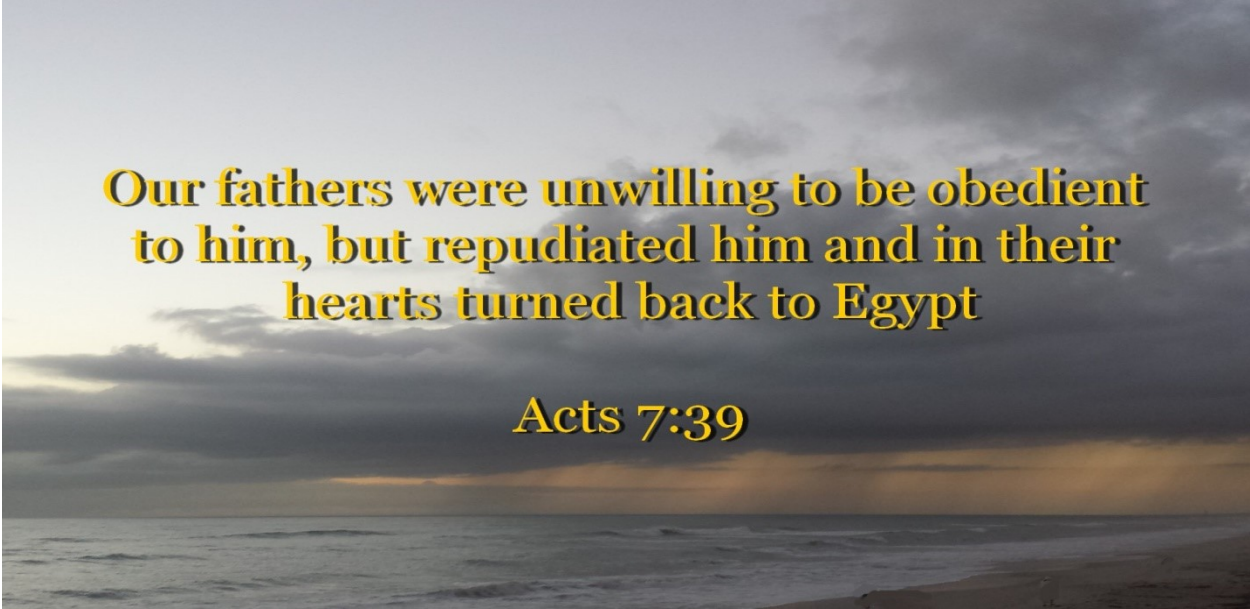
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by learning from Moses how to lead the people of Israel through the wilderness. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Moses received the oracles of God on Mount Sinai?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 232

Unwilling Today



Our fathers were unwilling to be obedient
to him, but repudiated him and in their
hearts turned back to Egypt

Acts 7:39

What were the fathers of Israel unwilling to do? They were unwilling to be obedient to Moses.

God sent Moses to the people of Israel to lead them out of bondage in Egypt. God rescued the people from bondage in Egypt and worked signs and wonders through Moses.

Stephen said that our fathers were not willing to obey Moses, but they also repudiated him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. At first, they disowned Moses and would not follow him. Later, when they followed him out of Egypt, they repudiated him in their hearts and turned back to Egypt.

God had heard the groans of the people of Israel during their oppression in Egypt. God came down to rescue them and sent Moses to help deliver them. Having rescued the people of Israel and repeatedly confirmed that He sent Moses, God still found the people of Israel to be faithless towards Him.

Stephen demonstrated for the religious Council that their fathers disowned, disobeyed, and repudiated Moses and the God who sent Moses to deliver them from the bondage of Egypt. Stephen pressed them very hard.

Repudiated

1. **Our**. How did Stephen refer to the congregation of Israel? Stephen called them our fathers.

2. **Fathers**. Stephen also noted that the fathers of Israel disowned Moses and never knew the God of Moses as Savior.

3. **Unwilling**. Stephen also showed that the fathers of Israel were unwilling to follow Moses as their leader for any prolonged period of time.

4. **Obedient**. The fathers of Israel were not obedient to Moses.

5. **Repudiated**. The fathers of Israel repudiated Moses.

6. **Hearts**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the people of Israel repudiated Moses in their hearts after Yahweh delivered them from Egypt.

7. **Turned**. We rejoice today because God never forsook Moses, even after the people repudiated Moses in their hearts and turned back to Egypt.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the people of Israel turned back to Egypt.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by loving God for His tender mercies and great compassion towards people who repeatedly rejected Moses and God Himself.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for helping people time and again after they were disobedient to God.**

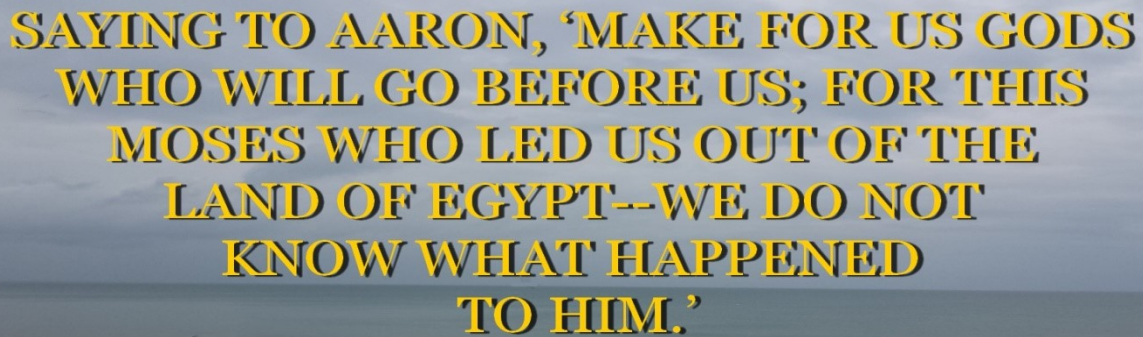
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by learning about disobedience and its consequences from the people of Israel traveling in the desert. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following God and never turning back in your heart towards Egypt and longing to live in oppression once more?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 233

Aaron Today



**SAYING TO AARON, 'MAKE FOR US GODS
WHO WILL GO BEFORE US; FOR THIS
MOSES WHO LED US OUT OF THE
LAND OF EGYPT--WE DO NOT
KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
TO HIM.'**

Acts 7:40

What did the people of Israel say to Aaron? The people of Israel told Aaron to make gods for them who will go before them.

While Moses was up on the mountain with God, the people of Israel grew tired of the delay and wanted to go back to Egypt. Their hearts were not inclined towards God or Moses. They did not like traveling through the wilderness and worried about food and water. God always provided for all of their needs, but they were ungrateful.

As the people of Israel grew more impatient waiting for Moses, they sought a new leader. They turned to Aaron, the brother of Moses, and requested that he make them new gods to lead them. They claimed they did not know what happened to Moses.

The people of Israel made horrible choices at every turn both before and after God rescued them from Egypt. God came down to rescue them and brought Moses with him. Moses, by the power of God, persuaded Pharaoh to let them go from Egypt. Yet, the people of Israel did not place their faith in

God to continue to lead them and they repudiated the leadership of Moses. God called Moses to the top of Mount Sinai, but the people gave up on Moses.

Moses

1. **Aaron**. What did the fathers of Israel want Aaron to do for them? They wanted Aaron to make gods who would go before them.

2. **Make**. The people of Israel thought they could make their own gods. They wanted their gods to lead them because they repudiated Moses in their hearts.

3. **Us**. The people of Israel directed Aaron to make gods for us, referring to the congregation of Israel.

4. **Gods**. The people of Israel rejected Moses and his leadership, preferring instead to make gods with their own hands.

5. **Lead**. The people of Israel also wanted those gods to lead them back to Egypt.

6. **Moses**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that the people of Israel repudiated Moses because he spent time on Mount Sinai with God.

7. **What**. We rejoice today because God chose Moses to lead the people of Israel knowing they would say that they did not know what happened to Moses when he stayed on the Mount with God for forty days.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that God knows about people who crave idols and make them with their own hands.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by walking with God on a mountain instead of making idols in the land below.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding the desire in people to turn away from Moses and who longed to return to oppression in Egypt.**

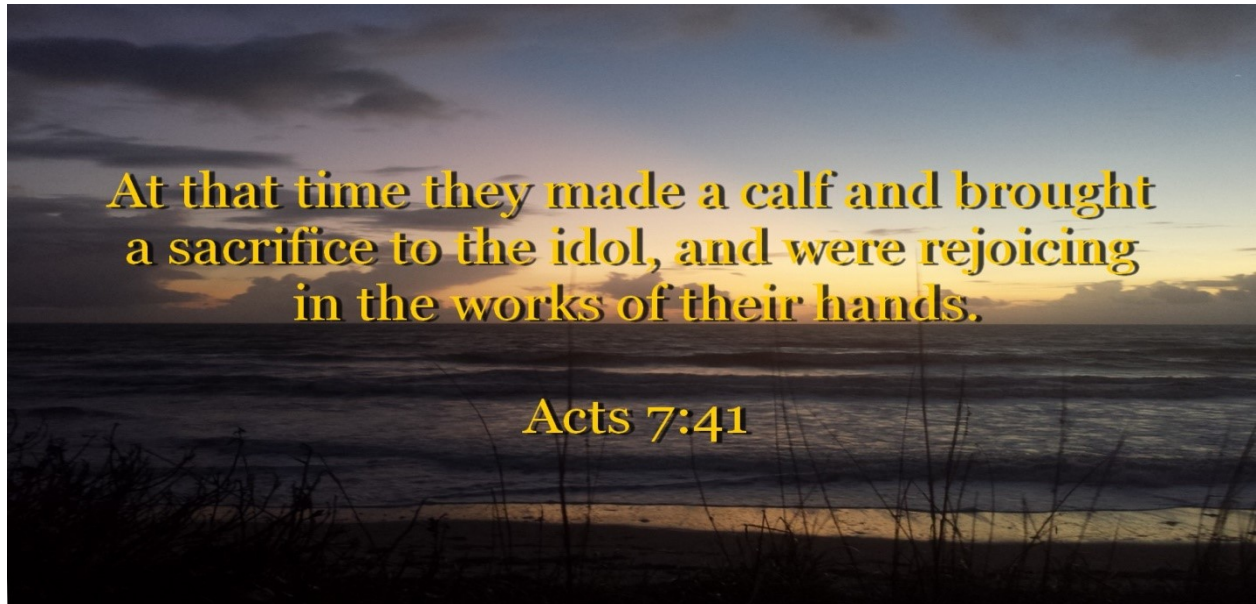
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by learning from Moses about people who want to turn away from his leadership and return to Egypt. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that some people turn away from God in their hearts and long to live once again in oppression in Egypt?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 234

Calf Today



At that time they made a calf and brought
a sacrifice to the idol, and were rejoicing
in the works of their hands.

Acts 7:41

What leader did the people of Israel seek? They sought a god they had made with their own hands.

The people of Israel made a calf. They brought a sacrifice to the idol. They rejoiced in the works of their hands. They had rejected both Moses and the God who sent Moses. Those people demonstrated that God can do great miracles of deliverance and rescue and still reject God's leadership.

Stephen showed the fathers of Israel were idolaters. They preferred to reject the living God who had delivered them in favor of a mute and dead idol who had done nothing for them. The people of Israel rejected God and His ways. They sought a new leader that would go before them and help them return to Egypt.

Stephen demonstrated to the religious Council that the people of Israel sought to return to the land of oppression in Egypt. They preferred the oppression on earth to God's leadership for eternity. They loved the work of their hands rather than the God Who created them and rescued them. Stephen showed that the religious Council walked in the ways of their

ungodly fathers and rejected the leaders God put before them who worked signs and wonders among the people of Israel.

Idol

1. **They**. What kind of idol did the people of Israel make? They made a calf as an idol for them.

2. **Made**. The people of Israel recruited Aaron to make the idol and he made it.

3. **Calf**. The people of Israel made a calf to lead them because they claimed they did not know what happened to Moses.

4. **Sacrifice**. The people of Israel brought a sacrifice to their idol.

5. **Idol**. The people of Israel made their idol with their own hands then rejoiced in the work of their hands.

6. **Rejoicing**. Living holy in the family of God means that while the people of Israel were rejoicing in the work of their hands, God was speaking to Moses on the mountaintop.

7. **Hands**. We rejoice today because when the people of Israel provoked God with their idol, He did not destroy the entire nation of Israel on the spot.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the people of Israel preferred an idol made with their own hands to the living God Who made them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that wicked people love wicked idols and rejoice over the work of their hands.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God delivered us from our idolatry to serve the living and true God.**

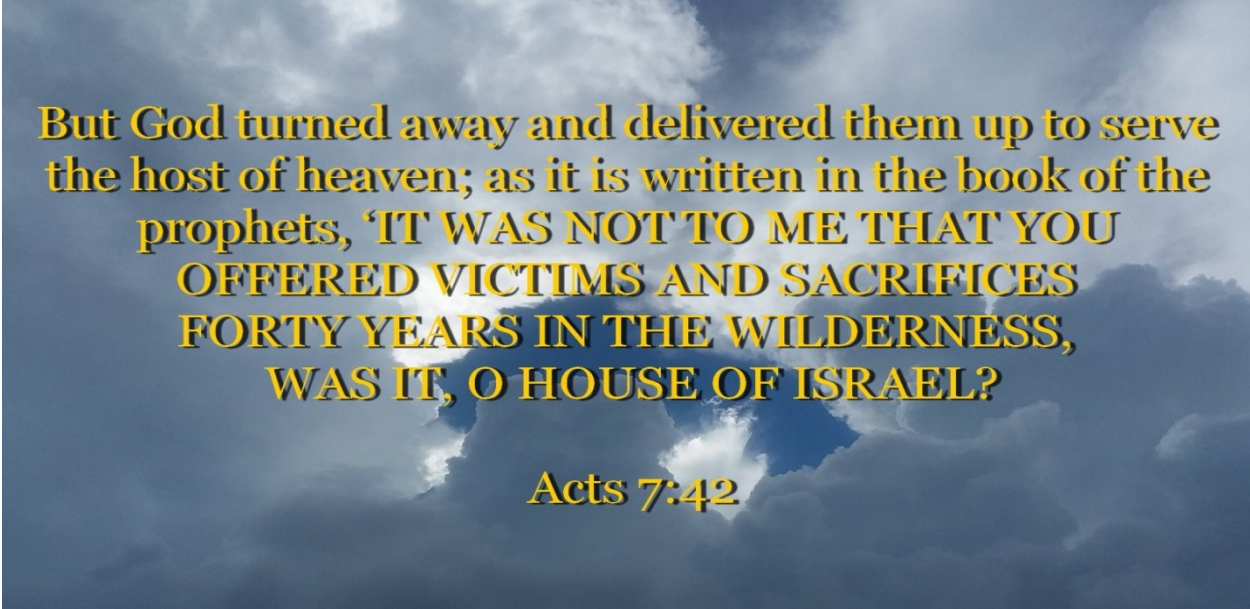
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving God more for His compassion for Israel and not destroying all the people who rejected Him as their Leader. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping the God Who created you and spoke the words of life to you and gave you faith to believe Him leading to your salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 235

Turned Away Today



But God turned away and delivered them up to serve the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, 'IT WAS NOT TO ME THAT YOU OFFERED VICTIMS AND SACRIFICES FORTY YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS, WAS IT, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL?'

Acts 7:42

What did God do with the people of Israel? God turned away from them.

When the people of Israel repudiated Moses and God and made an idol in the form of a calf and sacrificed to it, God turned away from the people of Israel. They loved the work of their hands and hated the God of deliverance and His servant Moses.

God delivered the people of Israel to serve the host of heaven. Many demons became the object of worship for the people of Israel. They offered victims and sacrifices to those demons.

Just as the prophets of the Old Testament observed, the people of Israel offered sacrifices to the host of heaven for forty years in the wilderness. They refused to worship God and recognize His greatness and love in delivering them from the oppression of Egypt. They first disowned Moses and then repudiated his leadership. They never knew the God of Moses, but embraced the host of heaven and sacrificed victims to those demons.

Stephen showed the religious Council that their fathers turned away from God and He delivered them to serve the host of heaven. The fathers of Israel were idolaters for forty years in the wilderness, serving false gods.

Wilderness

1. **God**. What happened to the people of Israel who made the idol? God gave them what they wanted.

2. **Delivered**. God delivered the people of Israel to the idols they made with their own hands and rejoiced over.

3. **Serve**. The people of Israel forsook God to serve the host of heaven, just as the prophets observed.

4. **Host**. The people of Israel began to worship and serve the host of heaven rather than the God who created the host of heaven and the people of Israel.

5. **Victims**. The people of Israel began offering victims to the host of heaven.

6. **Sacrifices**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know the difference between offering sacrifices to the host of heaven and offering sacrifices to the only true God Who made both heaven and earth and all that is in them.

7. **Wilderness**. We rejoice today because God always remained faithful to the covenant with Abraham and so God did not exterminate all the people who offered sacrifices to the host of heaven for forty years in the wilderness.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the people of Israel and their offering of victims and sacrifices to their idols.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God delivered them to serve the host of heaven.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He delivered us from serving idols and turned us to serve the living God Who loves us and bought our salvation with the blood of the beloved and only Son of God.**

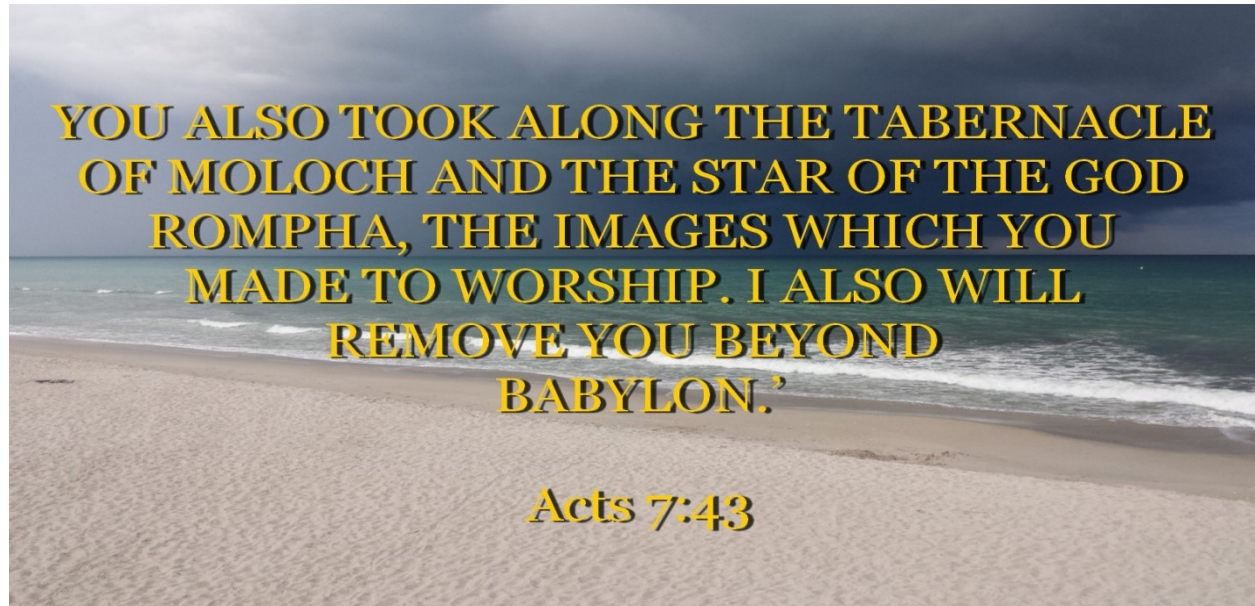
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the people of Israel being delivered by God to serve the host of heaven. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that you no longer live in idolatry because God redeemed you by the blood of His Son?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 236

Images Today



What images did the people of Israel take to the desert? They took along the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of the god Rompha.

Stephen explained to the religious Council that their fathers traveled through the wilderness for forty years offering sacrifices to foreign gods. Yahweh said He gave them over to the worship of the host of heaven. Specifically, the people of Israel carried with them the tabernacle of Moloch. They also brought with them the star of the god Rompha.

Stephen showed the religious Council that their fathers were part of the people of Israel that rejected God and His leadership during the time of the Exodus from Egypt. Although God worked signs and wonders through Moses to deliver them from Egypt, to part the Red Sea, and to help them conquer the land of Canaan, the people of Israel still worshiped their own images.

God has always taken idolatry very seriously. He imposed the death penalty upon people for worshiping foreign gods. God said His name was Jealous. The people of Israel not only disowned Moses and repudiated his leadership; they also did the same to God by worshiping their own idols.

Worship

1. **You**. What did Stephen say about the idolatry of the people of Israel? Stephen also said that you took along idols.

2. **Took**. The people of Israel took along their idols which apparently they had acquired in Egypt.

3. **Moloch**. They took along the image and the tabernacle of Moloch.

4. **Rompha**. They also took along the star of Rompha.

5. **Images**. The people of Israel worshiped the images they made with their own hands and offered sacrifices to them.

6. **Worship**. Living holy in the family of God means that we worship only the true and living God and no other god.

7. **Babylon**. We rejoice today because God prophesied that He would remove beyond Babylon the people of Israel who had rejected Him, but the prophet Jeremiah encouraged those people going into exile beyond Babylon to prosper there and return home to Israel after seventy years.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by loving God for delivering us from our idolatry.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God hates idols and the people who worship them, but loves to redeem them from all their idolatry so that they will turn to serving the true and living God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that all of us languished in idolatry until God rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son.**

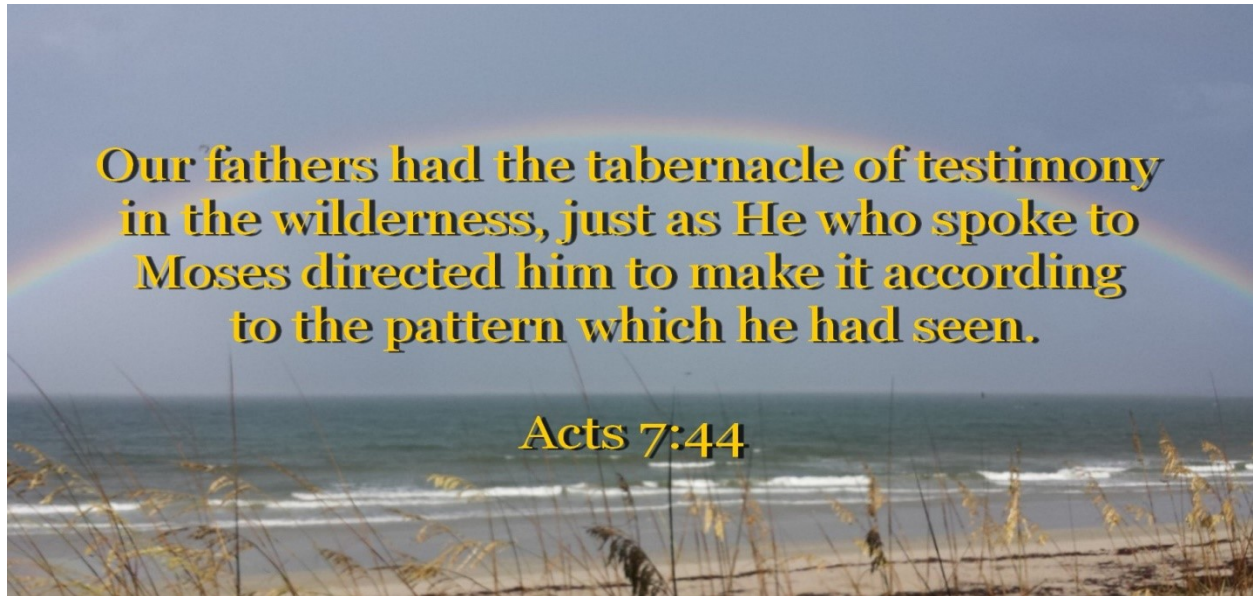
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He keeps us free from idolatry by the power of His love. Will you live holy in the family of God today by abandoning all forms of idolatry?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 237

Tabernacle Today



How did Moses make the tabernacle? Moses made the tabernacle according to the pattern he had seen in heaven.

God made a tabernacle where were only priests could enter and a Holy of Holies within the tabernacle that only the high priest could enter once per year on the day of atonement. This tabernacle was like a giant tent that could be moved from place to place because it was designed to be disassembled and carried by hand. Only certain people could carry it because it was holy to the Lord.

Moses made the tabernacle according to the pattern he had seen in heaven. God revealed that pattern to him so that he could make the tabernacle on earth following the heavenly design. The tabernacle contained within it a Holy of Holies. Between the cherubim, above the altar, the presence of God appeared.

The tabernacle also had walls designed to keep people away from the holiness of God because they were sinful. People could die by touching the holy things of God. The fathers of Israel rejected God and His holiness.

Pattern

1. **Our**. What did Stephen say about the tabernacle and our fathers? Stephen reminded the religious Council of what our fathers had done.
2. **Fathers**. Those fathers were the people of Israel who repeatedly sinned against God with their idolatry and unfaithfulness.
3. **Tabernacle**. God gave the people of Israel a tabernacle to carry with them as they traveled along the Exodus way out of Egypt.
4. **Wilderness**. During their time in the wilderness, God gave them the tabernacle of testimony.
5. **Moses**. Moses constructed the tabernacle as God instructed him.
6. **Pattern**. Living holy in the family of God means that God provided the pattern which formed the basis for the design and building of the tabernacle by Moses.
7. **Seen**. We rejoice today because Moses had seen the pattern of the heavenly tabernacle and he made the earthly tabernacle according to what he had seen.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the tabernacle of testimony in the wilderness.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the people of Israel had a tangible place of meeting that traveled with them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that we have a new and living way of entering directly into the presence of God in prayer and fellowship through the blood of Jesus Christ who opened up the way to God the Father.**

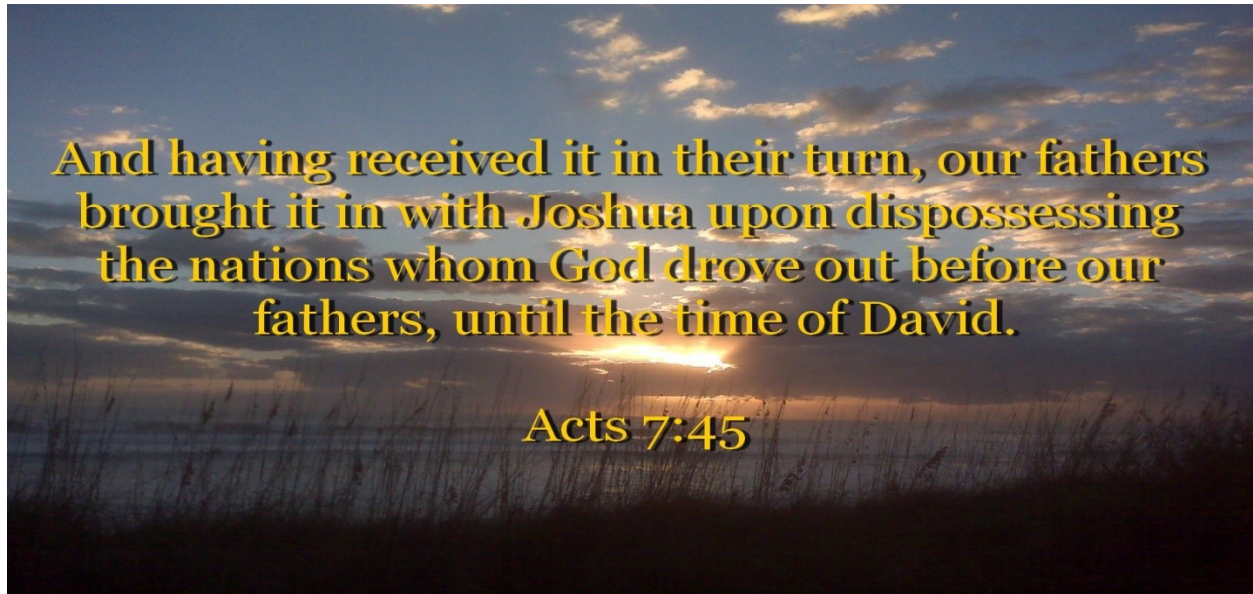
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Moses made the earthly tabernacle according to what he had seen. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that you have become the temple of God because the Holy Spirit lives within you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 238

Received Today



What happened to the tabernacle after Moses died? The people of Israel took it with them into the Promised Land.

The Ark of the Covenant stood in the Holy of Holies within the innermost part of the tabernacle. Inside the Ark of the Covenant were the stones with the ten words written upon them, Aaron's rod that budded and a jar of manna. A thick veil separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the tabernacle.

After Moses died, the fathers took the tabernacle into the Promised Land with Joshua, the man appointed by God to continue leading the people of Israel after Moses died. Under Joshua's leadership, the people of Israel dispossessed the people living in the Promised Land. Yahweh drove the people out and empowered the army of Israel to win battles and conquer people.

The tabernacle remained a holy place while the Ark of the Covenant remained in the Holy of Holies. The priest would transport the Ark of the Covenant and no one was allowed to touch it. The tabernacle continued until

the time of David when it rested at Shiloh. David helped his son Solomon build a temple which ultimately replaced the tabernacle for a place of worship.

Brought

1. **Received**. What did the fathers do with the tabernacle of testimony? The fathers took the tabernacle with them having received it after the death of Moses.

2. **Turn**. In turn, after the death of Moses, the fathers received the tabernacle of testimony and brought it into the Promised Land, the place where Moses never set foot.

3. **Fathers**. The fathers of Israel had some regard for the tabernacle of God, but they worshiped their idols made with their hands.

4. **Brought**. When the people of Israel went into the Promised Land, they brought the tabernacle of God with them.

5. **Joshua**. Joshua succeeded Moses and led the people of Israel into the Promised Land.

6. **Dispossessing**. Living holy in the family of God means that God dispossessed the people of the Promised Land and drove them out, giving that land to the people of Israel, according to His promise to Abraham.

7. **David**. We rejoice today because the fathers of Israel kept the tabernacle of testimony until the time of David.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the people of Israel kept the tabernacle of testimony after the death of Moses.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the people of Israel brought the gods from Egypt with them into the Promised Land, disdaining and disowning the tabernacle of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by learning about the dangers of idolatry from Stephen as he spoke to the religious Council.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by honoring God and His holy presence in our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that one day the Temple will be rebuilt and all idols will be removed from the land of Israel when Christ comes back to reign and sits on the throne of David in Jerusalem?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 239

David Today



What changed with David? David sought a permanent place in Jerusalem for God to dwell among His people. David feared God and greatly feared the tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant. David had seen God kill a person for violating the holiness of the Ark of the Covenant. David feared God because he had also witnessed an angel of God kill seventy thousand people.

Before David started construction on the Temple, he asked God that he might find a dwelling place for God in the Promised Land. David had Jerusalem in mind and really wanted to build a nice Temple for God in Jerusalem. David, however, knew that God must set the building program in order and with His blessing before David started the building project.

Notice that David wanted to build a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. Stephen picked out important historical details so that the religious Council listening to him could understand how the fathers of Israel had repeatedly forsaken God and His ways. Therefore, Stephen emphasized that the dwelling place was for the God of Jacob. Jacob's name was changed to Israel and he was the father of the twelve tribes of Israel, named after each of his

twelve sons. Stephen used history under the inspiration of God to convict the religious Council of their evil behavior which followed the pattern of their fathers.

Asked

1. **David**. How did God feel about David? David found favor in the sight of God.
2. **Favor**. David was a man after God's own heart and David the shepherd boy found favor in the sight of God.
3. **God**. David had a close relationship with God and they were friends.
4. **Asked**. David asked God if he could find a place for God.
5. **Find**. David intended to look for such a place where God could dwell permanently apart from the tabernacle.
6. **Dwelling**. Living holy in the family of God means that God made the heavens and the earth and they could not contain Him, but He agreed that David could find Him a dwelling place on earth.
7. **Jacob**. We rejoice today because the God of Jacob was the God of Abraham and Isaac and David.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that David found favor with God and they were friends.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by loving God and remembering always to find a place for God in the center of our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the body of Christ is the church and Jesus was the God of David.**

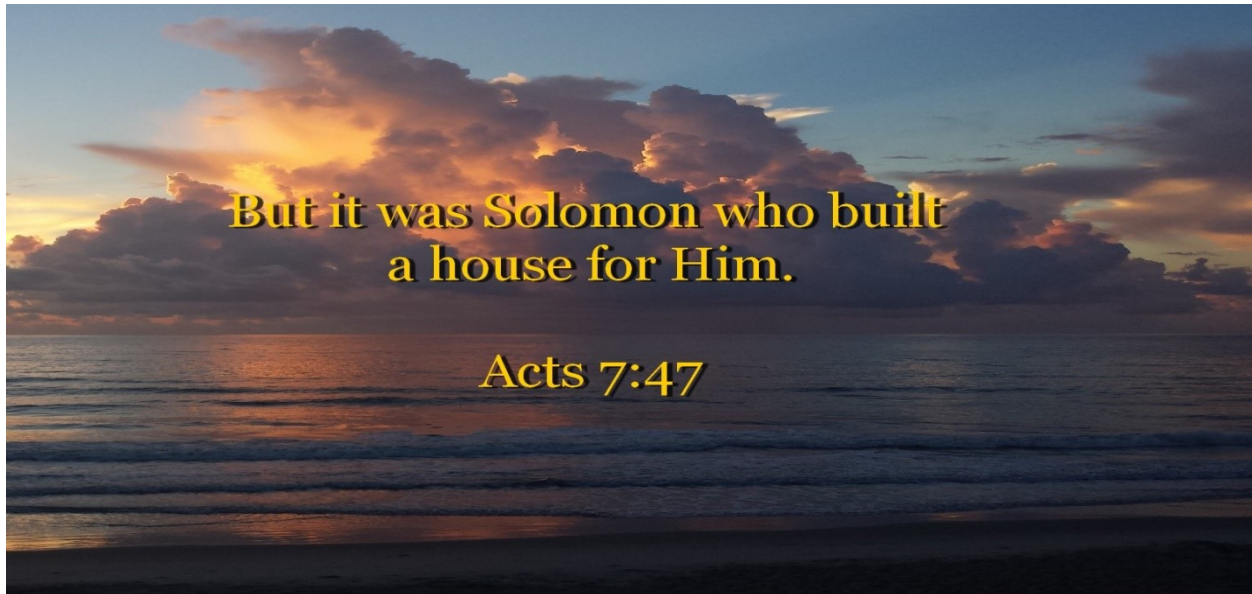
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the desire of David to find a place for God to dwell on earth. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God more because God made His dwelling place with you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 240

Solomon Today



Who actually built the Temple? Solomon, the son of David, actually built the Temple.

David asked God for permission to build a temple for God as a place for God to dwell among his people. David loved Jerusalem, and particularly Mount Zion there. David started into the building project with God's blessing, but God then told him that he could not build the rest of the Temple because his hands were too bloodied for more.

David then continued the building program with his son Solomon. Solomon built a beautiful Temple with materials supplied by other kings. Solomon also conscripted many citizens of Israel to work on that building program. When Solomon passed away, many of the tribes of Israel spoke to his successor and asked for relief from the great burden they had shouldered for many years. Rehoboam, the son and successor to Solomon, told those tribes that he would only increase their burden and ten tribes revolted. They formed their own land known as Israel with its capital in Samaria. Rehoboam continued as king, but only the tribes of Benjamin and Judah remained

under his control. Even so, the Temple remained in Jerusalem, but the people of Israel to the north set up their own gods at Dan and Beersheba.

Built

1. **But**. Who built the house for God? Solomon built a house for God.
2. **Was**. While David wanted to build the house for God, it was the son of David, Solomon, who actually built the house.
3. **Solomon**. Solomon was the son of David by Bathsheba and he was a very wise man.
4. **Who**. God selected Solomon as the one who would build the house for God.
5. **Built**. Solomon built the house for God, because God told David his hands were too bloody.
6. **The**. Living holy in the family of God means that Solomon built the house for God that David started and planned.
7. **House**. We rejoice today because Solomon built that first Temple in Jerusalem as the house of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Solomon built the house of God in Jerusalem.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God called the church His living temple.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God indwells each believer and the church.**

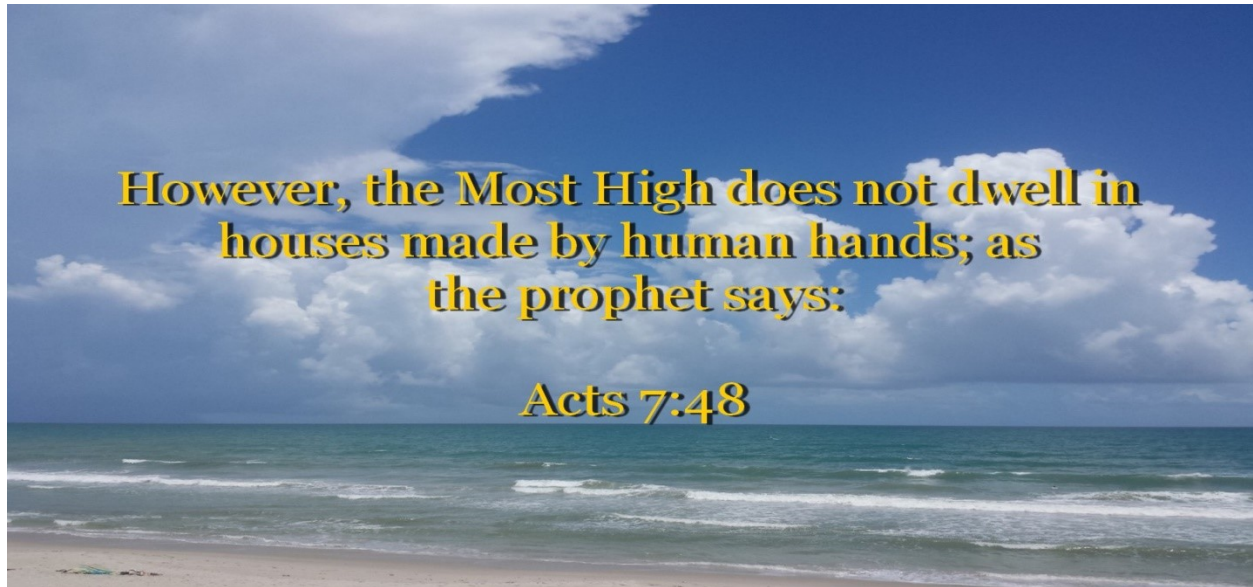
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that both individually and corporately, the saints are the temple of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that your body is the temple of the living God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 241

Dwell Today



Does God dwell in houses made with human hands? God does not dwell in houses made by human hands.

David wanted to build a house for God, a permanent structure to replace the tabernacle. God established David's throne in Jerusalem and David wanted to build a temple there for God. David could move the Ark of the Covenant into the Temple as its permanent resting place.

As David prepared to work on the construction of the Temple, God told him that he would not complete the Temple because his hands were too bloodied. Instead, God wanted Solomon to build the temple.

David fathered Solomon through Bathsheba. Solomon was a very wise man and built a Temple for God. When the Temple was finished, Solomon gathered all the tribes of Israel to Jerusalem and dedicated the Temple. God filled the Temple with His presence in the sight of all Israel.

Although God filled the Temple with His presence, God does not need a Temple to dwell in. In fact, no temple made by human hands could begin to contain God. God is spirit, not flesh and blood. God would put his presence

in the Temple so that the people of Israel could pray facing that Temple from all over the world. That house made with human hands would be a symbol of God's presence with the people of Israel.

Houses

1. **However**. Why did Stephen use the term however? Stephen used the word however to contrast human homes and God's infinite presence.

2. **Most High**. God described Himself using different names. The Name Most High referred to God's supremely exalted stature in the universe.

3. **Dwell**. As the Most High, the universe is God's dwelling place because He is present everywhere and dwells everywhere.

4. **Made**. Although God permitted David to plan a house for Him, God wanted everyone to know that heaven was truly His throne and He did not dwell in houses made with human hands.

5. **Human**. God made humans, but humans could not make a house able to contain God.

6. **Hands**. Living holy in the family of God means that God does not dwell in houses made by human hands.

7. **Prophet**. We rejoice today because the prophet told us about where God dwells.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God does not dwell in houses made by human hands.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God as the Most High.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He allows us to worship Him and know Him as the Most High.**

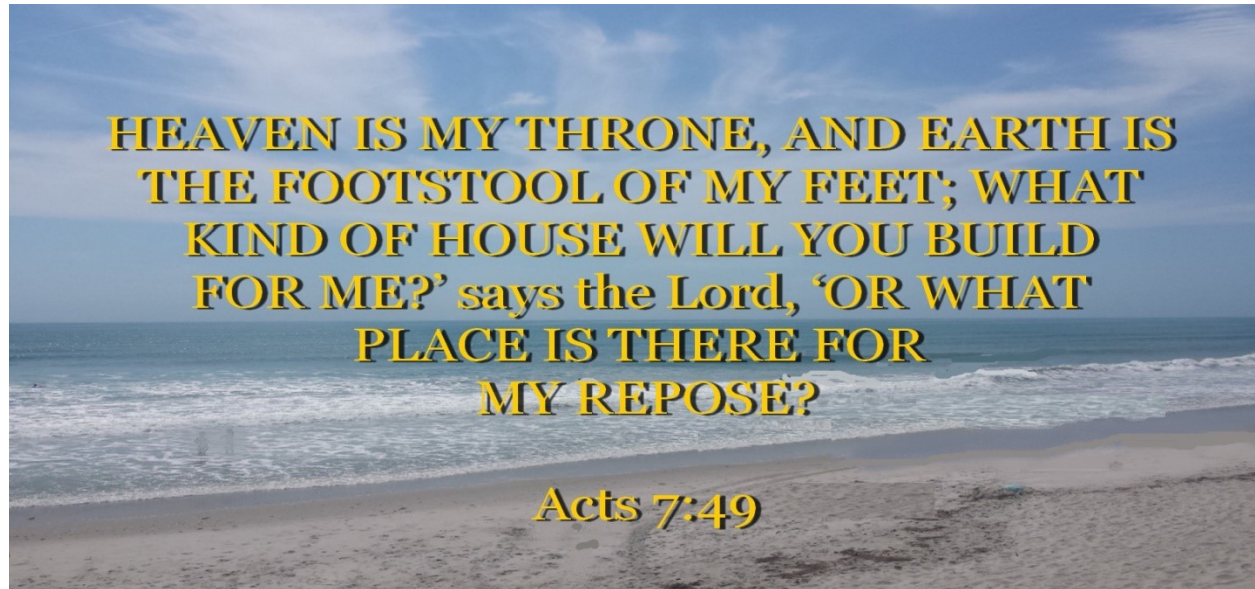
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshipping the Most High. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 242

Heaven Today



What is the throne of God? Heaven is the throne of God and the earth is His footstool.

Stephen recounted the words God said about building Him a Temple. While humans may believe that Temple is a wonderful place for God to live, they tend to forget that God calls heaven His throne and the earth a footstool for His feet. Even then God spoke metaphorically emphasize His infinite greatness.

God does not slumber nor sleep. He does not need a house to live in on earth. God created both the heavens and the earth. He exists everywhere at the same time and fills everything with His presence.

While David obtained permission from God to build Him a house in Jerusalem, God did not need that house and it could not contain Him. Yet, God was well pleased with David for wanting to build the house. God blessed David and the construction of the house under Solomon. God did not need any place for His repose. All of creation could not hold Him, much less a single Temple in Jerusalem.

Earth

1. **Heaven**. God said Heaven was His.
2. **Throne**. God said Heaven was His throne.
3. **Earth**. God said Earth was His footstool.
4. **Footstool**. God said that the Earth is His footstool, indicating that a house on earth was not nearly big enough to contain even the feet of God.
5. **House**. God asked what house would humans build for Him?
6. **Build**. Living holy in the family of God means that humans could never build a house big enough to contain God.
7. **Repose**. We rejoice today because He wants us to know the He fills the universe, which He created, and what could there be for His repose?

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that heaven is the throne of God and the earth is His footstool for His feet.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God as the omnipresent God Who fills the universe with His presence.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that dwells within our hearts by faith.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He sits upon His Heaven as His throne. Will you live holy in the family of God today by seeing God's throne today by faith in the Scriptures?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 243

My Hands Today



Whose hand made all these things? God's hand made all these things.

When the created beings asked the Creator if they could make something for Him, at best they will be fashioning His creation into something new. God made both the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.

When God created the heavens and the earth, He filled both with things He created. He called all the stars by name. He filled the earth with all kinds of birds and animals and teeming things. God loves variety and used great variety in creating all the living things on earth.

God reminded all of us that the earth could not hold or contain Him. The solar system could not contain Him. In fact, all of creation could not begin to contain the presence of God.

Because God formed man from the dust of the ground and we are His workmanship, formed in His image, we should never imagine that we could build a temple that would contain God. God chose to put His presence in the Temple, but that Temple could never contain Him.

Made All

1. **Was**. Whose hand made the heavens and the earth and all they contain? God made all those things.
2. **Not**. God asked the question expecting a negative answer because He made all things and everyone should remember that truth.
3. **My**. God said My Hand made all things, implying that man and his man-made idols made nothing.
4. **Hand**. The hand of God has all power to make all things and all things reflect the power of God to create all things.
5. **Made**. God made the heavens and the earth by His word and they remain at His pleasure until the day comes when He will roll them up.
6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that we worship the Most High for creating all these things with His hand.
7. **Things**. We rejoice today because the things we see are temporal, but the things we do not see are eternal.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the hand of God made all these things.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for being the Creator of all things.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for creating us, because we did not create God or ourselves.**

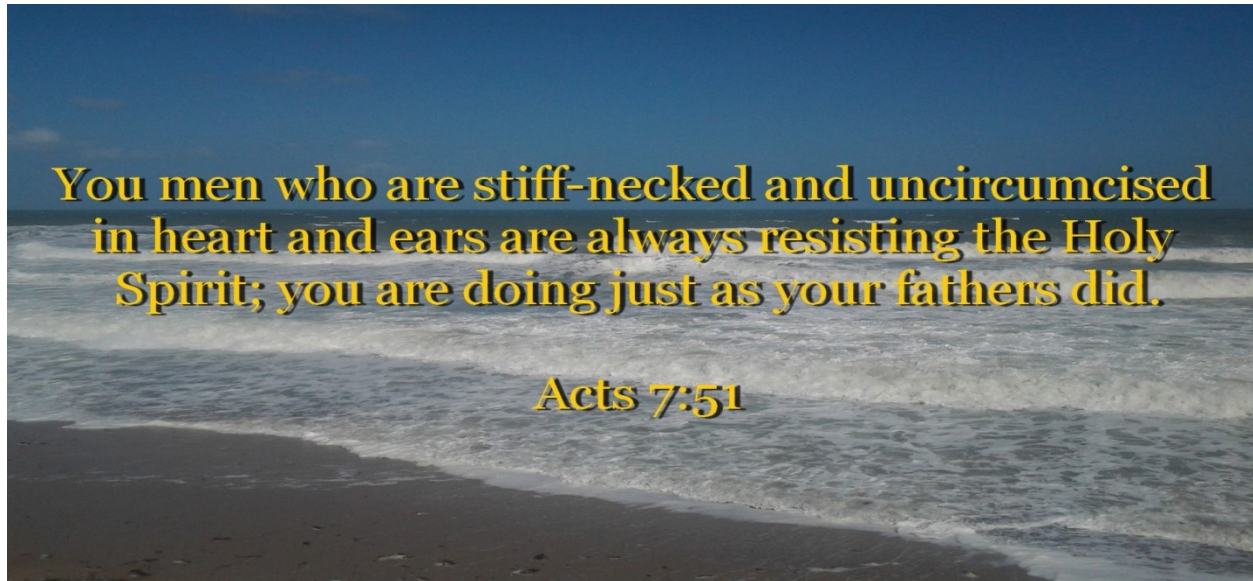
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that God created us and all things that we see. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God more for creating us to be His children?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 244

Stiff-Necked Today



How did Stephen describe the men of the religious Council? Stephen said they were stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears.

Stephen walked through the history of Israel before the religious Council. He demonstrated through specific examples that the people of Israel remained unfaithful to God, despite His perfect faithfulness to them.

While the religious Council was sitting in judgment upon him, he proved from Scripture that the men of the religious Council acted just like their fathers. The fathers of Israel sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt and rejected Moses by disowning him and being disobedient to him.

Stephen called the men of the religious Council stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears. He said they were continually resisting the Holy Spirit. The men on the religious Council were acting just like their fathers did as described in Scripture.

Stephen let the words of the Holy Spirit given to him in his time of need convict the men of the religious Council of the truth of his charges. Stephen

told them the truth about themselves and their fathers. They never knew God just like their fathers never knew God or obeyed Him.

Resisting

1. **You**. How were the men on the religious Council like the fathers of Israel? Stephen said they were evil just like their fathers.

2. **Stiff-Necked**. You men are stiff-necked, just like your fathers.

3. **Uncircumcised**. You men are uncircumcised in heart and ears, just like your fathers. Physical circumcision counts for nothing with God when it comes to salvation.

4. **Resisting**. You men are always resisting the Holy Spirit, just like your fathers did.

5. **Holy Spirit**. You men are resisting the Holy Spirit, by opposing God's servants working among you, just like your fathers did.

6. **Doing**. Living holy in the family of God means that we avoid doing the sins of our fathers.

7. **Fathers**. We rejoice today because we no longer reject Jesus Christ as Savior, even if our father did.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the fathers of Israel were stiff-necked, spiritually uncircumcised, and resisted the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by avoiding the sins of our fathers.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God that salvation does not depend upon our fathers, but upon our personal relationship with Jesus Christ by faith in Him as Savior.**

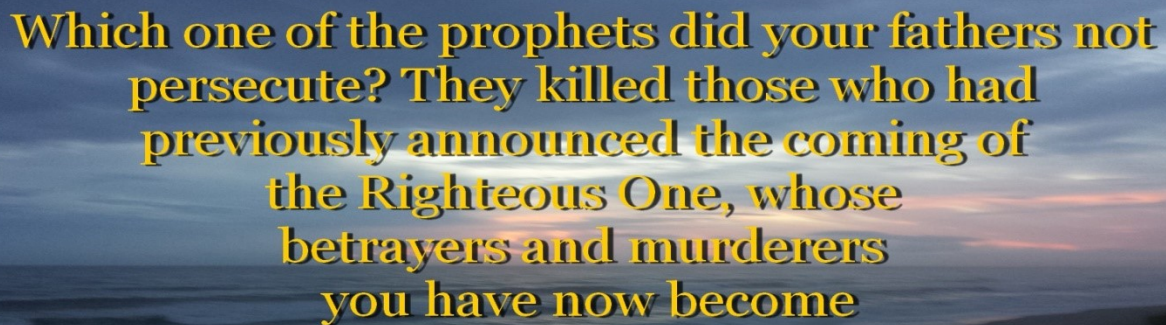
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for saving us from continuing the sins of our fathers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by turning to God and leaving the sins of your fathers behind?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 245

Persecute Today



Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become

Acts 7:52

Who killed the prophets? The fathers of the religious Council killed the prophets.

Stephen recited specific examples from the Old Testament of the fathers of Israel living in rebellion against God. Despite His great deliverance from Egypt, the people of Israel demanded to go back to live in oppression and Egypt. They made their own idols and followed their own gods. God worked wonders and signs for them, yet they rejected Him and His ways.

The fathers of the men on the religious Council killed the prophets who announced the coming of the Righteous One. They had disowned Moses and the God Who sent Moses. Moses prophesied that a Prophet like him would arise from among the congregation of Israel. Jesus the Nazarene was that Prophet and the Messiah of Israel. The men on the religious Council had recently betrayed Him and murdered Him. The words of Stephen were like arrows shot by God into the hearts of the men on the religious Council sitting in judgment upon Stephen just as they sat in judgment upon the Lord Jesus not long before.

Betrayers and Murderers

1. **One**. Did your fathers not persecute each one of the prophets? Stephen declared that the fathers persecuted each one of the prophets with his question.

2. **Prophets**. The fathers of Israel persecuted every prophet.

3. **Fathers**. The men sitting on the religious Council continued the sins of their fathers against the prophets.

4. **Persecute**. Stephen asked the religious Council which one of the prophets did the fathers of Israel not persecute. He expected the answer that the fathers of Israel persecuted all the prophets.

5. **Killed**. The fathers of Israel killed those who previously announced the coming of the Righteous One. They killed John the Baptist and other prophets announcing the coming of the Righteous One.

6. **Righteous One**. Living holy in the family of God means that the fathers of Israel were the betrayers and murderers of the Righteous One, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God.

7. **Become**. We rejoice today because God saved us by His grace and mercy, because each of us shared in the sins of the betrayers and murderers of the Righteous One before we came to Christ as Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the sins of the fathers of Israel who killed the people who announced the coming of the Righteous One.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He saved people who participated in the sins of their fathers, like us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God that by His loving kindness He saved both Jews and Gentiles who had sinned against Him and fallen short of His glory.**

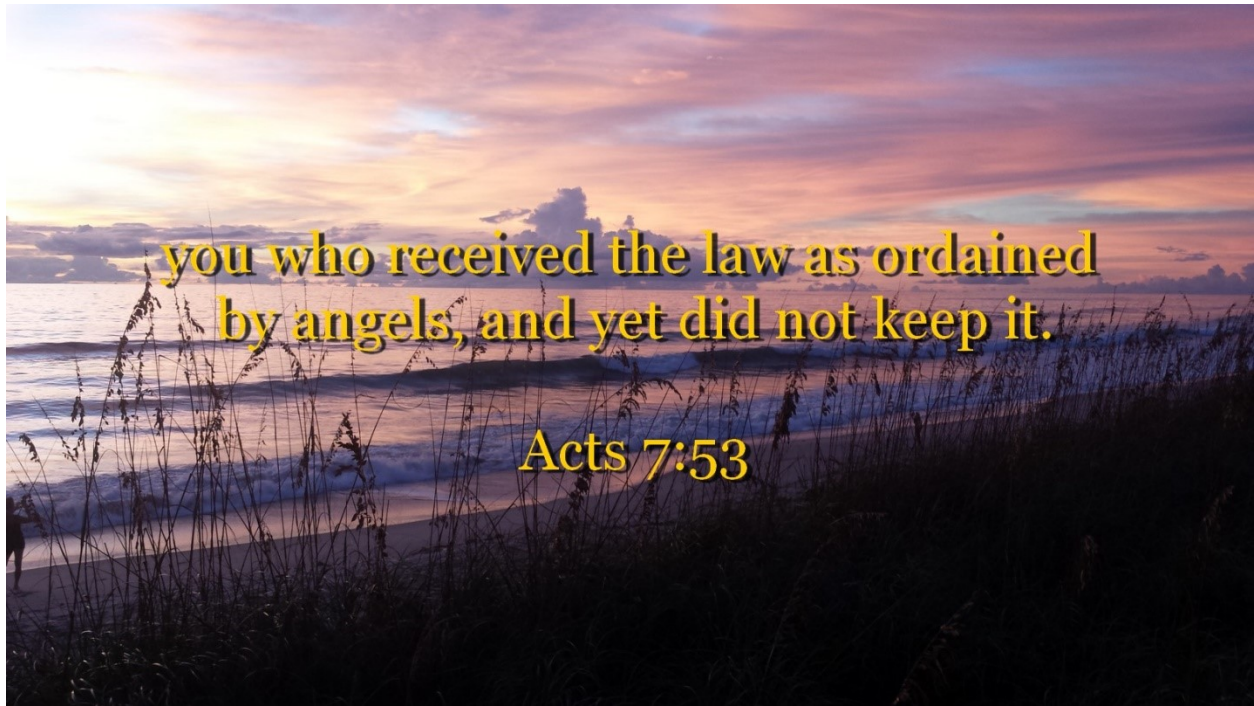
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His grace and mercy and love to save sinners by grace through faith. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God more because of the sins He has forgiven in our lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 246

Law Today



Who did not keep the Law? The religious Council did not keep the Law just as their forefathers did not keep the Law.

The Sadducees and Pharisees both gave lip service to keeping the Law of the Old Testament. They added their own traditions to the Law and so invalidated the commands of God. Jesus severely reproved them for those practices.

Stephen pointed out that both the fathers of Israel and the religious Council knew that the Law was ordained by angels, but did not keep it. Stephen was also charging them with hypocrisy by saying one thing with their lips and doing the opposite with their behavior.

The Old Testament Law could never save anybody. It functioned to show people how sinful they were and how much they needed a Savior to forgive their sins. The blood of bulls and goats and all the sacrifices of the

Old Testament could never take away one's sin. Only the blood of Christ could take away sin.

Ordained

1. **You**. What did Stephen say you received? Stephen told the religious Council that they received the Law.

2. **Received**. Moses gave the Law to the people of Israel, although God had given commands and laws and statutes to Abraham and his descendants long before the Law of Moses.

3. **Law**. Moses received the Law on Mount Sinai as a revelation from God.

4. **Ordained**. He received the Law as ordained by angels.

5. **Angels**. Angels are ministering servants sent by God to carry out particular missions.

6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that God gave the Law to show people how sinful they really were, and yet the fathers of Israel and the people of Israel could not keep the Law.

7. **Keep**. We rejoice today because we could never keep the Law either, but our salvation rests upon Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus more because none of us could keep the Law, except Jesus gave the Law to Moses and kept it as He lived in the flesh among men.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding no one was ever saved from sin by keeping the Law, which was powerless to save anyone.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God our salvation rests upon the grace of God in sending Jesus to be our Savior.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that no one could keep the Law and obtain salvation under the Law. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for our great salvation, apart from the Law, in Jesus Christ our Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

5

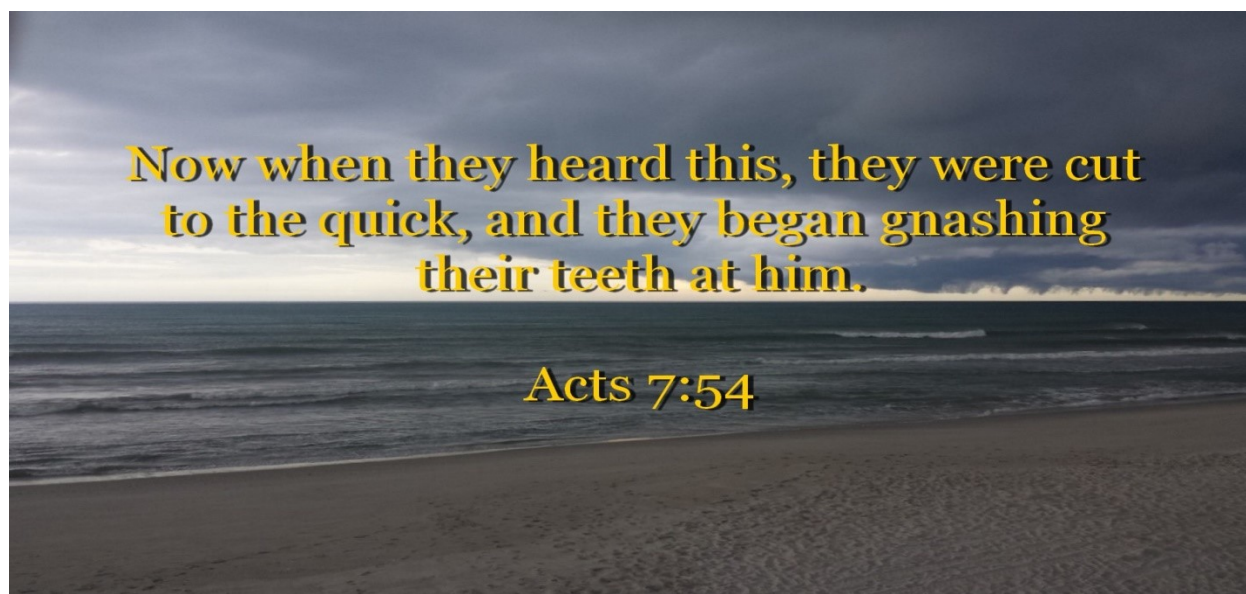
Stephen's Death Today

Stephen charged the religious Council with murdering Jesus Christ, just like the fathers of Israel murdered the prophets who spoke about Jesus, the Righteous One of God. The members of the religious Council were cut to the quick and began gnashing their teeth at Stephen. Being full of the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed intensely into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Stephen said that he saw the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God. The members of the religious Council cried out with a loud voice and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. They drove them out of the city and began stoning them. The witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet a young man named Saul. They continued stoning Stephen and he said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he fell to his knees and cried out with a loud voice, asking the Lord not to hold this against them and fell asleep.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 247

Cut Today



What happened when Stephen finished the sermon and defense? The religious Council were cut through.

Stephen concluded his presentation of the evidence that the fathers of Israel denied God and disowned the Messiah and murdered Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God. The evidence was so clear and compelling that the religious Council had an immediate emotional reaction. The words of Scripture pierced each of them, cutting them in two.

The religious Council began gnashing their teeth. They were infuriated and ready to pass a verdict upon Stephen. Instead of dispassionately reviewing all the facts, weighing the evidence and reaching a just verdict, the religious Council acted on impulsive anger.

Stephen brought a convicting message of the sin of the fathers of Israel and their descendants sitting on the religious Council. Stephen spoke the words that were given to him by the Holy Spirit. The effect upon the religious Council drove them to anger without a drop of repentance.

Gnashing

1. **Now**. How did the religious Council react to Stephen's message? Now they were really upset.

2. **Heard**. When the religious Council heard Stephen talk about sin, they knew he was talking about them and the Holy Spirit convicted them of their sin.

3. **Cut**. The word of God cut through them with great spiritual power.

4. **Gnashing**. They reacted by gnashing their teeth at Stephen.

5. **Their**. As they gnashed their teeth, they were filled with rage born of conviction of their sinful ways.

6. **Teeth**. Living holy in the family of God means that the religious Council gnashed their teeth because they heard the truth and it cut right through them.

7. **Him**. We rejoice today because while the religious Council gnashed their teeth at him, Stephen did not respond to them in anger.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the religious Council gnashing their teeth at Stephen.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the word of God cuts right through people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that His word also brings eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His word which reminds us of how much we need a Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the religious Council gnashing their teeth at Stephen because he had told them they were sinners like their forefathers who did not keep the Law?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 248

Heaven Today



What did Stephen see? Stephen saw the glory of God and Jesus.

As the religious Council raged in fury, Stephen gazed intently at Jesus standing at the right hand of God in heaven. The Holy Spirit opened the eyes of Stephen so that he would have the full conviction of God behind his words. He also had the love of Jesus for enemies pouring out of him.

Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit. One ministry of the Holy Spirit concerns convicting people of their sins. Some people react to that knowledge of sin with remorse leading to repentance and salvation. Other people deny the sin, hate the messenger, and punish anyone who tells them they are sinful in God's eyes.

Stephen did not offer his personal opinions. Stephen quoted Scripture and explained how the Scriptures applied to both the religious Council and their forefathers. Stephen pointedly demonstrated that the members of the religious Council had dishonored and murdered Jesus, the Son of God. Now they continued their attack upon the apostles and other disciples of Jesus.

They proved by their actions that they never knew God and never followed the Law.

Glory

1. **Full**. How was Stephen able to talk the way he talked? Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit.

2. **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit came down at Pentecost and began to indwell believers.

3. **Gazed**. Stephen gazed into heaven, full of the Holy Spirit, as the religious Council gnashed their teeth at him.

4. **Heaven**. As Stephen gazed into heaven, God opened the eyes of Stephen to see His glory.

5. **Glory**. As Stephen saw the glory of God, the religious Council seethed with rage.

6. **Jesus**. Living holy in the family of God means that Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because Jesus stands at the right hand of God today because he was resurrected and ascended to heaven waiting until the time comes for Him to return to earth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the story of Stephen gazing into heaven and seeing the glory of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus stands at the right hand of God, where God highly exalted Him so that His Name is above every name in heaven and on earth.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus standing at the right hand of God in heaven.**

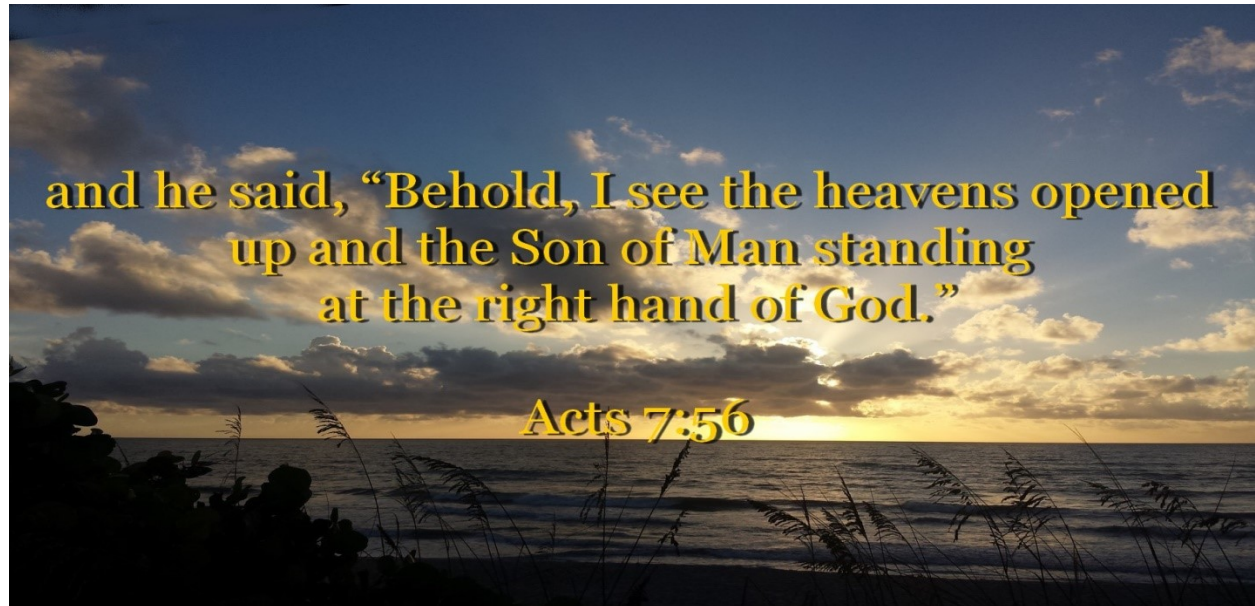
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the testimony of Stephen before the religious Council and gazing up to heaven and seeing the glory of Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Stephen gazing into glory?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 249

Son of Man Today



What opened in front of Stephen? The heavens opened as he stood before the religious Council.

Stephen had presented his eloquent defense against the charges of blasphemy brought by lying witnesses. The religious Council had heard the charges and examined Stephen.

Stephen built his defense upon the Scriptures. As the Holy Spirit guided his words, Stephen showed the religious Council that their fathers of Israel had a long history of opposing the Holy Spirit and the work of God. Beginning with Abraham, he showed how the people of Israel resisted God and His leaders and His work.

Stephen concluded his defense by indicting the religious Council. Like their fathers before them, the men on the religious Council disobeyed God and disowned Jesus the Nazarene, the Son of God. They were cut deeply by those remarks, but they did not repent and did not turn to Jesus as Savior. They felt not a drop of remorse about the evil things they had done in

disowning and murdering Jesus and the apostles whom He sent. Instead, the religious Council bristled with anger.

Right Hand of God

1. **Said**. What did Stephen say to the religious Council? He told them about heaven.

2. **Behold**. Stephen said: Behold. Stephen was seeing something that no one else saw as he stood before the religious Council.

3. **See**. Stephen shared and invited others to see with him.

4. **Heavens**. Stephen saw the heavens and invited others to see heaven with him.

5. **Opened**. Stephen saw the heavens opened, permitting him to see what was happening in heaven.

6. **Son of Man**. Living holy in the family of God means that Stephen saw the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God in heaven as the religious Council gnashed their teeth at him on earth.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, was standing at the right hand of God as Stephen stood before the religious Council on earth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Stephen seeing Jesus Christ, the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He recorded Stephen gazing into heaven at the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by reading about Stephen seeing the glories of heaven as he stood before the shameful men on the religious Council.**

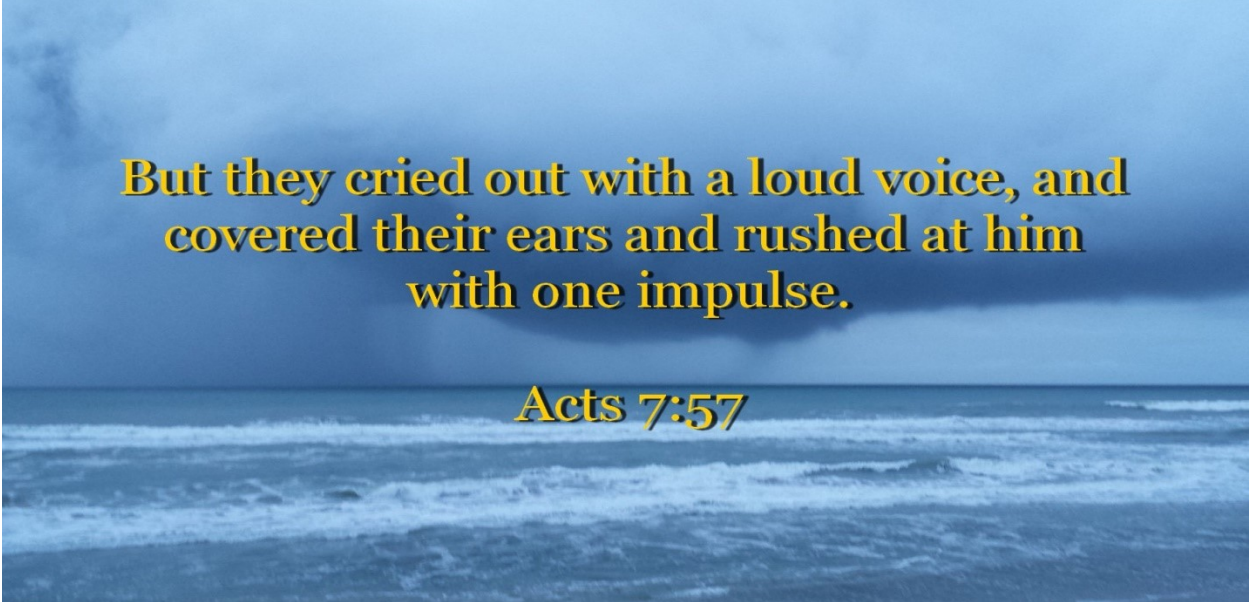
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Stephen seeing the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ as the religious Council seethed with rage and plotted his murder. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking into heaven today and seen Jesus standing at the right hand of God, no matter what is happening in your life right now?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 250

Cried Out Today



But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse.

Acts 7:57

How did the religious Council react to the message from Stephen? They rushed at him.

The word of God has a powerful effect upon people. The Holy Spirit guided the words of Stephen and they reach their intended targets. The words the Holy Spirit gave to Stephen cut deeply into the hearts of the men on the religious Council. The truth of God cut them like a sharp scalpel.

When the word of God cuts into people, they often have an immediate reaction. Some people accept the word of God for what it really is and come to faith in Christ. Paul said the Thessalonians accepted the word of God for what it really is. They believed and came to eternal life. But most of the people at Thessalonica rejected the word of God and sought to kill Paul for telling them the truth about Jesus.

The religious Council heard the word of God about Jesus. Stephen presented Him as the Savior of the world. Like their fathers before them, the men of the religious Council rejected Jesus and murdered Him. They cried

out with a loud voice and covered their ears and arrested Stephen with murderous intent in their hearts.

Impulse

1. **Cried**. As Stephen gazed on glory, what was the religious Council doing? They cried out against him.

2. **Voice**. The religious Council raised their voice with a cry, filled with rage in their hearts against Stephen and all that he stood for.

3. **Covered**. Not wanting to hear another word, the religious Council covered their ears.

4. **Ears**. By covering their ears, they reflected their hearts were hardened against God.

5. **Rushed**. They rushed at Stephen with one murderous intent.

6. **One**. Living holy in the family of God means that the religious Council shared one impulse to silence Stephen forever.

7. **Impulse**. We rejoice today because while the religious Council indulged their impulse for murder, Stephen was gazing on the Lord Jesus standing at the right hand of God in glory.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the murderous impulse of the religious Council.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some people will have a very violent impulsive reaction to hearing the truth about sin in their lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that in the midst of terrible times on earth our place in heaven remains glorious because Jesus has already prepared a place for us in His Father's house so that we may be with Him there forever.**

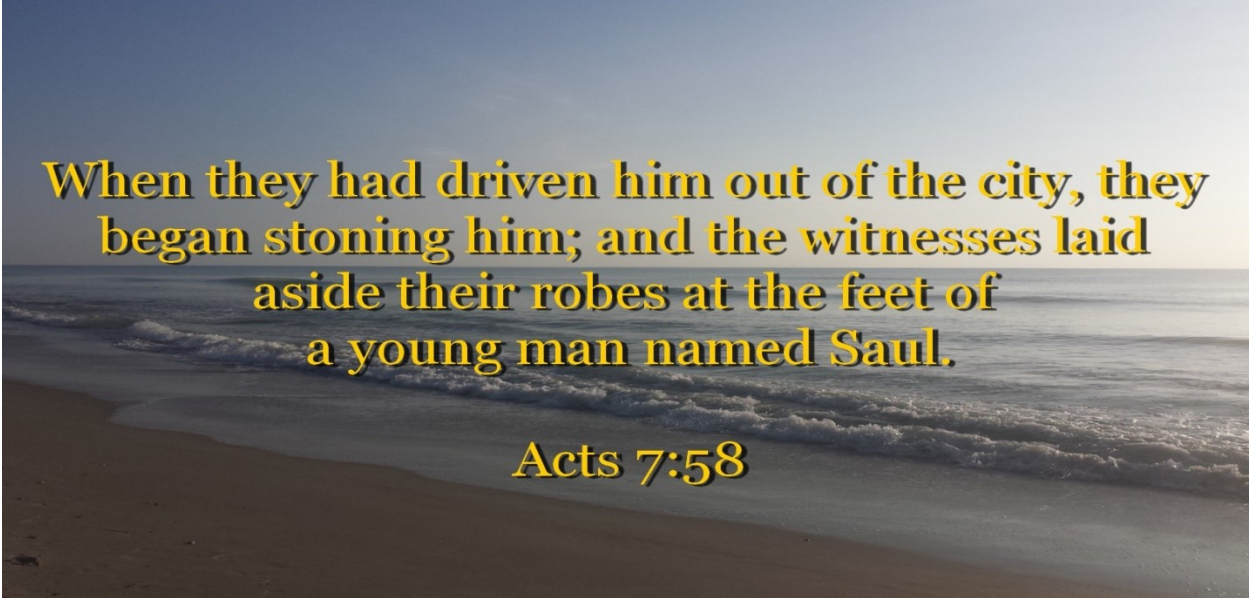
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the faithful testimony of Stephen delivered by the power of the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon the Holy Spirit to give you the right words at the right time to speak about sin and forgiveness in Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 251

Stoning Today



When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Acts 7:58

Why did they drive Stephen out of the city? Because they sought to stone him.

Stephen spoke the words given to him by the Holy Spirit. Those words cut through the hearts of the men on the religious Council. They became enraged and rushed upon Stephen with one impulse.

The word of God often provokes powerful reactions. A few people hear the word of God and repent and turn to Jesus for salvation. Most people hearing the Gospel do not repent and turn to Jesus for salvation. Some of those who do not repent become violent, even to the point of killing the evangelist.

Many people in the early church rejoiced over being counted worthy to suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. While the early church was a wonderful place of sharing all things, fellowship, and abiding in the teaching of the apostles and watching signs and wonders frequently, it was also a time of growing persecution. What started with the execution of the prophets of the Old Testament, and continued with the murder of John the Baptist and

the crucifixion of Jesus, continued with the persecution of the apostles and Stephen. Persecution, however, often spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Saul became the symbol of that persecution against the early church.

Saul

1. **When**. What did the religious mob do to Stephen? The religious mob drove Stephen out of Jerusalem.

2. **Driven**. Having driven Stephen out of Jerusalem, they began to stone him.

3. **City**. They intentionally drove Stephen out of Jerusalem so that he would perish outside the city. You may recall that other prophets and Jesus were killed outside the city of Jerusalem.

4. **Witnesses**. The witnesses to the stoning laid down their robes.

5. **Robes**. Laying down their robes appears to be part of the ritual of stoning a person amounting to a pledge from the witnesses that they would tell the truth in court as necessary.

6. **Young**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember a young man named Saul that presided over the stoning of Stephen, giving hearty approval to the same.

7. **Saul**. We rejoice today because the young man Saul later became Paul the apostle of Jesus Christ, showing that even the most evil opponents of God can learn the truth and become great servants of Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the stoning of Stephen.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by recalling Saul presiding over the stoning of Stephen.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that men like Saul can be changed by the power of God and become the powerful servants of God by faith in Him for salvation.**

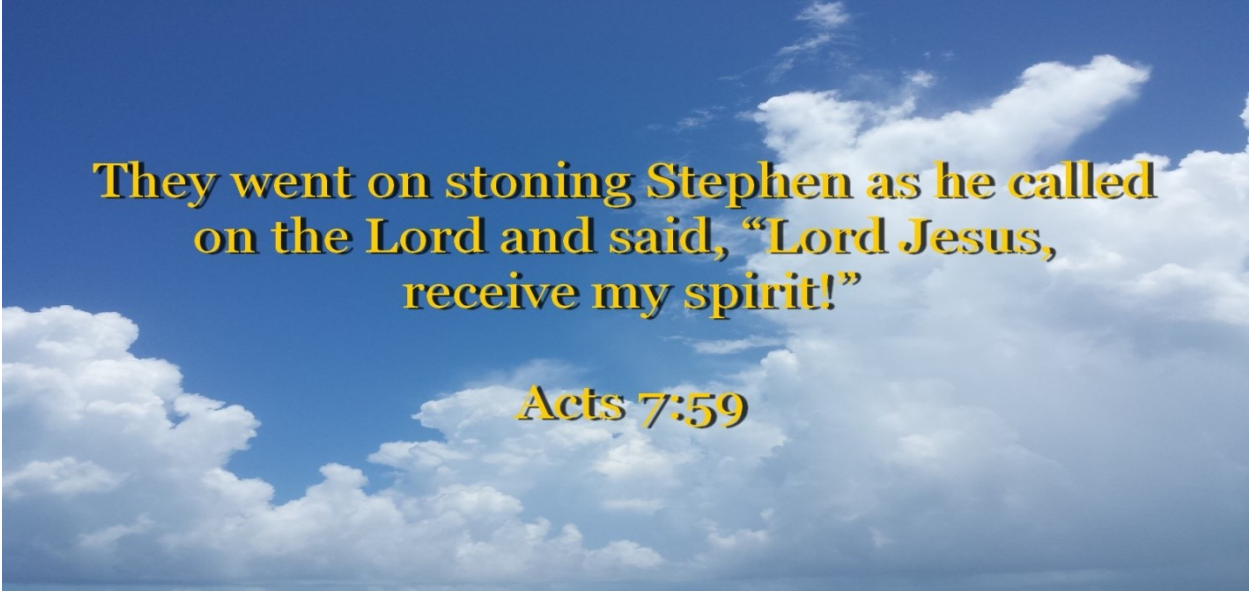
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that a very evil man like Saul, giving approval to the murder of Stephen, later became a servant of Christ persecuted severely for his faith in Christ as Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying for God to change the hearts of the opponents of Christ so that they receive Him as Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 252

Called on Today



They went on stoning Stephen as he called
on the Lord and said, “Lord Jesus,
receive my spirit!”

Acts 7:59

What did Stephen say as he was being stoned? Stephen called upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the Jews stoned Stephen to death, Stephen thought of the Lord Jesus. Some people who know they are dying think about Jesus for the first time in years. Stephen gave his life as a faithful servant of Jesus Christ, recognized by both the apostles and the congregation as a man of power and full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit.

Stephen’s love for the Lord Jesus shone brightly even in his death. As the stones were hitting with deadly intent and his body ached, Stephen called upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Following the example of the Lord Jesus, Stephen commended his spirit to the Lord. He called upon the Lord Jesus to receive his spirit, just as Jesus commended His spirit into the hands of His Father.

At the moment of physical death, the spirit of the believer becomes absent from the body and present with the Lord. Jesus told the thief on the

cross who turned to him for salvation that he would be with Jesus in Paradise that day. So, also, Stephen called upon Jesus to receive his spirit.

Receive my Spirit

1. **They**. The angry mob continued stealing Stephen.
2. **Stoning**. As they stoned Stephen, Stephen called upon the Name of the Lord Jesus.
3. **Called**. Stephen knew the Lord Jesus and believed in the resurrected Jesus. Stephen called upon Jesus, knowing that he was about to die.
4. **Lord**. Stephen referred to Jesus as Lord Jesus, indicating he served Jesus as his Lord.
5. **Jesus**. Stephen knew that Jesus was alive and would receive him into heaven shortly.
6. **Receive**. Living holy in the family of God means that Stephen asked the Lord Jesus to receive his spirit as he neared death with full faith that he would be with Jesus immediately after death.
7. **Spirit**. We rejoice today because as the spirit of Stephen left his body, Stephen prayed for everybody to hear that he was calling upon Jesus to receive his spirit so that he would be with Jesus in heaven.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that our spirits live even after our bodies die on earth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by hearing Stephen call upon the Lord Jesus to receive his spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God because Jesus lives to receive our spirit even today.**

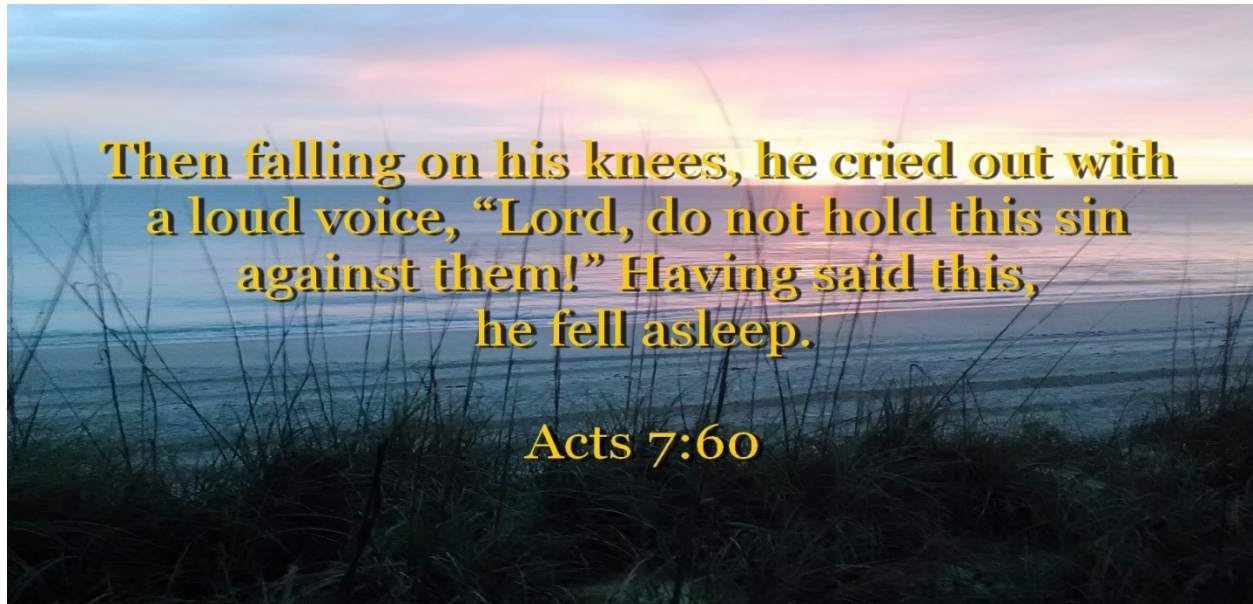
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to receive our spirits after we die. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that our spirits at death go immediately to Jesus in heaven?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 253

Falling Today



What were Stephen's last words? Stephen prayed to the Lord Jesus with his last words.

As the stones hit Stephen and his life ebbed away, God recorded the last words of Stephen. Even in his death, Stephen sought the welfare of the people stoning him. Just like Jesus, he loved his enemies even in death.

As Stephen fell to his knees, he cried out with a loud voice. Stephen prayed that the Lord would not hold this murder against his murderers. The Lord Jesus prayed a similar prayer as He was dying. Stephen truly loved his enemies and lay down his life for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Precious in the sight of Yahweh is the death of His loved ones.

Stephen set an example of courage and love born of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit loved the very people of Israel who rose up against Stephen and all the other apostles. Because God loved the world, He sanctified Jesus, His only and beloved Son, into the world to give His life a ransom for many. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, Jesus sent Stephen to give his life as a testimony of God's love to the murderers of Jesus Christ.

Asleep

1. **Falling**. What happened when Stephen was stoned? Falling to his knees, Stephen cried out with a loud voice.
2. **Cried**. Stephen cried out in prayer.
3. **Lord**. Stephen prayed: “Lord do not hold this sin against them.”
4. **Hold**. Stephen meant that he did not want the Lord to hold the sin against the people stoning him nor the witnesses. Stephen loved his enemies even to death.
5. **Sin**. Stephen recognized the stoning as sin against God.
6. **Fell**. Living holy in the family of God means that when Stephen died from stoning, God said Stephen fell asleep.
7. **Asleep**. We rejoice today because when Stephen fell asleep, his spirit went straight to heaven to be with Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Stephen falling on his knees and praying to God for the people involved in stoning him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by loving our enemies.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God because He provides love for people who persecute us so that they may repent of their sins and turn to God for salvation.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by calling upon God to forgive the people who harm us and hate Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Stephen falling on his knees and asking God not to hold the sin against the people stoning him?

HALLELUJAH !

6

Saul

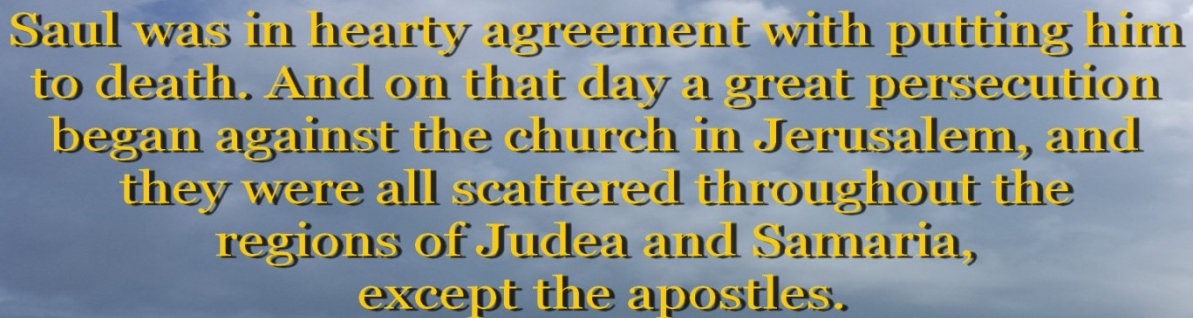
Persecutes Today

Saul was in hardy agreement with putting Stephen to death. On that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem. The saints scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Some devout men buried Stephen. Saul, however, began ravaging the church, entering house after house. He dragged away both men and women and put them in prison. Paul had made a terrible reputation for himself among all the Christians in the area. Even so, God had great plans for Saul, the persecutor of the church.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 254

Persecution Today



Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 8:1

What event marked the beginning of the great persecution of the church in Jerusalem? The stoning of Stephen marked the beginning of a great persecution of the Jerusalem church.

As the angry group of Jews stoned Stephen, they laid their robes before a young man named Saul. That young man later was known as Paul the apostle of Jesus Christ. Later on in Acts we will read about the salvation of Saul and see how the Lord Jesus Christ changed his life forever.

As the angry mob stoned Stephen, Saul stood by in hearty agreement with putting him to death. Stephen had concluded his presentation of the Gospel and used the Old Testament to prove that the fathers of Israel persecuted, disowned, and murdered the messengers and leaders God sent to help them. More recently, the same religious Council had crucified the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel.

Speaking the words given to him by the Holy Spirit, Stephen delivered a powerful rebuke to those religious leaders of Israel. His message cut right through them. Instead of repenting of their sins, they attacked Stephen with one impulse. They drove him out of the city of Jerusalem and stoned him. His death caused the saints in Jerusalem to flee Jerusalem and they scattered to the regions of Samaria and the surrounding area. The apostles, however, did not flee Jerusalem.

Scattered

1. **Saul**. What did Saul think about the stoning? Saul was in hearty agreement with stoning Stephen.

2. **Hearty**. Saul not only approved of the decision to stone Stephen, he gave hearty approval to the stoning of Stephen.

3. **Agreement**. Notice that the stoning was the product of an agreement between multiple persons seeking to murder Stephen.

4. **Death**. Nothing less than the death of Stephen would satisfy the mob stoning him because he used the Scriptures to prove their guilt in crucifying Jesus, the Son of God.

5. **Persecution**. On that day, a great persecution of the church in Jerusalem began.

6. **Scattered**. Living holy in the family of God means that as the people in Jerusalem scattered due to the persecution, they spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever they went.

7. **Apostles**. We rejoice today because the apostles did not leave Jerusalem, but courageously stood fast against the opposition.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that persecutions of saints led to the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to new lands.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that he counts some people worthy of suffering for the sake of His Name.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His divine plans that include some saints suffering on earth for His Name with glory in heaven to follow.**

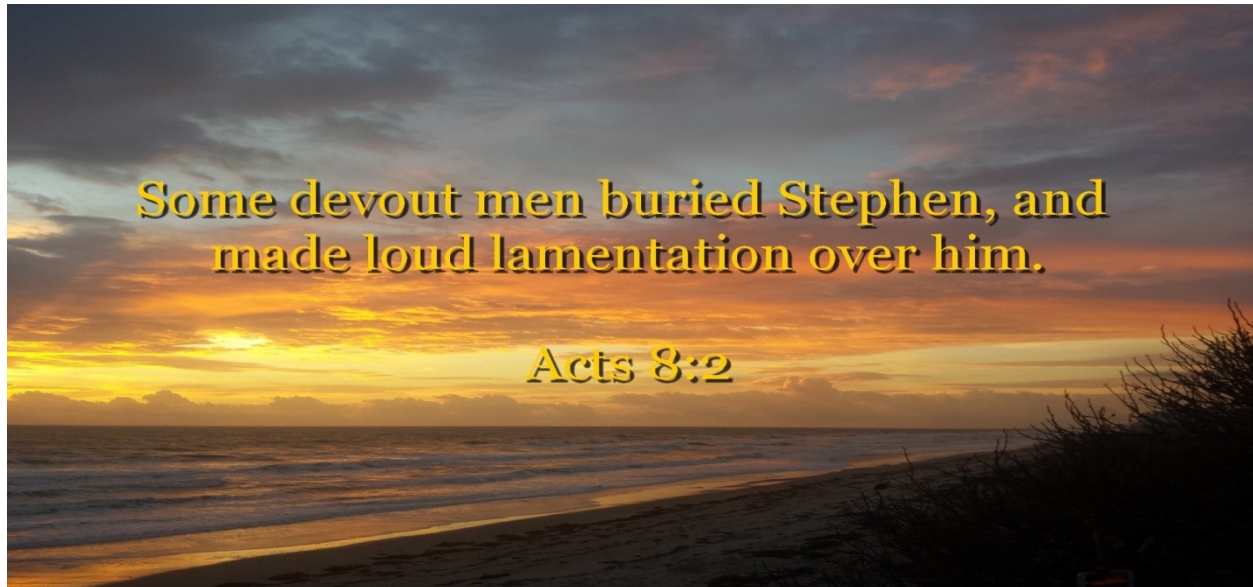
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that people spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as they fled from the persecution in Jerusalem. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing your faith with people wherever God has put you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 255

Buried Today



What happened to the body of Stephen? Some devout men buried him.

Stephen lay down his life for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was arrested for proclaiming Christ and working signs and wonders among the people of Jerusalem. The religious Council arrested him and then brought him in to answer charges of blasphemy made by false witnesses.

The Holy Spirit gave Stephen the words to speak. He walked through the Old Testament showing how the fathers of Israel repeatedly disowned the leaders of Israel sent by God and God Himself. Stephen's presentation was so powerful that the religious leaders were cut deeply by his words. The Holy Spirit brought full conviction upon them. Instead of repenting, they rushed upon Stephen with one impulse.

They drove him out of the city and then stoned him. As the rocks were hitting them, he told them that he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God in heaven. He then prayed that God would forgive them for stoning him.

As the mob was stoning Stephen to death, they laid their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. He gave hearty approval to the death of

Stephen. After Stephen died, some devout men came and took the body of Stephen away and made loud lamentation over him.

Lamentation

1. **Devout**. Why did some men make loud lamentation over the body of Stephen? They expressed Godly sorrow over his murder by the religious Council.

2. **Men**. Those men have been memorialized in the Scriptures for their kindness towards the body of Stephen.

3. **Buried**. Those men gave Stephen's body the burial it deserved.

4. **Stephen**. Stephen stands out as a wonderful apologist and gifted evangelist in the early church.

5. **Loud**. The men made loud lamentation over the body of Stephen, indicating the depth of emotion they felt over his murder.

6. **Lamentation**. Living holy in the family of God means that saints often lamented the death of God's holy ones.

7. **Him**. We rejoice today because heaven rejoiced with the arrival of the spirit of Stephen while men on earth loudly lamented his murder.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the lamentation over the murder of Stephen.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that Stephen suffered martyrdom for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to remember Stephen as we face persecution.**

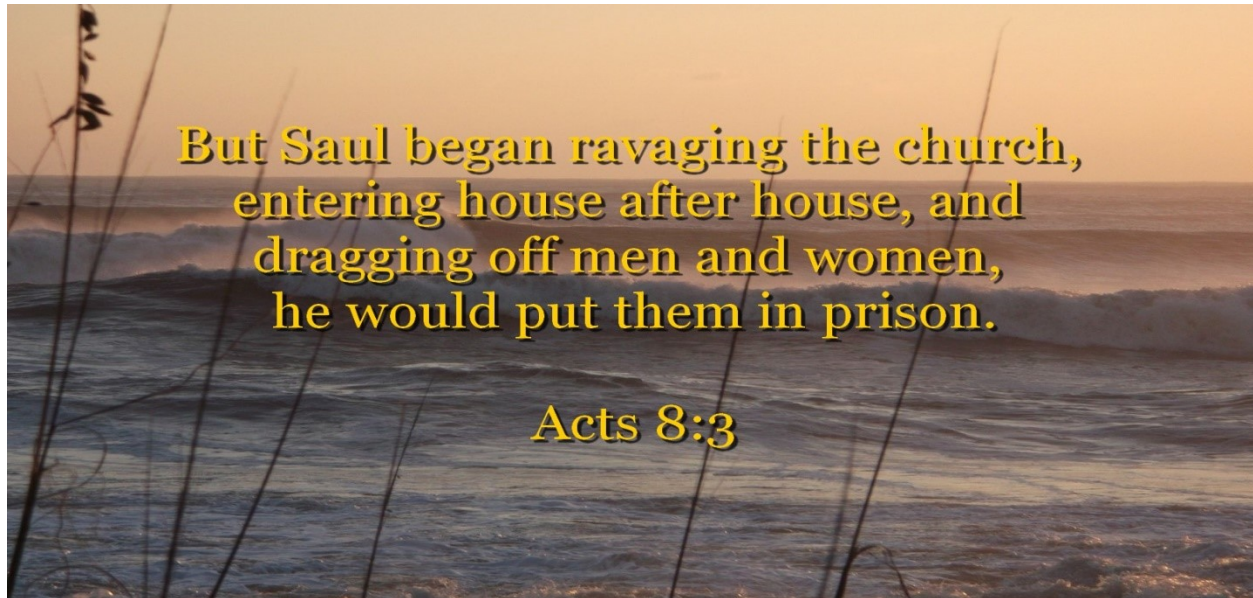
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting opposition to the truth by people who hate God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the truth of salvation in Jesus Christ no matter who opposes you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 256

Saul Today



What role did Saul play in the persecution? He put saints in prison.

At the stoning of Stephen, the witnesses laid their robes at the feet of the young man named Saul. He was in hearty agreement with the murder of Stephen. Saul then began ravaging the church, going from house to house and dragging off men and women and putting them in prison.

Saul was not content with arresting people in the Temple. He searched for them house to house. You may recall that the early church sold a lot of their property and donated the proceeds to the apostles for the benefit of the entire congregation. Even so, the early church was known for meeting from house to house breaking bread and having meals together.

Saul knew where to find the saints. With the murder of Stephen, the religious Council and its minions became more bold in persecuting the saints. The Council was intent upon eradicating Christianity at its roots. They no longer cared about the counsel of Gamaliel urging them to be patient and see what developed. They saw the church growing rapidly and out of spite

and jealousy did all they could stop the work of Jesus Christ as He built His church.

Ravaging

1. **Saul**. How did Saul persecute the church? He arrested people in the church.

2. **Ravaging**. Saul began ravaging the church after the death of Stephen.

3. **Church**. Saul targeted the church because he wanted to crush the Christian community.

4. **House**. Saul went house to house looking for Christians.

5. **Dragging**. When Saul found Christians he was dragging both men and women away from their own houses.

6. **Put**. Living holy in the family of God means that God had mercy on Saul and saved him by grace even though he put Christians in harm's way.

7. **Prison**. We rejoice today because the Saul of Tarsus who once put Christians in prison spent the majority of his life later releasing people from the bonds of Satan by the power of Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the persecution of the early church.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Saul went house to house dragging away men and women because of their faith in Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God can change the hearts of people by His power so that they no longer persecute the church.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving the people that God saved after they first persecuted the church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that His mercy reaches even persecutors of the church?

HALLELUJAH !

7

Philip in Samaria Today

As the persecution intensified, the saints fled Jerusalem, but took the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them and began proclaiming the great love of Jesus Christ and His Father. Philip went down to the city is Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. He performed many signs among them and the unclean spirits were cast out of people. Many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. Much rejoicing came into that city.

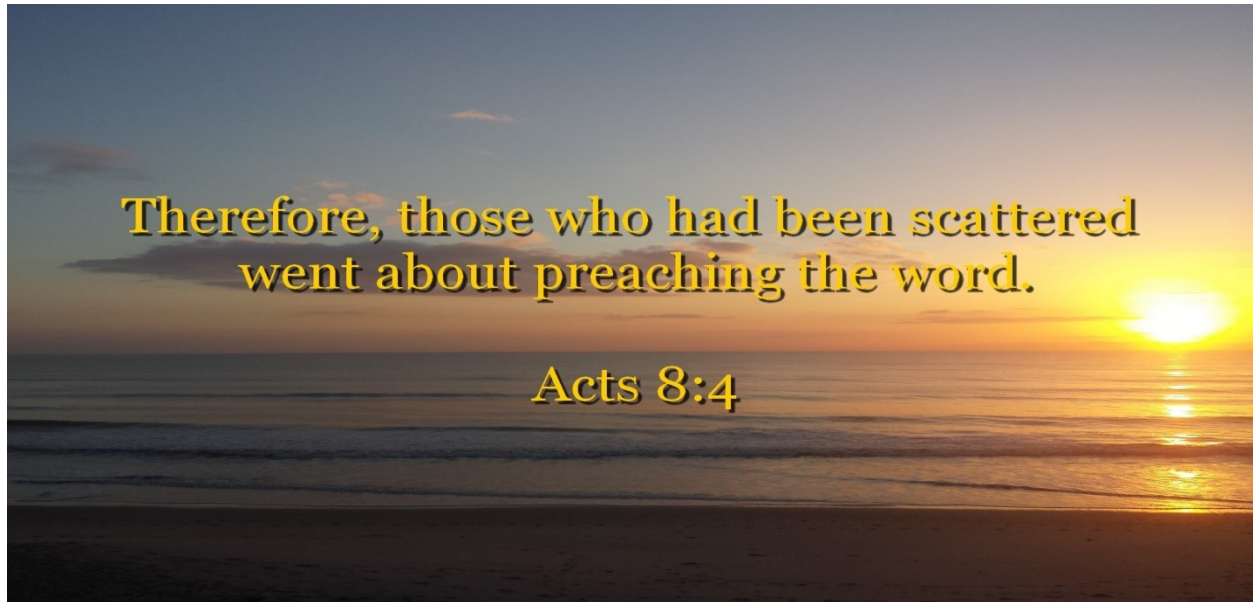
Simon practiced magic in Samaria and astonished the people, claiming to be someone great. The people called him the great power of God. He practiced his magic arts. When Philip came to town preaching the good news about the kingdom of God in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, men and women believed and were baptized. Simon himself believed and continued on with Philip, observing the signs and great miracles taking place. He was constantly amazed.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John. They came down and prayed for the Samaritans that they might receive the Holy Spirit. They had simply been baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. When Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was bestowed by the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, seeking to buy that power. Peter responded saying that the silver of Simon should perish with him, because he thought he could obtain the gift of God with money. Peter told him to repent of his wickedness and pray that the intention of his heart may be forgiven him. Peter said that Simon was in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of inequity. Simon replied, asking for Peter to pray for him, so that nothing which Peter said would come upon him. The Samaritans had heard and believed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 257

Scattered Today



What happened to the saints scattered abroad? They went about preaching the word of God.

Many times during the history of the church, persecutions arose and saints fled from the site of persecution. As they traveled before the wave of persecution, they proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christianity actually spread faster and farther because of the persecution.

The apostles remained in Jerusalem and continued their ministry. Some of the apostles also spread out into the surrounding regions. Jesus commissioned them to begin preaching in Jerusalem and then to Judea and then to Samaria and then to the uttermost parts of the world. The pattern of geographical expansion that Jesus revealed included the apostles passing on their faith to others.

The apostles made disciples. In turn, those disciples made more disciples. Faithful men entrusted what they had learned and the salvation they had received with other people who became faithful men. Likewise, women made disciples and shared their faith, making more disciples. The

process of multiplication meant that the church would grow exponentially. One disciple would make one more disciple and then those two disciples would make four disciples and those four disciples would make eight disciples. The growth would continue increasing in numbers very quickly, provided the new disciples made more disciples.

Preaching

1. **Therefore**. What was the effect of persecution upon church growth? The church grew rapidly during times of persecution.

2. **Those**. Those people persecuted took their faith to new places.

3. **Scattered**. They scattered because of the persecution in Jerusalem.

4. **Went**. Those people went out from Jerusalem and took their faith with them.

5. **About**. They went about preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ as they traveled to new places.

6. **Preaching**. Living holy in the family of God means that the people persecuted scattered and went about preaching along their journey to new places.

7. **Word**. We rejoice today because persecution had the effect of scattering preachers of the gospel of Jesus Christ and His word to many new places.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding the effect of persecution upon church growth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by preaching Jesus wherever we go.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by keeping Jesus on our lips and in our hearts as we move from place to place.**

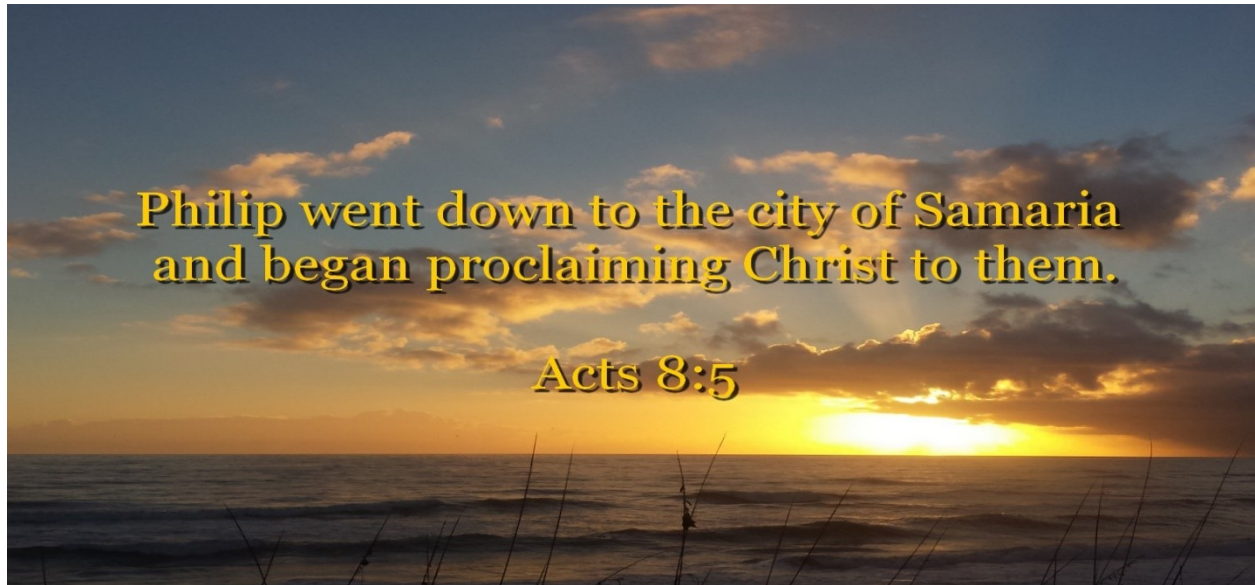
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that everyone in the world needs to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking about Jesus as you journey through life every day?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 258

Philip Today



What ministry did Philip have in the city of Samaria? Philip began proclaiming Christ to the Samaritans.

Philip, apparently one of the seven appointed by the church to be in charge of the ministry of serving tables, went down to Samaria. Jesus met the Samaritan woman from Sychar near Jacob's well. He proved to her that He was the Messiah of Israel and she went back to Sychar and invited everybody to come meet Him. He spent a few days with the people inviting them to believe in Him as the Messiah and Savior of all men.

Jesus had instructed His disciples not to go anywhere but Israel and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. After His ascension, Jesus instructed them to go into all the world. Jesus was using the disciples to reach the Gentiles, beginning with the Jews of Jerusalem spreading out into all the world.

Philip went out to the Samaritans. For centuries, the Samaritans and the Jews had nothing to do with each other. Therefore, when Philip went to

share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the Samaritans, he planted on the ground previously plowed by Jesus at Sychar.

Samaria

1. **Philip**. Where did Philip go? Philip went to the city of Samaria.
2. **Went**. Philip went down to the capital city of Samaria.
3. **City**. Jews and Gentiles and Samaritans did not get along for centuries and Jews often avoided the city of Samaria.
4. **Samaria**. Philip went to Samaria because he knew God loved the Samaritans.
5. **Proclaiming**. Philip went proclaiming Christ to the Samaritans.
6. **Christ**. Living holy in the family of God means that God sends people to their traditional enemies to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
7. **Them**. We rejoice today because Philip obeyed God and proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them notwithstanding the traditional spiritual conflicts between Jews and Samaritans.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God said to love your enemies.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone, including our enemies.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving the Samaritans we know and proclaiming Christ to them.**

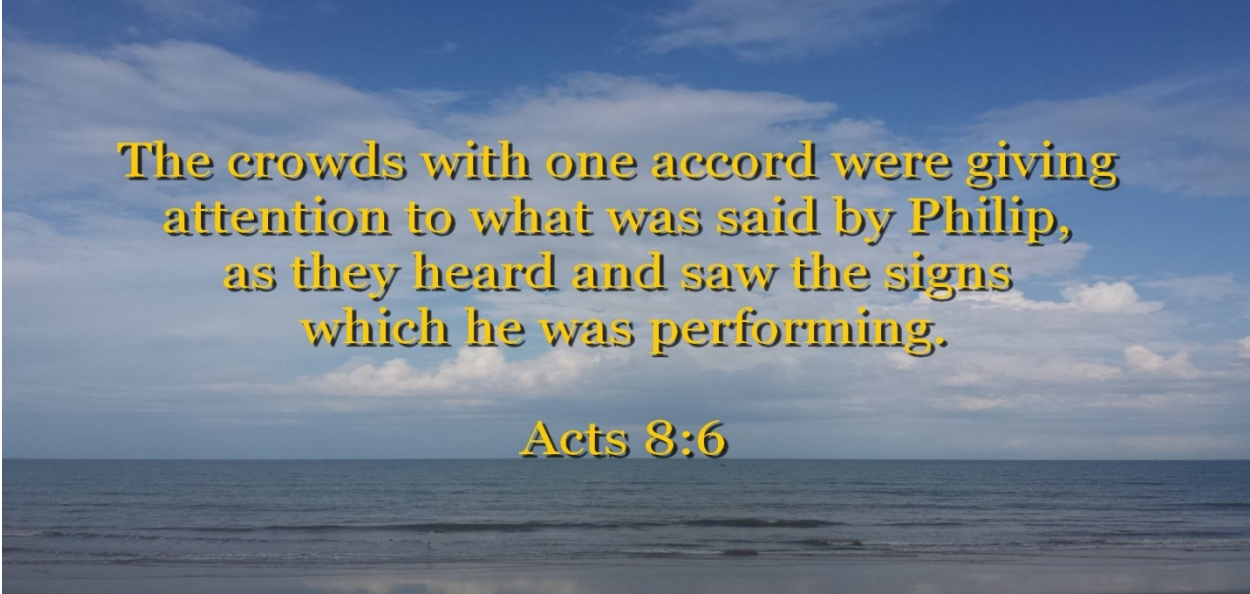
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Philip going down to the Samaritans and proclaiming Christ to them. Will you live holy in the family of God by going where God sends you today without worrying about proclaiming Christ to your enemies?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 259

Crowds Today



The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing.

Acts 8:6

What reception did Philip have with the Samaritans? The Samaritans gave Phillip their attention.

Like the apostles in Jerusalem and Stephen, Philip performed signs among the Samaritans. Signs provided the visible confirmation that God had sent Philip as His messenger. With attentive hearts, they listened to Philip. The commandment of the Lord Jesus to reach Samaria had been undertaken in earnest.

The Samaritans were half Jews and half Gentiles by lineage. The Jews of Jerusalem and Judea avoided contact with Samaritans. At one time, the ten northern tribes had their capital in the city of Samaria. Those ten northern tribes were known as Israel and two southern tribes were known as Judea. Over time, both the northern tribes and the southern tribes fell to foreign enemies. As the people of Jerusalem were taken away into exile beyond Babylon, the divisions between the peoples festered. Upon repatriation to Jerusalem, the returning Jews wanted to have nothing to do with the people of the land who had remained behind and intermarried with

people who were not Jews. They referred to those intermarried people as Samaritans.

Attention

1. **Crowds**. How many Samaritans came to see Philip? Crowds of Samaritans came to see Philip.

2. **Accord**. The crowds came with one accord.

3. **Attention**. They were giving their attention to what they heard.

4. **Philip**. They heard Philip speaking to them, which was unusual for a Jew to speak to a Samaritan.

5. **Heard**. As they heard Philip, they also saw something that captured their attention and held it.

6. **Saw**. Living holy in the family of God means that Philip went to Samaria and performed signs from God before the Samaritans as he spoke to them.

7. **Performing**. We rejoice today because God empowered Philip to speak to the Samaritans, performing signs in their presence that captured their attention.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the signs that Philip did in Samaria.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God confirmed the message of Philip with signs in the presence of the Samaritans.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God blessed the Samaritans with signs accompanying the message of salvation that Philip brought to Samaria in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

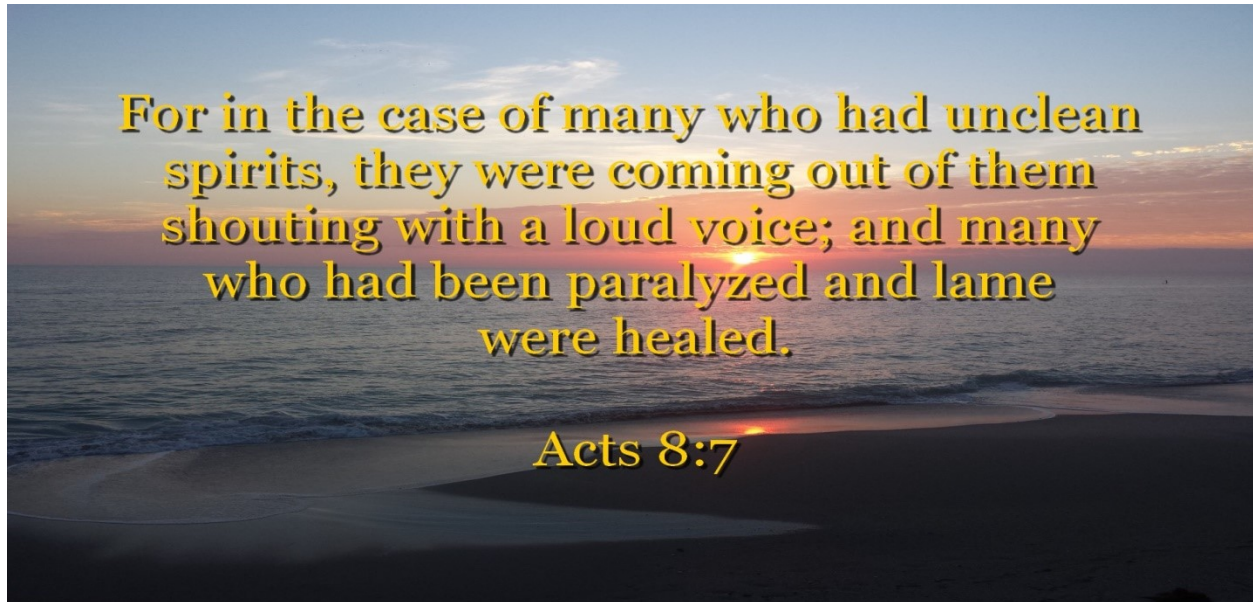
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that signs for unbelievers accompanied the ministry of the early church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that obedient ministers for Christ proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ even to the Samaritans?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 260

Many Today



What signs did Philip perform in Samaria? Philip cast out unclean spirits and many other paralyzed and lame people were healed.

During the early church, God used signs to confirm the ministry of His messengers. Just as Jesus cast out demons, made the blind see and the lame walk and performed numerous other works of powers, so also God sent out new messengers after Pentecost to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, empowered with signs and works of powers.

Jesus always has a heart of compassion for the poor, oppressed and needy. He healed many people with all kinds of spiritual and physical problems. His goal, however, was not merely to heal physical bodies, but to provide spiritual life through faith in Him as Savior. The signs and works of powers made people take notice of Jesus. When they listened to His teaching, they were amazed as He spoke to them with authority and not as the scribes and Pharisees.

Jesus loved the Samaritans and the Gentiles of all nations. He still loves all of them today and seeks messengers to go into foreign lands spreading

the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The message remains the same over the millennia, although the messengers change from generation to generation.

Healed

1. **Spirits**. What happened to many unclean spirits? Philip, by the power of God, cast out those unclean spirits.

2. **Out**. The unclean spirits came out of the Samaritans.

3. **Shouting**. When those unclean spirits came out of the Samaritans, they did not go out quietly.

4. **Loud**. With a loud voice, many unclean spirits came out of people.

5. **Paralyzed**. Paralyzed people were also healed.

6. **Lame**. Living holy in the family of God means that the lame walked.

7. **Healed**. We rejoice today because God healed many Samaritans of their paralysis and lameness. God also cast out many unclean spirits. God demonstrated His love for the Samaritans by sending Philip to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God sent Philip to the Samaritans to perform signs among them while proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by believing God will reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Samaritans and others using the messengers willing to share their faith.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving the Samaritans around us and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.**

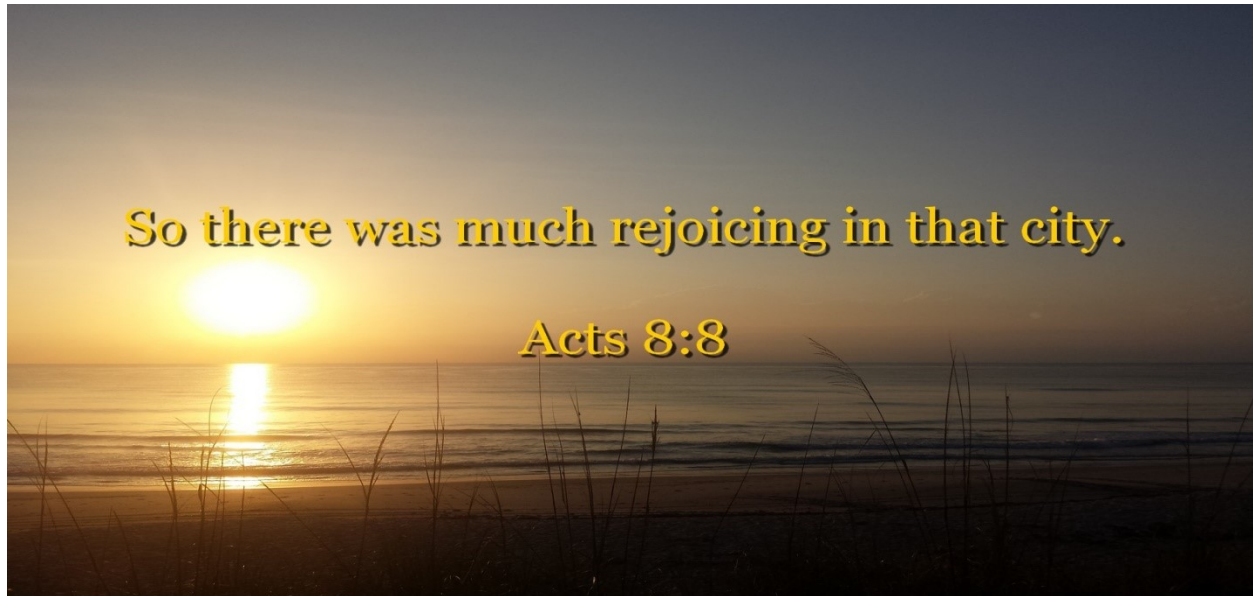
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving the Samaritans that God has placed around us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the Samaritans in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 261

Rejoicing Today



Why were the Samaritans rejoicing? Because Philip had shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

Philip began the expansion of Christianity away from Jerusalem and Judea. He traveled to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God empowered him to work signs. The lame walked and unclean spirits were cast out of people. When those spirits were coming out of people, they often cried out with a loud voice. God provided unmistakable evidence that a power greater than the unclean spirits had come to Samaria.

Philip came in the Spirit and power of God. As persecution swelled like a wave in Jerusalem, Philip traveled to Samaria escaping that persecution. As persecution builds, people often scatter before it. They take the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them and share it as they go and when they arrive.

Philip was known as a man full of wisdom in the Spirit. While the apostles remained on in Jerusalem, subject to arrest and persecution, other people in the church left, scattered abroad to escape persecution. God sent Philip to Samaria, a land the Jews avoided and they despised its inhabitants

as half-breeds. Jesus had planted seeds in Sychar of Samaria when he met the woman at the well. Philip continued that outreach to the Samaritans.

City

1. **So**. What makes people truly happy? Receiving salvation as a free gift from Jesus Christ.

2. **There**. True happiness came to the city of Samaria.

3. **Much**. Receiving salvation from Jesus Christ brings much rejoicing, not just a little.

4. **Rejoicing**. The rejoicing does not last for only a moment, but for a lifetime and beyond.

5. **In**. Samaria was a city with outcasts and half-breeds, but became a city full of joy about salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ, because salvation is of the Jews.

6. **That**. Living holy in the family of God means that God sends messengers like Philip to bring much joy to cities.

7. **City**. We rejoice today because many people in one city may experience much joy by receiving Jesus Christ as Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by longing for every city to experience much joy over receiving salvation from Jesus Christ the Savior.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our cities.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to rejoice in our salvation in Jesus Christ with much rejoicing in Jesus.**

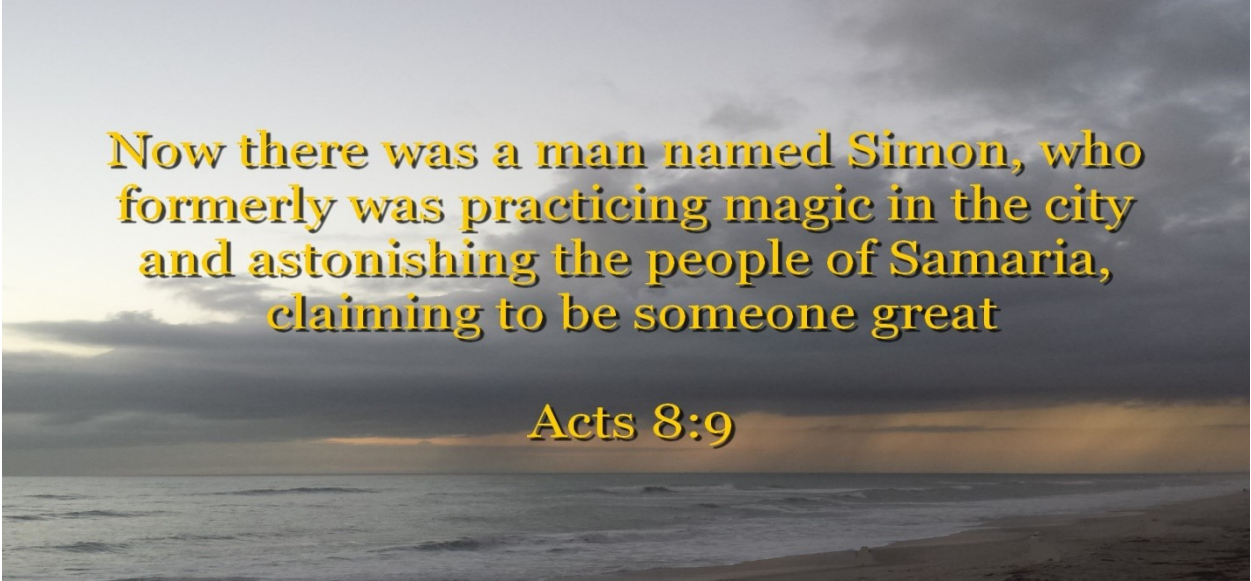
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by sharing our joy with other saints to encourage them to share their joy so the word of God will go forth to every city. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing your joy and salvation through Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 262

Simon Today



Now there was a man named Simon, who
formerly was practicing magic in the city
and astonishing the people of Samaria,
claiming to be someone great

Acts 8:9

Who was Simon the magician? Simon became famous first as a magician claiming to be someone great, but later known in church history as the person who tried to purchase an ecclesiastical office or benefit, giving rise to the practice of simony. In the Middle Ages, powerful men bought and sold church offices (bishoprics, privileges) for profit and control of their kingdoms. They bought them from the Roman Catholic Church.

When Philip arrived in Samaria, Simon had established himself as a magician by astonishing the people of Samaria. He promoted himself as someone great. Simon practiced magic in the city of Samaria. He operated under the influence of the devil. Things were going well for Simon until Philip showed up.

Simon counterfeited the power of God to do supernatural things. Like all charlatans, Simon lead people deeper and deeper into sin and away from God. Simon promoted himself, not God. When Philip arrived, Philip demonstrated the real power of God over the very demons influencing Simon. Philip did not promote himself, he promoted God. Philip proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ and backed it up with signs and wonders. Philip

declared that God loved people and then cast out the unclean spirits and made the lame walk.

Magic

1. **Man**. Who claimed to be someone great? Simon claimed to be someone great.

2. **Simon**. Simon practiced magic, but God condemned all magic in the Bible.

3. **Magic**. Magic means supernatural forces associated with spells, craftiness, sorcerers, idolaters, mediums, demons and satan.

4. **Astonishing**. Simon was astonishing the people of Samaria.

5. **Samaria**. Before Philip arrived, Simon had a thriving career practicing magic.

6. **Someone**. Living holy in the family of God means that we never try to use magic to make ourselves great, but rejoice in the salvation of Jesus Christ as slaves of the living God.

7. **Great**. We rejoice today because magic never makes anyone great in the eyes of God, but the angels of God in heaven rejoice when a single sinner repents and turns to Christ for salvation

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by never seeking greatness through magic.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejecting entertainment programs that emphasize ghosts, magic, mediums, and wizards.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that people are amazed by magic, but the gospel of Jesus Christ draws people away from magic.**

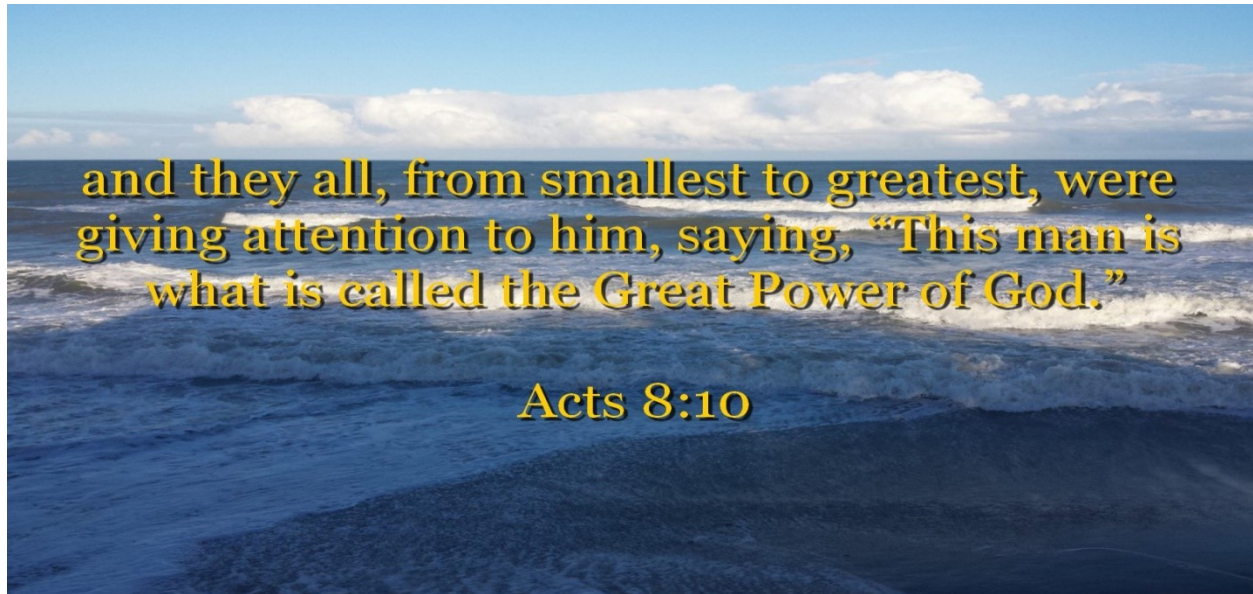
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejecting magic and proclaiming Christ as Savior to those people who love magic. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never seeking greatness through magic?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 263

Smallest to Greatest Today



Who gave Simon attention? The Samaritans gave Simon attention.

The Samaritans had high regard for Simon and his magical powers. We know that the devil and his minions can show signs and wonders and powers. Just because people work signs and wonders and powers does not mean that God sent them. We must test the spirits to see if they are from God. Do they declare that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh? Do they acknowledge Him as their personal Lord and Savior? Do they promote themselves or the Lord Jesus Christ? Do they proclaim salvation only in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ?

The Samaritans from the smallest to the greatest all gave attention to Simon. His powers created a vast audience among the citizens of the city of Samaria. The people said that Simon is what is called the Great Power of God. Philip, however, knew that Simon was no such thing. Philip worked signs and wonders from God. He testified about the greatest miracle, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit indwelt Philip and made His powers quite evident through

helping people overcome demons and illness. People suddenly started listening to Philip and believing in his message about the risen Savior.

Attention

1. **All**. What was Simon called? Simon was called the Great Power of God.

2. **Attention**. Both the smallest and the greatest of the Samaritans gave attention to Simon.

3. **Man**. Simon was only a man, but he drew a very large following in Samaria.

4. **Called**. The people of Samaria called him the Great Power of God.

5. **Great**. The people of Samaria thought Simon was great because of the powers he demonstrated.

6. **Power**. Living holy in the family of God means that we never use the power of God to exalt ourselves and gain the following for ourselves.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because God does not share His glory with another, but glorifies Himself through the lives of His servants living in fearful and loving obedience to Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God is the Almighty and no creature can overcome Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejecting all impulses to magnify ourselves and claim to be someone great.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by identifying and opposing all people who use magic to astonish people so that they falsely claim to be the Great Power of God.**

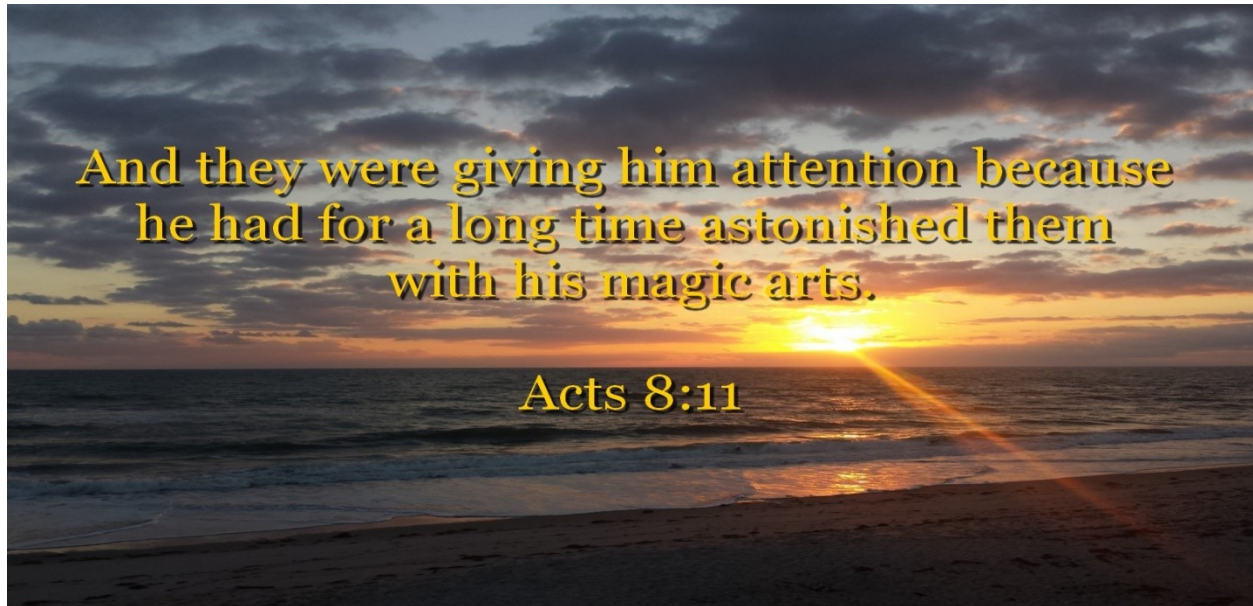
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by recognizing frauds and counterfeiters who claim to be the Great Power of God, but do not proclaim Jesus as Savior and oppose His work of salvation among people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that His power is supreme and He loves you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 264

Astonished Today



Why were the Samaritans giving attention to Simon? They were giving him attention because he astonished them with his magic arts.

God called all magical arts an abomination. Demons often use supernatural power to lure people into following their ways. God condemned all magical practices of casting spells, acting as a medium, contacting the dead. God commanded that all sorcerers be put to death.

Simon gained his following because of the powers he displayed. He used those powers to exalt himself as great. Such abuse of powers identifies Simon as a man controlled by evil spirits. He loved the power and adulation of people awed by his works.

Philip changed everything. Instead of exalting himself, Phillip exalted Christ and preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation. Philip not only healed the sick but also preached Christ risen from the dead and Savior of the world. Philip talked about having eternal life by the power of God. Philip's message stood in bright contrast to Simon and his works of evil. Simon wanted more personal power for himself. Philip wanted the love of Christ to

be magnified all across Samaria and for people to have eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Magic Arts

1. **They**. How did Simon gain attention? Simon gained attention by using magic arts.

2. **Attention**. Samaritans gave Simon attention because he used magic to exalt himself as the Great Power of God. Simon never knew God, but made false claims.

3. **Because**. Because the Samaritans saw Simon using magic, they gave him their attention.

4. **Astonished**. Simon astonished the Samaritans claiming his powers were of God, but he lied about God's power.

5. **Them**. While Simon astonished them, they never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ from him.

6. **Magic**. Living holy in the family of God means that people who use magic oppose the work of God.

7. **Arts**. We rejoice today because all the magic arts in the world will never lead a single person to salvation. Only the Gospel of Jesus Christ brings people to salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that many people are astonished by magic.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejecting magic and embracing the true power of God found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by changing lives for eternity by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people astonished by magic.**

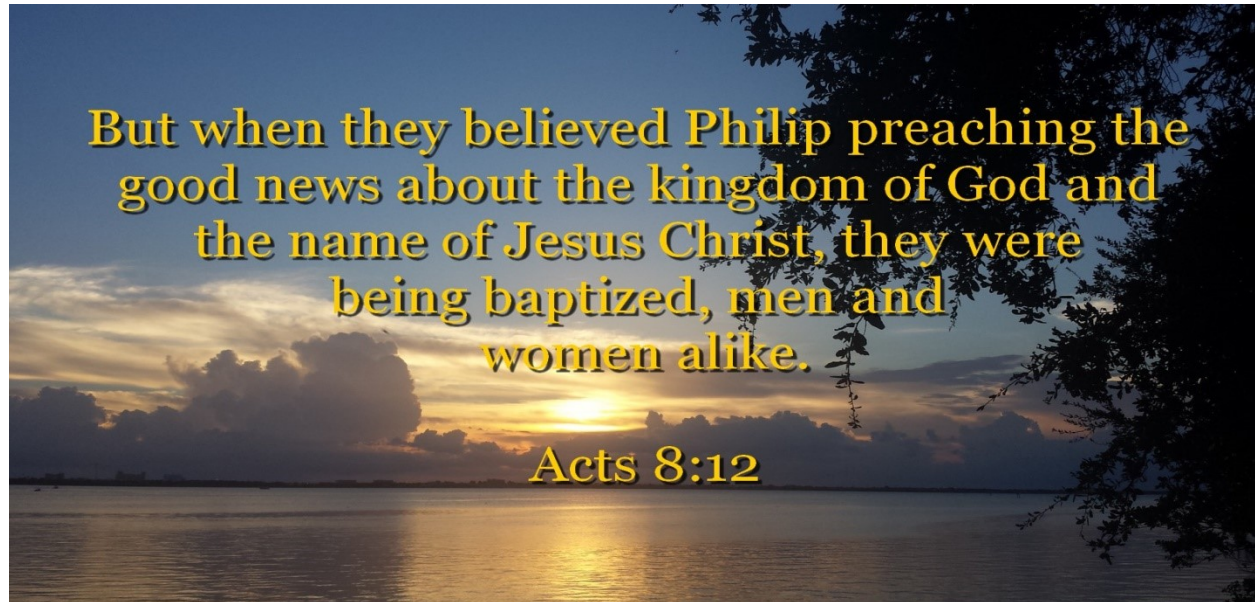
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejecting magic and proclaiming Christ as Savior of the world. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that the power of God always reigns supreme?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 265

Believed Today



What happened when the crowds believed the preaching of the good news? People were baptized.

Baptism describes identification with Christ and occurred in the early church after salvation. After a person received Jesus Christ as Savior by faith alone, then they were baptized by immersion in water. Baptism saved no one. Infants were never baptized because they did not have saving faith. Therefore, the term believer's baptism described immersion as a public statement that the believer was now identified with Christ and had begun a new life in Christ.

The Samaritans were baptized. Simon baptized nobody and recognized immediately that Philip had real power from God. Philip proclaimed Jesus Christ resurrected and ascended, yet spiritually present. People understood the love of Jesus Christ for them. The barrier between Jews and Samaritans was crumbling fast.

Philip proclaimed the good news about the kingdom of God. Jesus brought the kingdom of God to earth as He walked among men. Israel

rejected their king and His kingdom. One day He will return and set up his millennial kingdom on earth in Jerusalem.

Baptized

1. **But**. What did Philip do? Philip preached the good news about the kingdom of God.

2. **Believed**. When the Samaritans believed Philip preaching the good news of the kingdom of God, their lives change forever.

3. **Philip**. Philip preached to the Samaritans, the people the Jews hated and avoided.

4. **Preaching**. Philip came preaching the kingdom of God, and it was the best news anyone had ever heard.

5. **Kingdom**. Philip did not proclaim the value of magic, but he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and people loved God.

6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that God gets all the attention, not the preacher.

7. **Baptized**. We rejoice today because the Samaritans believed in God for salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord and were baptized, both men and women.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by focusing upon the kingdom of God and not exalting ourselves or preachers.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that many Samaritans left magic and embraced faith in the Almighty God.**

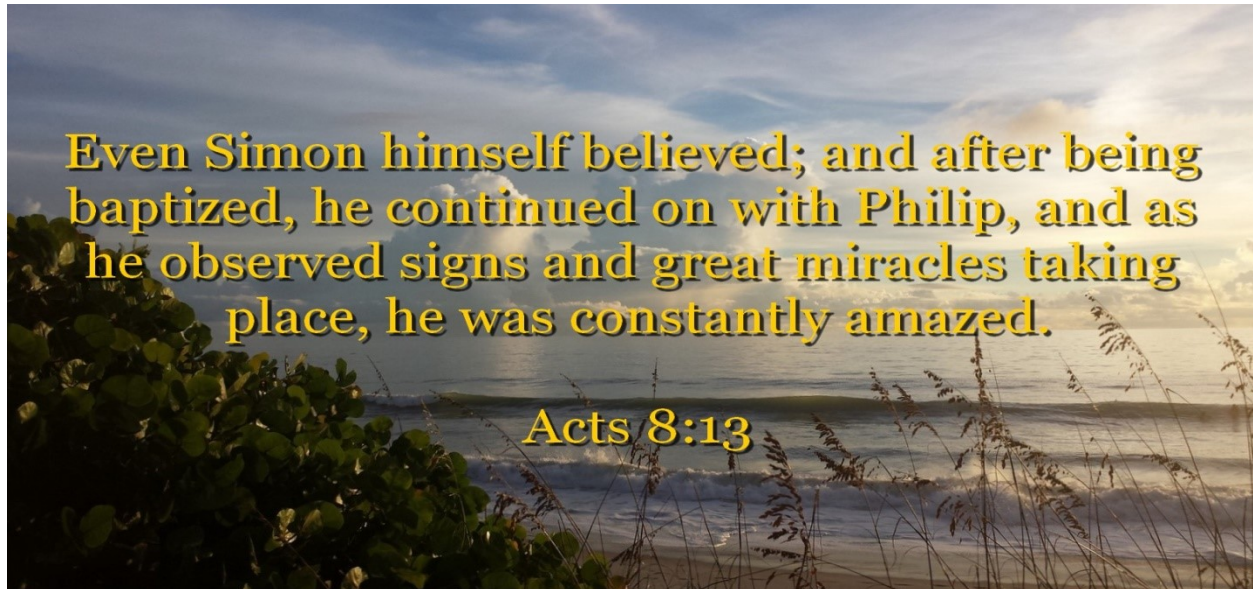
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never exalting preachers, but loving God for drawing us into His kingdom. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 266

Simon Today



Did Simon become a believer? Yes, Simon himself became a believer.

When Philip arrived in Samaria, Simon was well known as a magician. He exalted himself through his magic by calling himself the Great Power of God. He astonished all kinds of people with his magic.

Philip came to Samaria preaching the kingdom of God. God confirmed the ministry of Philip with both signs and wonders. Unclean spirits were cast out and the lame walked. Many of the Samaritans believed through the ministry of Philip. Just as Jesus prophesied, His apostles and disciples would spread the Gospel from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and then to the entire world.

As God worked miracles through Philip, Simon watched many people be healed. Simon's magic was no match for the power of God. Not only were physical bodies healed, but people gained eternal life. Simon believed after watching those signs and great miracles. After being baptized, Simon continued with Philip, being constantly amazed by the signs and great miracles taking place.

Amazed

1. **Even**. After believing, what did Simon do? Simon was baptized.
2. **Simon**. Simon, a magician calling himself the Great Power of God, believed and was baptized under the ministry of Philip.
3. **Believed**. Simon professed faith in Christ as Savior.
4. **Baptized**. Following the usual practice of the early church, Simon was baptized.
5. **Continued**. After being baptized, Simon followed Philip.
6. **Observed**. Living holy in the family of God means that we appreciate that Simon observed signs and great miracles taking place through Philip.
7. **Amazed**. We rejoice today because we know Simon was truly amazed at the great things God was doing through Philip.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by welcoming into the church people who once practiced magic, but now have been born again by the power of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Simon the magician who professed faith in Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for calling magicians and other sinners to salvation.**

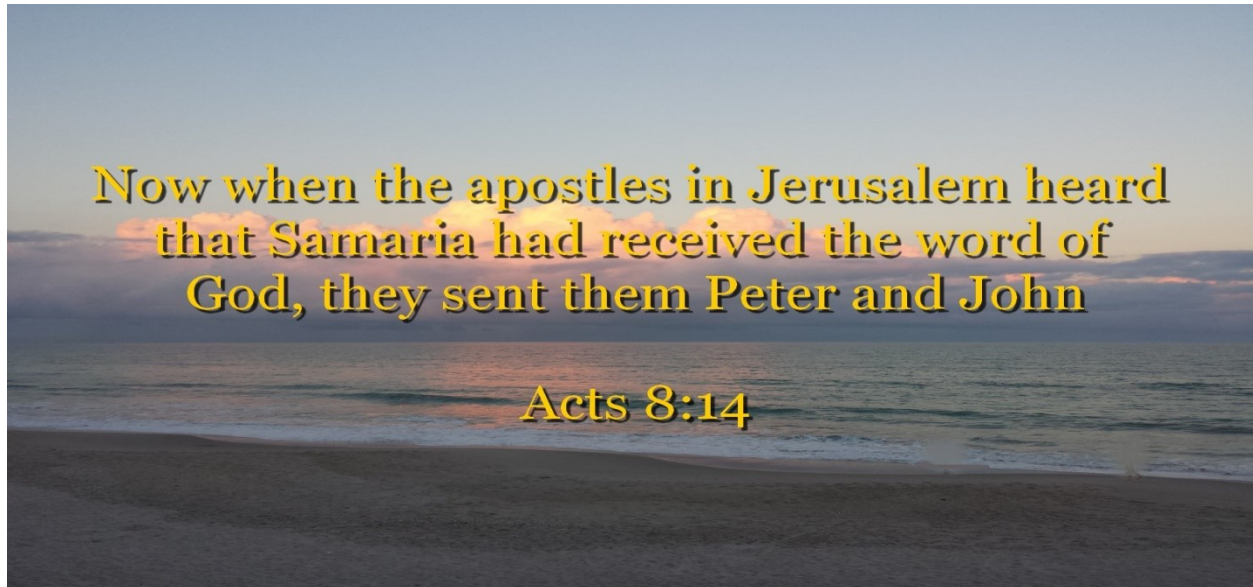
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Simon the magician professed faith in Christ and was baptized. Will you live holy in the family of God today by welcoming people who forsake their evil ways after they have been born again by the power of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 267

Jerusalem Today



Why did Peter and John go to Samaria? The apostles sent Peter and John to Samaria because they heard the news of the Samaritans receiving the word of God.

News of the Samaritans receiving the word of God spread quickly. When the persecution in Jerusalem intensified with Saul going house to house, dragging off men and women and putting them in prison, the apostles did not leave while others fled the persecution. The apostles continued their ministries facing further persecution. They had already been arrested, warned, and flogged for their faith. Even so, they continued to teach and preach in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Samaritans and the Jews intensely disliked each other. Yet Jesus spent time at Sychar of Samaria after meeting the woman at the well of Jacob. He spent several days there and many people came to faith in Him as Savior. Jesus told the disciples about the Samaritan fields being white to harvest. He explained that those who reap rejoice together with those who sowed. Jesus Himself had laid the groundwork of evangelizing Samaria.

The apostles sent Peter and John to Samaria. They intended to spend time with their brothers who had received the word of God.

Samaria

1. **Now**. What the apostles in Jerusalem do when they heard about the Samaritans? They sent two apostles to Samaria.

2. **When**. The news that the Samaritans had received Christ spread quickly back to Jerusalem.

3. **Apostles**. The apostles had never left Jerusalem, even though many others had fled the persecution building in Jerusalem.

4. **Jerusalem**. The apostles stayed in Jerusalem, knowing that the religious Council had already targeted them for special persecution and punishment.

5. **Heard**. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard about the Samaritans, they took prompt action.

6. **Sent**. Living holy in the family of God means that the apostles sent Peter and John to Samaria to investigate and support the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

7. **Peter and John**. We rejoice today because Peter and John went to Samaria to help Philip with the ministry of the new Samaritan believers.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God that He sent Philip, Peter, and John to the Samaritans.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by supporting the ministry of other believers spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by welcoming people sent to help us build up new believers in Christ.**

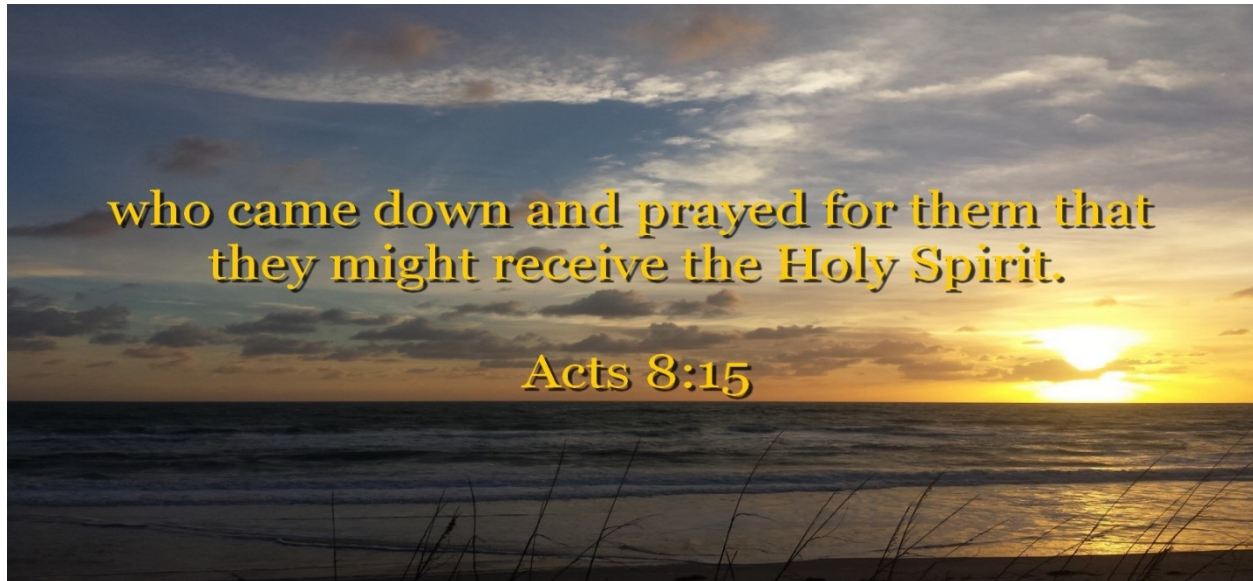
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He loves team ministry. Will you live holy in the family of God today by joining a team ministering the Gospel of Jesus Christ and helping new ministries?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 268

Prayed Today



What did Peter and John do for the Samaritans? They prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

The night before Jesus was crucified, He instructed His disciples that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in His Name. In the Old Testament times, the Holy Spirit was with believers but not in believers. The Holy Spirit empowered men for particular tasks and came upon them from time to time.

Jesus prophesied that after He was resurrected from the dead, the Father would send another Helper to the disciples. The Holy Spirit has a ministry of helping people in a wide variety of ways. After Jesus ascended, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles at Pentecost. He filled them and took up permanent residence inside of them. For the first time, the Holy Spirit indwelt people on a permanent basis.

The Book of Acts chronicles the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church. His indwelling ministry began at Pentecost with the apostles. His ministry would increase to the Samaritans and then to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit manifested Himself through speaking in tongues and other means in

the early church. The apostles laid their hands upon people as they received the Holy Spirit. Other people received the Holy Spirit without the laying on of hands. Peter and John laid their hands upon the Samaritans and they received the Holy Spirit.

Receive

1. **Who**. Who prayed for the Samaritans? Peter and John prayed for the Samaritans.

2. **Came**. Peter and John came down from Jerusalem because the apostles sent them to Samaria.

3. **Prayed**. Having arrived in Samaria, they prayed for the new Samaritan converts.

4. **They**. The apostles prayed specific prayers for the Samaritans, particularly that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

5. **Might**. In praying that the Samaritans might receive the Holy Spirit, the apostles wanted the Samaritans to experience the same filling of the Spirit that they had experienced at Pentecost.

6. **Receive**. Living holy in the family of God means that the apostles prayed that the Samaritans would receive the Holy Spirit, just as the apostles had received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in Jerusalem.

7. **Holy Spirit**. We rejoice today because the Samaritans and the Jews and Gentiles would all receive the Holy Spirit after being born again.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding the ministry of the Holy Spirit with the Samaritans.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praying for the salvation of people so they will receive the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praying for the ministries of one another.**

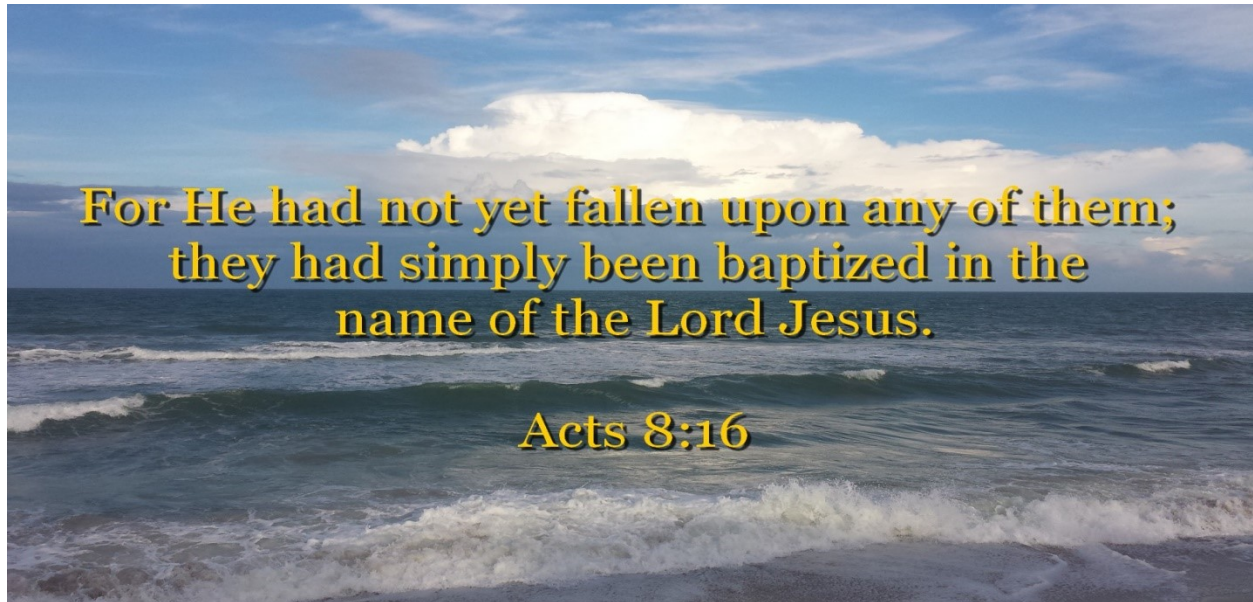
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by coming and praying with people born again recently. Will you live holy in the family of God today by going to pray with people who have recently been born again?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 269

Not Yet Fallen Today



Had the Samaritans been baptized when they received the Holy Spirit? Yes, the Holy Spirit came upon the Samaritans after they had been baptized in water.

Peter and John came down to Samaria to see the fruits of the ministry of Philip. Philip had proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Samaritans and many have believed and been baptized. News of the conversions spread back to Jerusalem and the apostles sent Peter and John to Samaria.

Having arrived in Samaria, Peter and John learned that the believers had been baptized, but had not yet received the Holy Spirit. Therefore, Peter and John prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Acts provides not only the expansion of Christianity, but also the transition in ministry of the Holy Spirit from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Saints often underestimate the value of the Holy Spirit in their lives. As God, the Holy Spirit possesses the full power of God, unlimited in scope and magnitude. By His power He convicts people of sin

and encourages believers. He also teaches believers how to pray and fills them with His presence, sanctifying them for service to God.

Simply

1. **For**. Why did the apostles pray for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit? Because they had already been baptized as believers, but they had not received the Holy Spirit.

2. **He**. He had not yet fallen upon any of the Samaritans.

3. **Fallen**. The Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles at Pentecost in Jerusalem, but He had not yet fallen upon any of the Samaritans.

4. **Any**. None of the Samaritans had yet received the Holy Spirit.

5. **Baptized**. All of the Samaritan believers had been baptized.

6. **Name**. Living holy in the family of God means that God sent the apostles to the Samaritans to facilitate the Holy Spirit falling upon the Samaritans after they had been saved and baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Lord Jesus**. We rejoice today because God showed the apostles that the Holy Spirit would fall upon the Samaritans after they believed in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, just as the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles at Jerusalem.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Samaritans and their Pentecost when Peter and James came and prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praying for believers to enjoy the ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the expansion of Christianity to the Samaritans witnessed by the apostles praying for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit.**


Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that the Holy Spirit fell upon us at the moment of salvation by faith in Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by enjoying the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 270

Began Today



Then they began laying their hands on them,
and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:17

What happened when the apostles laid their hands on the Samaritans? They began receiving the Holy Spirit.

God provided proof that the Samaritans were converted to the apostles. The twelve apostles were all Jewish and had a history of disliking the Samaritans. Therefore, God sent the apostles to Samaria so that they could see first-hand the conversion of the Samaritans. By receiving the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands by the apostles, they gave proof that God truly saved them just like God had saved the apostles who were all Jews.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit changed the lives of the saints. Not only did the Holy Spirit dwell inside of each saint, but He also indwelt the entire church, the Temple of God. In essence, the Holy Spirit took up residence in the church and directed its progress across the world.

The Holy Spirit also brought spiritual gifts into the church. Jesus baptized each believer with the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts provides a transition from the Holy Spirit being transferred to a new group of people through the laying on of hands. Those groups included the Samaritans and

the Gentiles. By the laying on of hands, the apostles had first-hand testimony to report to the other apostles that indeed the Samaritans and later the Gentiles, were saved by faith just like they had been. The presence of the Holy Spirit coming into the Samaritans and the Gentiles changed everything in the church consisting of both Jews and Gentiles, and grew rapidly across the world.

Holy Spirit

1. **Laying**. How did the Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit? They received the Holy Spirit after the apostles laid their hands on the Samaritans.

2. **Hands**. Peter and John laid their hands upon the Samaritans after praying for them.

3. **Them**. After Peter and John laid their hands on the Samaritans, the Holy Spirit fell upon them.

4. **They**. They were receiving the Holy Spirit.

5. **Were**. Through the laying on of hands of Peter and John, the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit. Only a few times in the Book of Acts did people receive the Holy Spirit to the laying on of hands. In each instance, the Holy Spirit began ministry with a new group of people.

6. **Receiving**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Samaritans were receiving the Holy Spirit, just like the Jews in Jerusalem first received the Holy Spirit.

7. **Holy Spirit**. We rejoice today because Peter and John laid hands upon the Samaritans and they received the Holy Spirit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that the first Samaritans to believe in Christ for salvation received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands of Peter and John.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that the Holy Spirit fell upon both Jews and Gentiles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that the Holy Spirit indwells both Jews and Gentiles.**

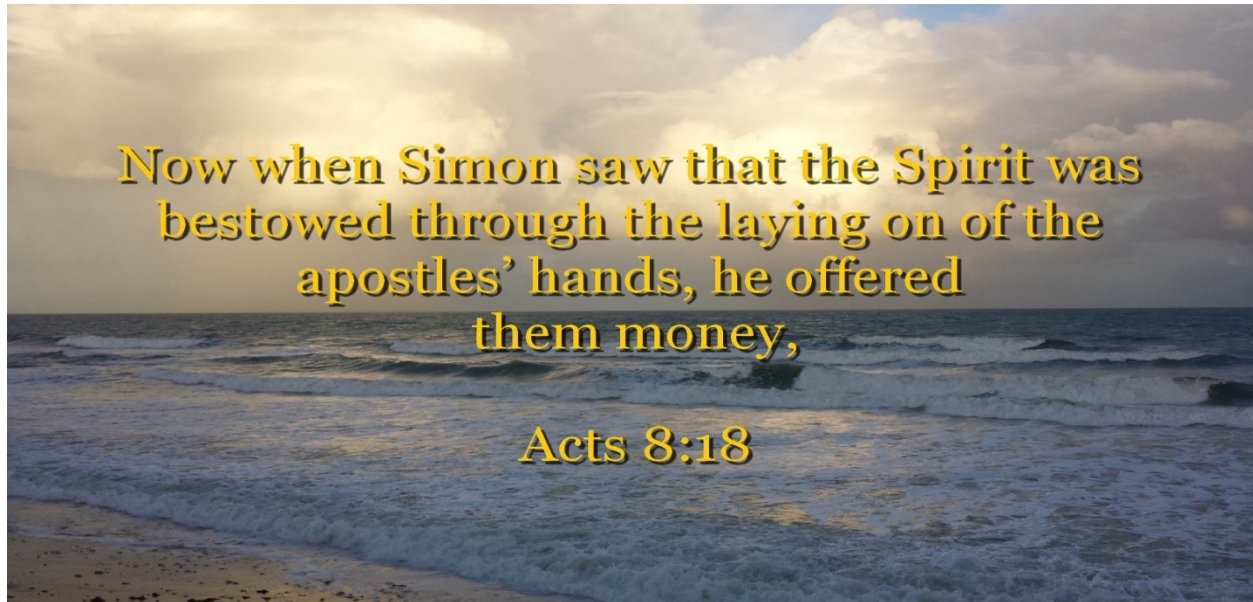
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that the Samaritans shared in the Holy Spirit, just like the Jews in Jerusalem. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God does not play favorites among believers when it comes to receiving the Holy Spirit?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 271

Bestowed Today



What is simony? Simony is the practice of buying and selling ecclesiastical offices and favors.

Simony gets its name from Simon the magician of Samaria. Before Philip came to Samaria, Simon the magician called himself the Great Power of God. He amazed people with his magic and drew a large following. When Philip arrived, Philip proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God also did signs and wonders through Philip, confirming God had sent him. God cast out demons and made the lame to walk. Great things were happening in Samaria.

Simon believed as well and was baptized. He began to follow Philip around. He witnessed all the great miracles that God was doing through Philip. The apostles in Jerusalem heard about the great things going on at Samaria and sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they found out that the Samaritans had not yet received the Holy Spirit. They laid hands upon the Samaritan believers and they received the Holy Spirit. Simon watched these great things and learned that the Holy Spirit, in this particular

case, was received through the laying on of hands by the apostles. Simon offered the apostles money.

Money

1. **Simon**. What did Simon see? Simon saw the apostles laying hands on saints and they received the Holy Spirit.

2. **Saw**. Simon saw the apostles using the authority of God.

3. **Spirit**. As the apostles laid hands upon saints, the saints received the Holy Spirit.

4. **Laying**. Simon understood that the laying on of hands caused the believers to receive the Holy Spirit.

5. **Hands**. Simon wanted that same authority for himself so that he could lay hands upon people and they would receive the Holy Spirit.

6. **Apostles**. Living holy in the family of God means that the apostles had special authority from God to confirm faith through the laying on of hands so that people would receive the Holy Spirit.

7. **Money**. We rejoice today because money can never buy a gift or benefit from God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remember Simon trying to pay money to buy spiritual authority.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that such spiritual authority can never be bought with money, but was a particular gift to the apostles for a particular reason and a special time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that the Samaritans received salvation by faith just like the apostles and others at Pentecost.**

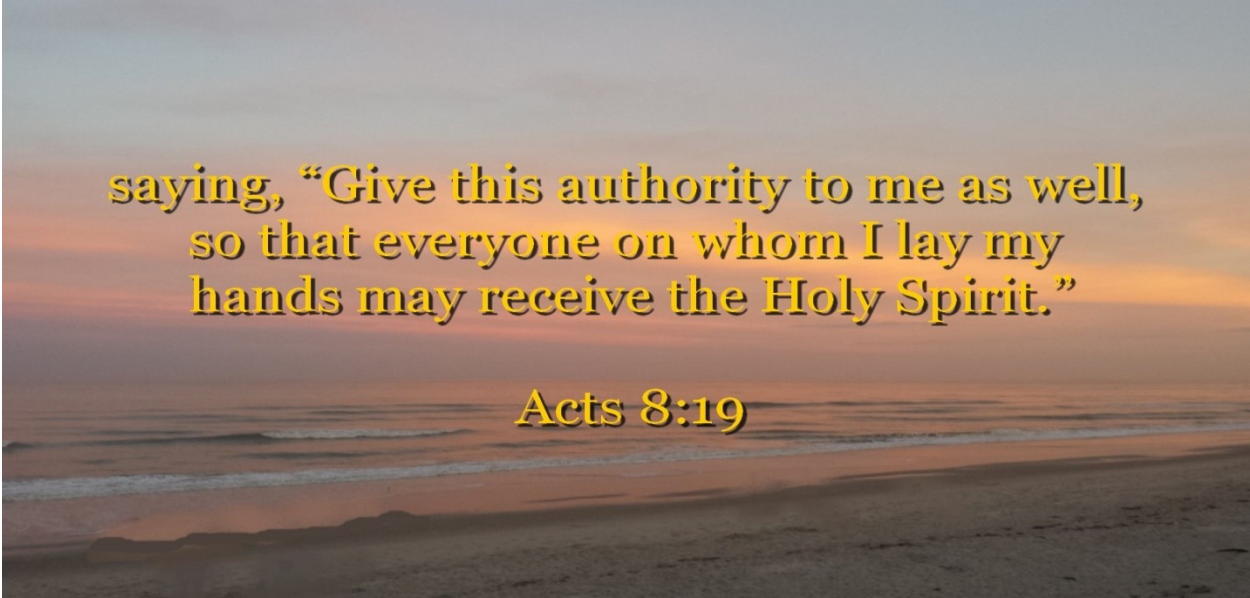
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the authority and gifts of God cannot be bought with money. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that we all receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation without the apostolic laying on of hands?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 272

Authority Today



saying, “Give this authority to me as well,
so that everyone on whom I lay my
hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 8:19

Why did Simon offer money to the apostles? Simon offered money because he wanted this same authority to lay his hands on people that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

Simon professed faith in Christ as Savior and was baptized. Previously, he had practiced magic and drawn a large following. He called himself the Great Power of God. He had never seen the power of God as he witnessed in Philip and the apostles. He wanted to be like the apostles and lay his hands upon people so that they too could receive the Holy Spirit. He thought he could purchase that authority from the apostles.

Simon completely misunderstood the nature of God’s authority. The apostles did not own that authority and could not sell that authority. God placed that authority upon the apostles for a particular reason. As the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread through different places and peoples and groups and cultures, God provided absolute proof to the apostles that the Samaritans and others were saved by faith in Jesus Christ just like they were. By the Holy Spirit coming upon these new believers, the apostles could confirm to others that the new groups were actually part of the church because the Holy Spirit

came upon them after salvation just like He came upon the apostles in Jerusalem at Pentecost. The laying on of hands is no longer necessary to receive the Holy Spirit. Today, Jesus immediately baptizes all believers with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. The apostles all died and both Jews and Gentiles and Samaritans all have received salvation through Jesus Christ. Therefore, the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit is no longer needed.

Receive

1. **Give**. What did Simon want from Peter? Simon wanted the authority to lay hands upon people so that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

2. **Authority**. Simon understood that authority granted the power to lay hands upon people and they would receive the Holy Spirit.

3. **Me**. Simon wanted that power and authority for himself.

4. **Everyone**. Simon wanted to use that authority as he wished and for his own purposes.

5. **Hands**. Simon thought that the apostles owned that authority and could sell it at will.

6. **Receive**. Living holy in the family of God means that we did not receive the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands today. At the moment of salvation, Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit and we are sealed in Him.

7. **Holy Spirit**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit falls upon people so that they hear the Gospel and believe it, and then fills them and seals them once they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the authority to lay hands upon people so that they received the Holy Spirit passed away with the men who held the office of apostle. God used the apostles laying their hands upon people so they received the Holy Spirit for the specific purpose of confirming that the Gentiles and Samaritans had truly been saved by faith just like the apostles and Jews.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that we have received the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation without the laying on of hands.**

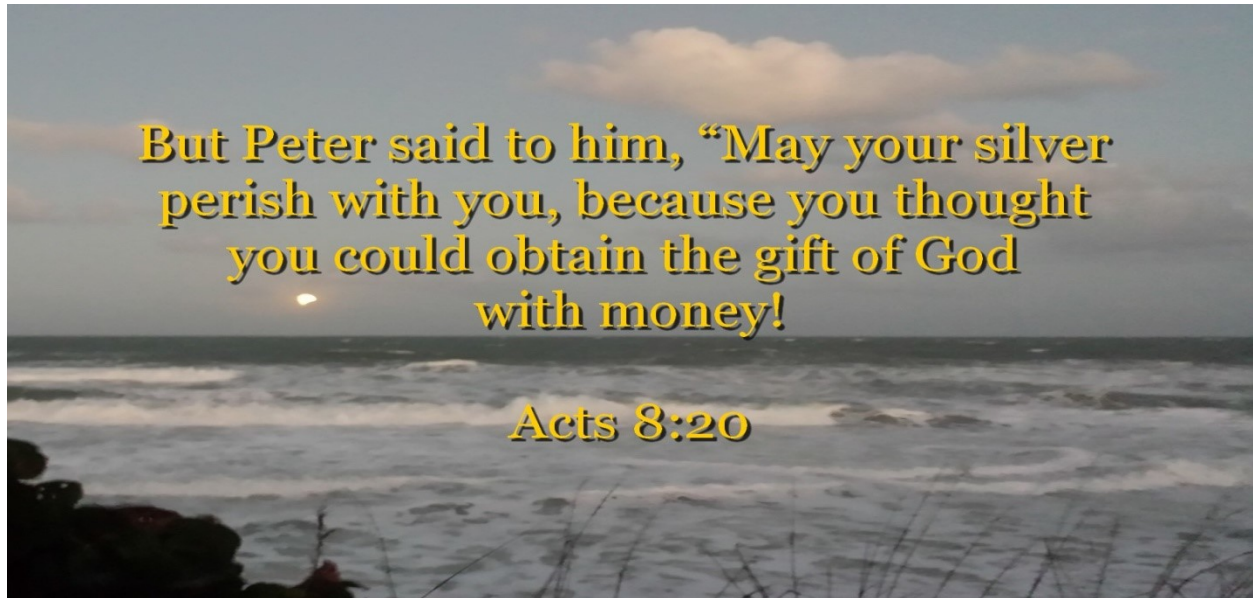
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that both Gentiles and Samaritans have received the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for His great plans to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 273

Silver Today



What did Peter say to Simon? Peter rebuked Simon for thinking that he could obtain the gift of God with money.

Simon did not understand that the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit was a gift of God. The apostles did not buy it with money and could not sell it. Instead, God bestowed that gift upon the apostles so that they would be eyewitnesses of new people, particularly the Samaritans and Gentiles, becoming part of the church of God. By laying their hands upon Samaritans and Gentiles, those new groups were added to the church and the receiving of the Holy Spirit bore witness to their true conversion.

If you read through the Book of Acts, you will see that the laying on of hands was an unusual event to receive the Holy Spirit. That event happened at Samaria and Ephesus. At Caesarea the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit without any record of any apostle laying hands upon them so that they would receive the Holy Spirit. Peter and the other circumcised believers were amazed that the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit just like they had in Jerusalem at Pentecost. God gave a special gift to the apostles of laying on of

hands so that the new group could receive the Holy Spirit, but it was never for sale and could not be transferred from one to another by the will of man.

Money

1. **Peter**. What did Peter tell Simon about his money? Peter said that Simon may perish right along with his money.

2. **Silver**. Simon had offered Peter money so that Simon, too, could lay his hands on people and they would receive the Holy Spirit.

3. **Perish**. Peter let Simon know that his thoughts were evil and may Simon perish with his money for suggesting such a thing.

4. **You**. Peter told Simon: May your silver perish with you. Peter left no doubt in Simon's mind that he had asked for a very evil thing.

5. **Gift**. Peter explained that the laying on of hands was a gift of God, not something that the apostles owned or could sell.

6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that we praise God that He bestows gifts upon men just as He wishes.

7. **Money**. We rejoice today because the gifts of God can never be bought with money, even though some churches and governments try to buy and sell church offices, blessings, and benefits.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that silver never buys the favor of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the gift of God can never be bought with money.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God who gives the Holy Spirit to every believer without charge, except that His Son gave His life as a ransom for many.**

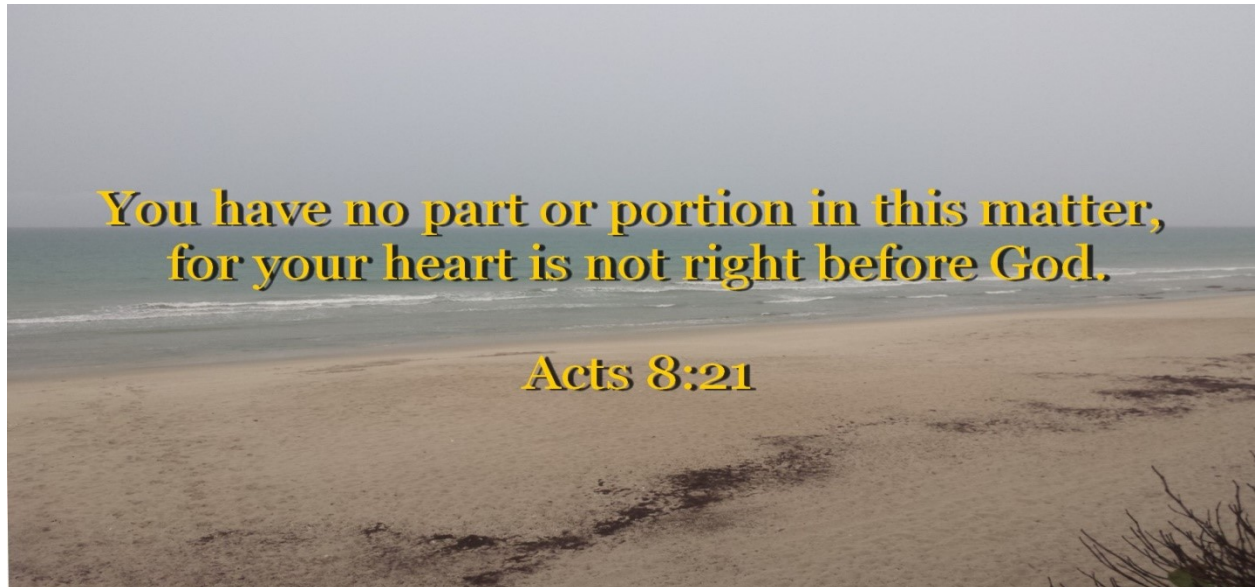
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Simon could not buy the gift of God with money. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for His free gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ and the filling of the Holy Spirit?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 274

No Part Today



How did Peter respond to Simon? Peter told Simon that Simon had no part or portion in this matter.

Simon witnessed the apostles laying their hands upon people and they received the Holy Spirit. Simon wanted to possess that same power so that other people could receive the Holy Spirit. On the face of it, that request sounds bad because he thought he could purchase it. Buying and selling church offices or benefits became known as simony, named after Simon the Magician in the Book of Acts.

Peter explained that Simon had no part or portion in this matter. Peter and John were specifically commissioned as two of the twelve apostles. They met the qualifications of a person to hold the office of apostle. They had been with Jesus and the other men from the baptism of John to His ascension. Simon could not meet those qualifications and no one today can meet those qualifications. Therefore, the office of apostle has passed away, but the spiritual gift of apostle remains. Simon had no part or portion in the ministry of laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit because God had His particular purpose in mind with the laying on of hands. The apostles were

given that authority by God to confirm that the Samaritans and the Gentiles were truly saved by faith just like the apostles in Jerusalem. When they received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, the proof to the apostles and others was complete.

Not Right

1. **No**. What was wrong with Simon? Simon had a heart problem.
2. **Part**. Peter told Simon that he had no part in the ministry of laying on of hands.
3. **Portion**. Peter also said that Simon had no portion in the ministry of the apostles.
4. **Heart**. Simon's heart was not right before God.
5. **Not**. The apostles did not want anyone to believe that their services could be bought with silver.
6. **Right**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Simon's heart had been corrupted by money and magic.
7. **God**. We rejoice today because God wants our hearts serving Him without any corruption or thinking that the gifts of God can be purchased with money.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Simon having no part or portion in the ministry of the apostles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that the gifts of God are not for sale.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving God because the apostles who served had pure hearts not corrupted by the love of money.**

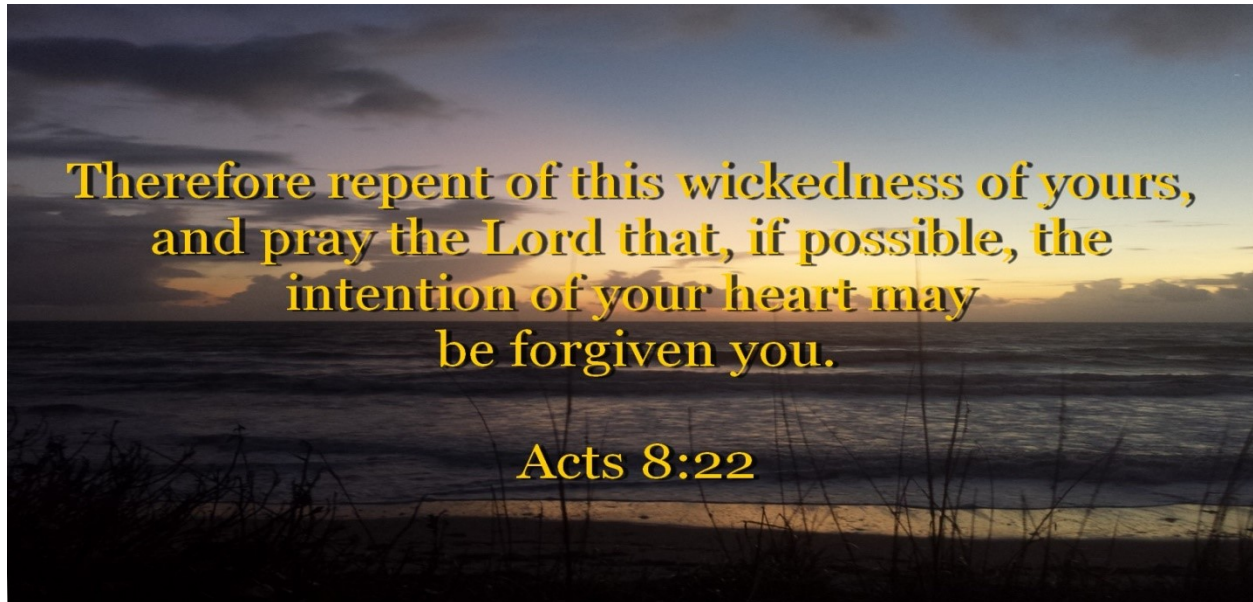
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Simon the magician trying to buy the gift of God was silver. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that our salvation was not bought with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Savior.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 275

Repent Today



What did Peter tell Simon to do? Peter told Simon to repent of his wickedness.

Simon offered Peter and John money to buy the authority to lay his hands upon people and they would receive the Holy Spirit. Simon thought that that authority could be purchased, but he was completely wrong. Peter explained to Simon why he was wrong and what he should do.

Peter told Simon to repent of his wickedness. Therefore, we know that the attempt to buy the authority of God amounts to wickedness. No one should try to acquire any church office or benefit with money. Yet, in the Middle Ages the Roman Catholic Church frequently sold church offices or benefits for money. They do the same thing today with indulgences and other moneymaking programs employed by the Roman Catholic Church. They engage in simony.

Peter also told Simon to pray that the Lord would forgive him. Peter specifically identified the intention of Simon's heart as evil. In his heart,

Simon thought that he could acquire the authority through money. Peter showed him that was a spiritual problem that only God could solve.

Forgiven

1. **Repent**. What did Peter tell Simon to do with Simon's wickedness? Peter told Simon to repent of that wickedness immediately.

2. **Wickedness**. Peter referred to the wickedness of Simon thinking that he could purchase the gift of God with silver.

3. **Pray**. Peter commanded Simon to pray immediately.

4. **Intention**. Simon's problem of wickedness centered on his intention. He wanted to buy the gift of God, believing in his heart that he could acquire it with money.

5. **Heart**. Jesus taught that what comes out of the heart defiles a man. Simon's heart was defiled by his intention to buy the gift of God.

6. **Forgiven**. Living holy in the family of God means that as we confess our sins and repent of them, God said He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

7. **You**. We rejoice today because Peter told Simon that you may be forgiven for the wickedness in your heart. By faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, all of our sins are forgiven at the moment we received the free gift of eternal life by faith from God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that we do not buy repentance or forgiveness by giving money to a church or its leaders.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by repenting of our sins and counting upon the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing always in the free gift of eternal life.**

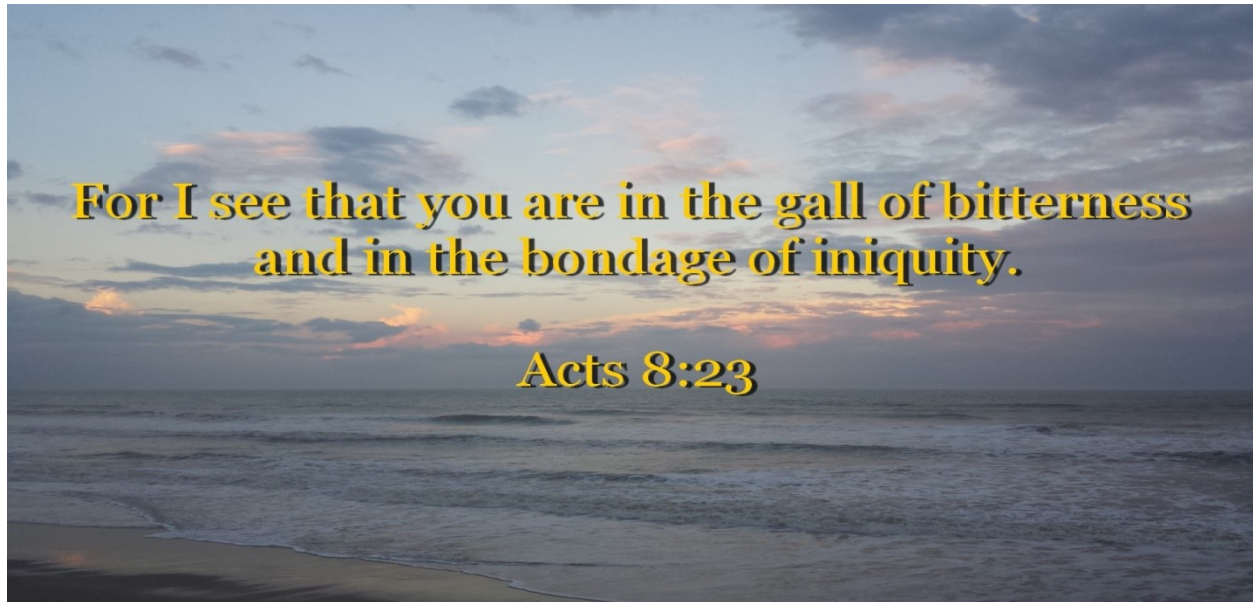
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Peter said that money would never purchase any part or portion in any ministry of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by avoiding people who want you to send money so that you can purchase some part or portion in a ministry?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 276

Bitterness Today



What did Peter see in Simon? Peter saw that Simon was in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity.

When Philip came to the city of Samaria, Simon the magician was known as the Great Power of God. The people held them in high regard because of the magic he performed for them. Philip, however, came with the authority of God and performed signs and wonders unlike anything the people had seen before. They turned to God and received eternal life in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even Simon believed and was baptized.

Simon observed that the apostles, Peter and John, laid hands on people and they received the Holy Spirit. Simon wanted that same power to lay his hands upon people and they would receive the Holy Spirit. Peter told Simon to repent of his evil deeds that the Lord may forgive him.

Peter then looked into Simon spiritually. Peter saw that Simon was in the gall of bitterness. Apparently, that bitterness arose because Simon had lost his standing as someone great among the people. Simon wanted to regain his stature one way or another and thought he could buy the authority

from God to lay his hands upon people and they would receive the Holy Spirit.

Peter also saw spiritually that Simon was in the bondage of iniquity. That iniquity centered upon Simon believing that God's gifts and authority were for sale and that the apostles had the ability to sell God's authority. Of course, no such thing was true because God always exercises the authority.

Bondage

1. **I**. Looking with spiritual eyes, what did Peter see in Simon? Peter saw evil inside Simon.

2. **See**. Peter looked beyond flesh and bones and saw the true spiritual condition of Simon.

3. **You**. Peter told Simon what he saw: you are in the gall of bitterness.

4. **Gall**. Gall in modern usage means bold and impudent behavior. The limited New Testament usage of the word "gall" suggests an anatomical term to describe something bitter. On the cross Jesus was offered gall as a drink. In this case the gall of the bitterness of Simon arose from the loss of his position as the Great Power of God, in turn giving rise to his impudent and bold attempt to purchase the authority of God.

5. **Bitterness**. The gall Simon showed was born of bitterness. Simon was once a great man in the eyes of the Samaritans, but no longer.

6. **Bondage**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter also revealed to Simon that he remained in the bondage of iniquity.

7. **Iniquity**. We rejoice today because true saving faith frees us from the bondage of iniquity forever and ever, although we may live in iniquity from time to time.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by looking at people through spiritual eyes.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the spiritual effects of bitterness and iniquity.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that the Lord Jesus Christ freed us from the bitterness and iniquity that once characterized our lives.**

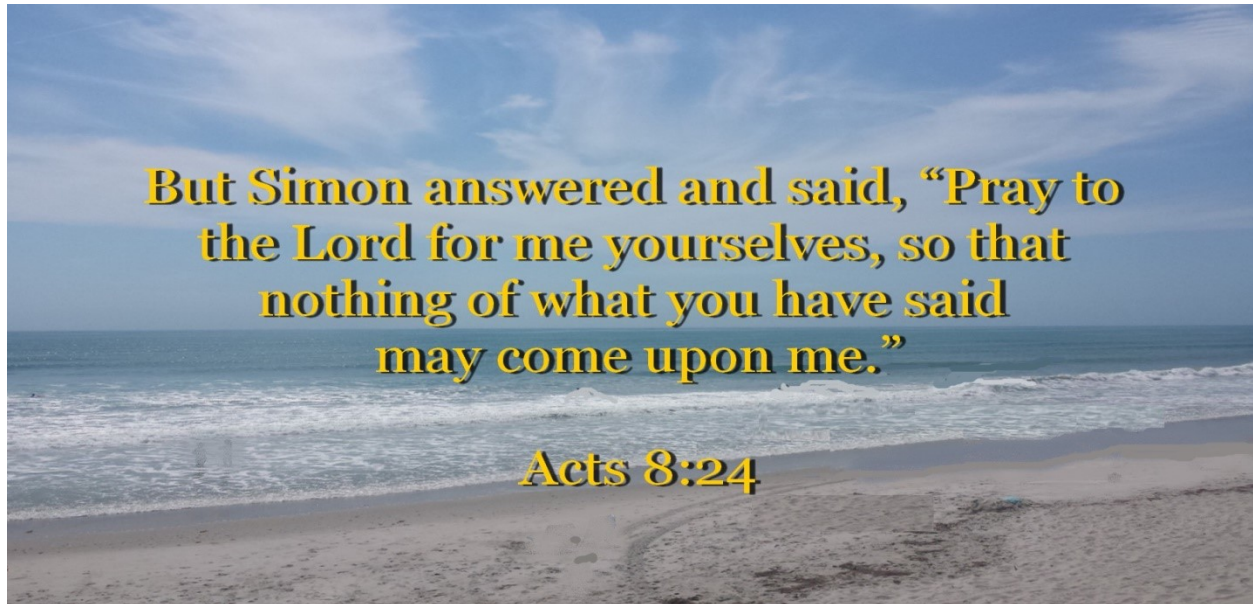
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that we no longer have to live in the gall of bitterness or the bondage of iniquity. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in your freedom from bitterness and iniquity?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 277

Simon Today



How did Simon reply to Peter? Simon commanded Peter and John to pray for him.

Simon understood quickly that he had overstepped the bounds of spiritual propriety. Simon did not want any of the things coming upon him which Peter had described. Simon comprehended the power of Philip and the apostles. Those men dealt in God's truth and what they said came to pass. Such prospects shook Simon to the core.

Simon knew that if the apostles would pray for him, that would help. Simon also should have realized that only he could repent of his sins by confessing them to God and trusting God to forgive him and cleanse them from all unrighteousness. Having professed Christ as Savior very recently, Simon may not have understood many things about being in Christ.

Peter told him that he was in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity. Based upon the stern words of Peter indicating that Simon would perish with his silver, it sounds like Simon believed, but did not have saving

faith. Taken together Peter's words seem to indicate that Simon's profession of faith may not have been sincere at all.

Pray

1. **Simon**. How did Simon reply to Peter? Simon asked Peter to pray for him.

2. **Answered**. Simon gave a very cagey answer to Peter. Simon recognized that Peter's prayers could help him.

3. **Pray**. Simon asked Peter to pray for him.

4. **Nothing**. Simon hoped that Peter's prayer could stop the things that Peter said from coming upon Simon.

5. **Said**. Peter had said that Simon would perish.

6. **Come**. Living holy in the family of God means that we are grateful that what we truly deserve will never come upon us because Jesus took what we deserved upon Himself at the cross.

7. **Me**. We rejoice today because Jesus freed me from perishing, bitterness and iniquity by taking all those things upon Himself because he loved me. What Jesus did for me he also did at the same time for everyone else who receives the free gift of salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by asking spiritual people to pray for us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon God to hear our prayers and forgive us for our sins.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praying for one another who asked for our prayers and counting upon God answering all of our prayers all the time.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praying for one another. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying for your friends so that they may be freed from the bondage of iniquity in the gall of bitterness?

HALLELUJAH !

8

Ethiopian Today

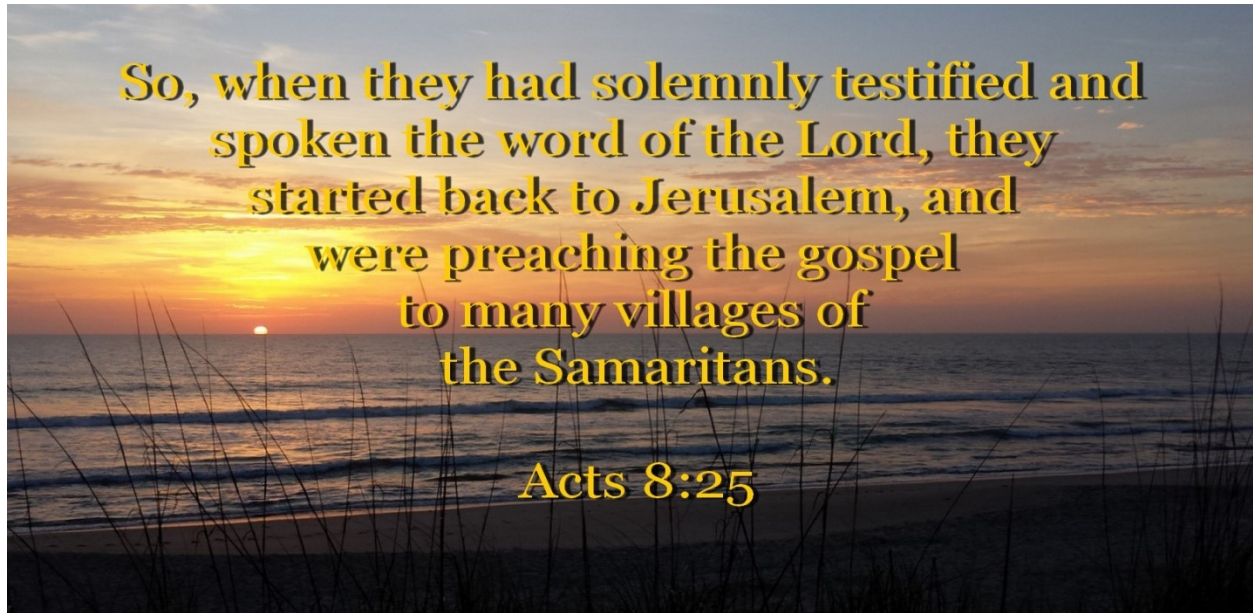
An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, go to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza. So, Philip got up and went down to that desert road. There he met an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. That eunuch was in charge of the treasure of Candace and he had come to Jerusalem to worship. He was returning and reading the prophet Isaiah.

The Holy Spirit said to Philip to go and join the chariot. Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian asked Philip to join the chariot. Philip then sat with him and explained that Isaiah the prophet was speaking about Jesus. Having heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Ethiopian eunuch sought to be baptized. Peter and the eunuch stopped and went down into the water and Peter baptized the eunuch. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch went on his way rejoicing. Philip found himself at Azotus, and then he kept preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 278

Testified Today



What did Peter, John and Philip do after preaching in the city of Samaria? They headed back to Jerusalem.

Philip went to Samaria preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus had described the expansion of Christianity, starting in Jerusalem and then moving out to Judea and Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world.

When the persecution of the early church gained intensity with the stoning of Stephen, Saul began ravaging the church. Saul went house to house seeking Christians, that he might imprison them, both men and women.

Philip left Jerusalem when that persecution began and went to Samaria. Many of the Samaritans came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, especially as they witnessed the signs and wonders Philip performed. Then Peter and John came down from Jerusalem, being sent by the apostles to investigate the conversion of the Samaritans. Now the time had come for

them to return to Jerusalem. As they returned to Jerusalem, they preached the Gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

Preaching

1. **Testified**. When did Peter and John start back to Jerusalem? They started back after they had testified solemnly the spoken the word of the Lord to the people of the city of Samaria.

2. **Spoken**. Not only had Peter and John testified to the resurrection of Christ as eyewitnesses, but they had also spoken in the word of God for salvation.

3. **Word**. Only the word of God brings salvation.

4. **Jerusalem**. The apostles in Jerusalem had sent Peter and John to investigate the happenings in Samaria and now they were going to report back to the other apostles.

5. **Preaching**. Peter and John were preaching their way back to Jerusalem through Samaria.

6. **Gospel**. Living holy in the family of God means that we thank God for men like Peter and John who preach the gospel in our area so that we would believe.

7. **Villages**. We rejoice today because Peter and John went through many villages of the Samaritans, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for men like Peter and John who preached the gospel in Samaria.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by preaching the gospel in our area where God has sent us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by following God's plan of evangelism, no matter where it takes us.**

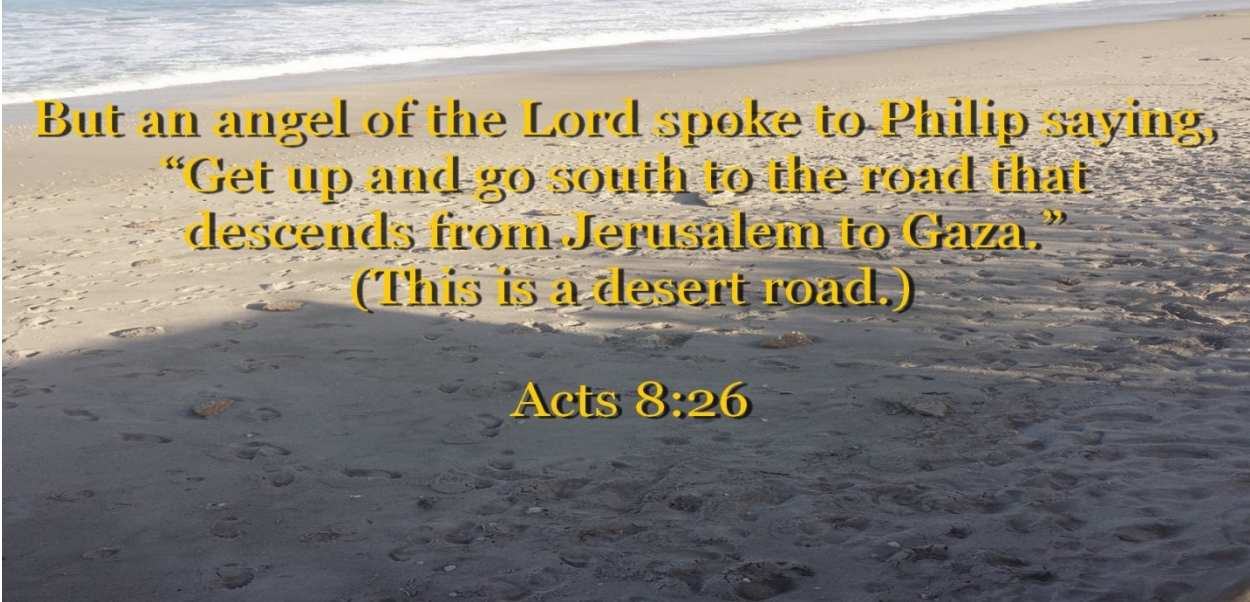
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He sends messengers to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in many towns and cities. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing the word of God with the people in your village or city?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 279

Angel Today



But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying,
“Get up and go south to the road that
descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.”
(This is a desert road.)

Acts 8:26

What did the angel say to Philip? The angel told Philip to go down to the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza.

At times in our lives God tells us to do things that we may not understand at all. God had used Philip powerfully in the city of Samaria to convert many people. He had performed signs and wonders and many people were healed and came to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philip had witnessed the arrival of Peter and John. When they laid their hands upon people who had received the Lord Jesus Christ and been baptized, they received the Holy Spirit. God was truly blessed in the ministry of Peter, John, and Philip in Samaria.

God called Philip to a desert road. He would not expect to find many people out in a desert. Even so, God had a very specific plan for Philip to evangelize a person traveling on that road. Being at the right time and place to meet people depends entirely upon being at the place and at the time determined by God and His plans for our lives. God sent an angel to direct Philip to a desert road so that he would be at the right place at the right time.

Desert Road

1. **But**. While Peter and John were heading back to Jerusalem, what plans did God have for Philip? God sent an angel of the Lord to direct Philip to a desert road, but not the one traveled by Peter and John.

2. **Angel**. The angel of the Lord told Philip to get up and go.

3. **Philip**. Philip left Samaria to follow the leading of the angel of the Lord.

4. **Go**. As the angel of the Lord commanded Philip to get up and go, Philip went to the desert road.

5. **Road**. Leaving behind a city teeming with people, many of whom would receive the Lord Jesus Christ and had been baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter obeyed the angel the Lord and started for the desert road.

6. **Jerusalem**. Living holy in the family of God means that we abandon our plans in favor of going to a desert road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza, or any other place God sends us.

7. **Desert**. We rejoice today because God makes special appointments on desert roads to save important government officials to take the word of God home with them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by listening to God direct us anywhere He wants us, even desert roads.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following God's roadmaps so that we are in the right place at the right time to meet the right people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by leaning not on our own understanding, but moving on, having completed the work He has given us to do in a particular place.**

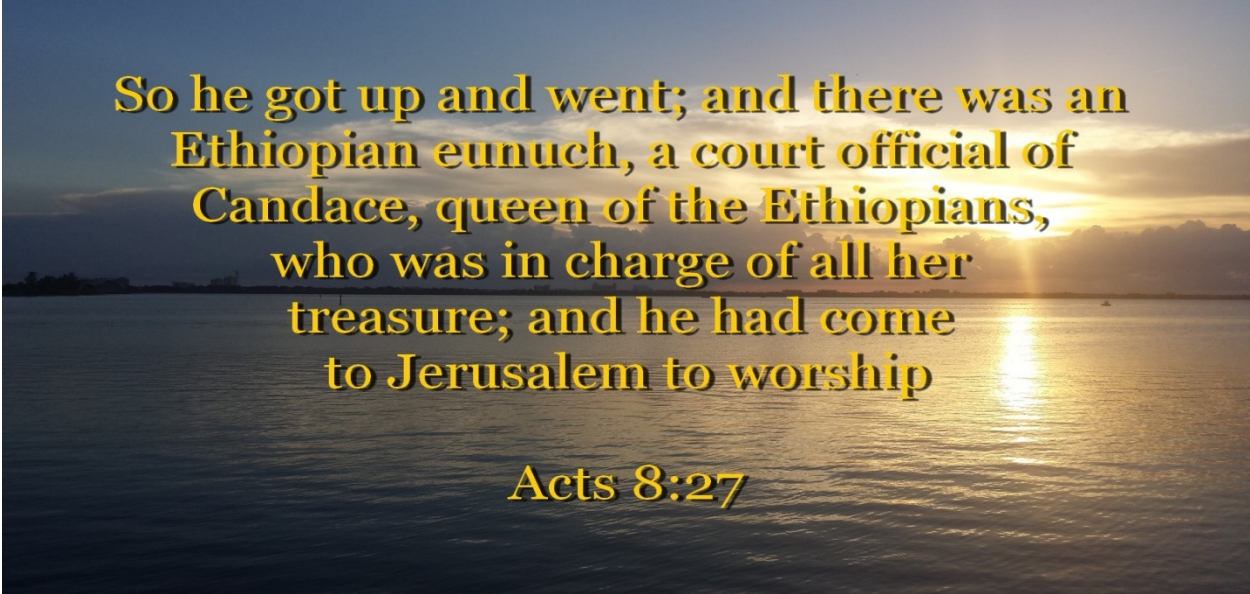
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by getting up and going to the places God sends us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God can use us on desert roads?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 280

Ethiopian Today



So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship

Acts 8:27

How did Philip respond to the angel's message? Philip got up and went to the desert road.

Philip arrived at the right place at the right time following the leading of the Lord provided by the angel. Obviously, God does not always speak to us through angels, but when we follow His leading, He can use us for His wonderful purposes.

Philip met an Ethiopian eunuch. That man was a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all of her treasure. God had set a divine appointment for the Ethiopian eunuch to meet Philip the evangelist on a desert road leading to Jerusalem. The Ethiopian eunuch had come to Jerusalem to worship God.

Just because a person worships God in the Temple does not mean that person knows the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. God moves people to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people who draw near to Him. The angel directed Philip to meet the Ethiopian eunuch and explain to him the plan of salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Worship

1. **Went**. Did Philip believe the angel of the Lord? Yes, Philip got up and went to the desert road.
2. **Ethiopian**. An Ethiopian eunuch was on that desert road.
3. **Official**. He was a court official in a powerful government position.
4. **Candace**. Candace was the queen of the Ethiopians and the Ethiopian eunuch served in her court.
5. **Queen**. A servant to the Queen of Ethiopia, and a court official, the Ethiopian eunuch held an influential position.
6. **Treasure**. Living holy in the family of God means that God sent Philip to meet the Ethiopian eunuch in charge of all the treasure of Queen Candace of the Ethiopians.
7. **Worship**. We rejoice today because that Ethiopian eunuch had come to Jerusalem to worship.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God as God sends us to meet people who seek to worship Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by knowing that God never wastes our time, but has important appointments for us to keep so that we can share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with people we meet at just the right time and place.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God that He sent somebody to meet each one of us at just the right time and place so that we received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior by grace through faith.**

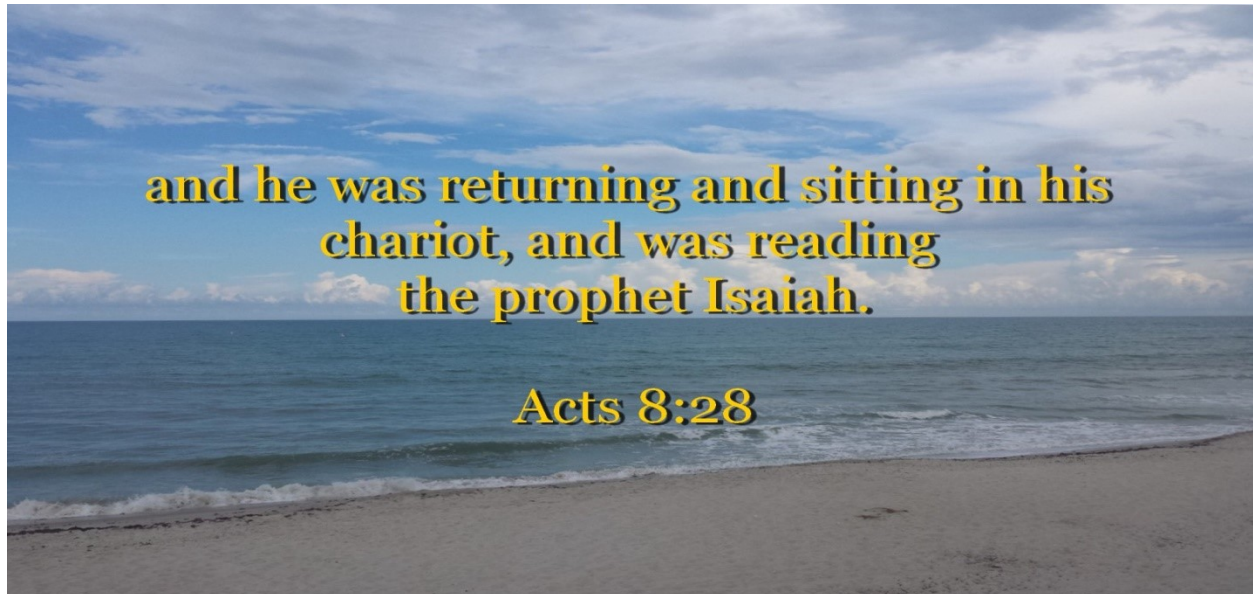
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving God more for the plans He made to save us at the right time and place. Will you live holy in the family of God today by listening to God so you can meet the right person at the right time and place, because you may be called to meet some important person in God's eyes?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 281

Sitting Today



What was the Ethiopian eunuch doing? The Ethiopian eunuch was returning from worshiping in Jerusalem.

The Holy Spirit had directed Philip to go to the desert road leading from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip had just seen the Lord doing mighty wonders and signs in the city of Samaria. Peter and John and come to the city of Samaria and encouraged the brethren and laid hands on the believers so that they received the Holy Spirit.

Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to many villages of the Samaritans along the way. Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit had different plans for Philip. Having concluded his work of evangelism in the city of Samaria and planted a church there, the Holy Spirit moved him to a desert road. Saints with the Spiritual Gift of Evangelism often move from place to place proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

By the leading of the Holy Spirit, Philip went to the desert road. When he got there, the Ethiopian eunuch was sitting in his chariot reading the prophet Isaiah. The time of salvation had come for the Ethiopian eunuch.

Reading

1. **Returning**. Where was the Ethiopian eunuch heading on the desert road? He was returning from Jerusalem.

2. **Sitting**. The Ethiopian eunuch was sitting in his chariot.

3. **Chariot**. As a court official for the Queen of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian eunuch would have been traveling in style in a nice chariot.

4. **He**. As he traveled the desert road in his chariot, he took time to read the prophet Isaiah.

5. **Reading**. He had been to Jerusalem to worship and now continued his journey reading the Scriptures.

6. **Prophet**. Living holy in the family of God means that God used the prophet Isaiah for salvation centuries after Isaiah wrote about the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of God and Savior of the world.

7. **Isaiah**. We rejoice today because God uses His word to lead people to salvation in Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking the time to read the Scriptures which brought salvation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by reading the Bible with other people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by reading the Bible with each other and talking about what it means.**

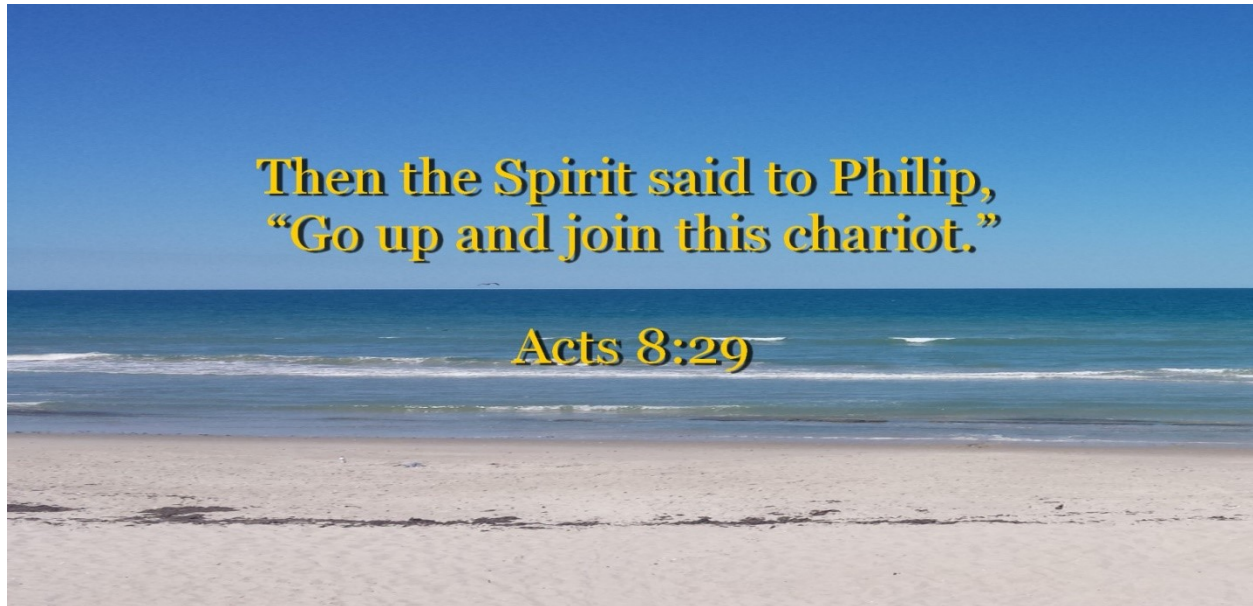
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by reading the Bible which speaks about Jesus our Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Isaiah spoke about Jesus and His death centuries before the event happened?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 282

Spirit Today



What did the Holy Spirit tell Philip to do? The Holy Spirit told Philip to go up and join the chariot.

Evangelists can go to the cities or the desert. The Holy Spirit directs them to go to the right place at the right time. Sometimes they share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with an entire city. At other times the Lord Jesus directs them to a single individual. Like every saint, we must be very careful to listen to the Holy Spirit's leading all day every day.

Philip was told to go up and join the Ethiopian's chariot. At times the Holy Spirit may direct us to do things that seem very strange to us. Why would the high official in the court of Candace Queen of the Ethiopians expect Philip coming up to his chariot? Apparently, they never met before. Even so, the Holy Spirit works things out because He made the divine appointment to join Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch on a desert road in a chariot.

The Ethiopian eunuch would be the perfect person to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and then take the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to

the royal court of Ethiopia and the entire population of Ethiopia. The Holy Spirit does marvelous things in our lives as we obey Him.

Join

1. **Then**. Having arrived on the desert road, the Holy Spirit gave very specific instructions to Philip. The Holy Spirit had brought Philip all that way to meet the Ethiopian eunuch.

2. **Spirit**. The Holy Spirit had used Philip extensively in the city of Samaria to bring many people to Christ.

3. **Philip**. Philip worked signs and wonders in Samaria in connection with the ministry of evangelism.

4. **Go**. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go after the chariot carrying the Ethiopian eunuch.

5. **Join**. The Holy Spirit also told Philip to join the chariot.

6. **This**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit provides guidance as we need it, and not necessarily before we need it.

7. **Chariot**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit wanted Philip to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with the Ethiopian eunuch riding in the chariot.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by listening to the Holy Spirit provid directions for our lives as we need that direction each day.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting the Lord Jesus to present opportunities to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, even in remote places.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by expecting to meet people the Holy Spirit puts before us so that we may share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them.**

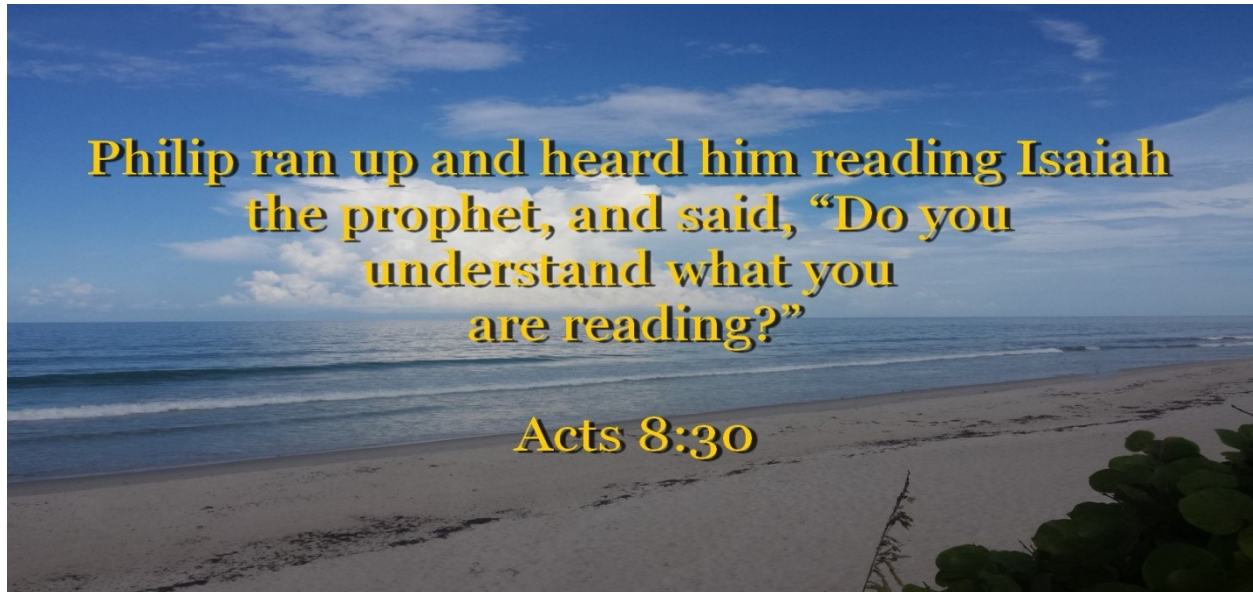
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by relying upon the Holy Spirit to lead us to people He has prepared to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the Holy Spirit send you to people He has prepared to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 283

Philip Today



How fast was Philip? Philip ran fast enough to join the chariot of the Ethiopian eunuch.

The Holy Spirit directed Philip to the desert road going from Gaza to Jerusalem. As Philip arrived there, the Holy Spirit directed him to join the chariot of the Ethiopian eunuch.

As Philip drew near to the chariot, the Holy Spirit had already prepared the Ethiopian eunuch to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Ethiopian eunuch was reading the prophet Isaiah when Philip drew near the chariot.

Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch a simple question. Philip heard the Ethiopian eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah and asked him if he understood what he was reading. By asking that question, Philip opened communication with the Ethiopian eunuch. We can ask questions that start conversations too, particularly when we hear people reading the Bible. We should remember the question that Philip asked: do you understand what you are reading? Often people read the Bible seeking answers and wanted to know

God, but reading by themselves they do not understand what they are reading. That is why God sent you to ask that question.

Understand

1. **Philip**. Philip ran up the chariot, just as the Holy Spirit commanded him.

2. **Ran**. Philip was young enough to run up to the chariot on the move down a desert road.

3. **Heard**. As Philip approached the chariot, he heard the Ethiopian eunuch reading the Scriptures. Philip must have known at that moment that the Holy Spirit had prepared the meeting.

4. **Reading**. The Ethiopian eunuch was reading the Scriptures, having returned from Jerusalem and having worshiped there.

5. **Isaiah**. Isaiah the prophet wrote about Jesus being led to slaughter centuries before Jesus died on the cross. Isaiah, writing under the inspiration of God, described in detail the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Understand**. Living holy in the family of God means that we ask the right questions to people reading the Scriptures so that we can share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them.

7. **Reading**. We rejoice today because Philip heard the Ethiopian eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah and asked the Ethiopian eunuch if he understood what he was reading. Salvation was coming to the Ethiopian eunuch and he would take the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with him back home.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by asking people if they understand what they are reading in the Scriptures.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by looking for opportunities created by the Holy Spirit for us to explain Jesus and His great love to people reading the Scriptures.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by helping one another understand the Scriptures.**

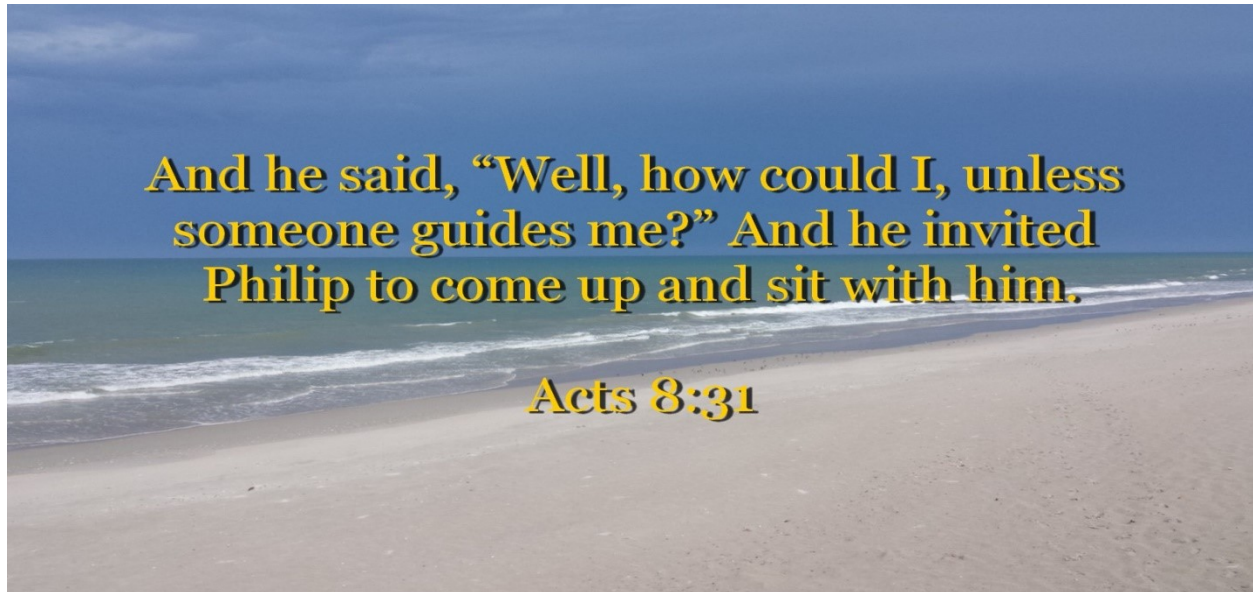
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking the time to share the Scriptures with other people who do not understand what they are reading. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to read the Scriptures with someone today?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 284

Invited Today



What did the Ethiopian eunuch reply to Philip? The Ethiopian eunuch said how could I, unless someone guides me?

The Holy Spirit arranged a divine appointment between the Ethiopian eunuch and Philip the Evangelist. Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch if he understood what he was reading in the prophet Isaiah. The Ethiopian eunuch replied and said how could I, unless somebody explains it to me? He invited Philip to join him in the chariot and sit with him.

God often arranges for people to meet each other. What happens when they meet often depends upon the person who wants to direct the conversation to Jesus. At the moment that Philip came upon the chariot, he heard the Ethiopian eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit Philip sees the moment and asked the perfect question. With his heart prepared by the Holy Spirit, the Ethiopian eunuch invited Philip to join the chariot and explain the Scriptures to him.

Presenting the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ means we present the truth of the Scriptures. Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

Jesus was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. The Scriptures bring the power of God to bear upon sinners, offering them eternal life.

Sit

1. **He**. What did the Ethiopian eunuch want from Philip? He wanted Philip to guide him through the Scriptures.

2. **Well**. The Ethiopian eunuch said well, how can I? People often are willing to accept help in reading the Bible when they do not understand it.

3. **How**. The Ethiopian eunuch wanted to know how he could understand the Bible.

4. **Unless**. He also knew that unless someone helped him understand the Bible, he would not understand the passage on his own.

5. **Guides**. The Ethiopian eunuch was looking for someone to guide them through the passage in Isaiah.

6. **Invited**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Ethiopian eunuch invited Philip into his chariot to guide him through the Isaiah passage.

7. **Philip**. We rejoice today because the Ethiopian eunuch invited Philip, a total stranger running up to his chariot, to sit down with him and explain the Scriptures.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by offering to guide people through the Scriptures.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by asking people reading the Bible if they understand what they are reading.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by accepting invitations to guide people through the Bible.**

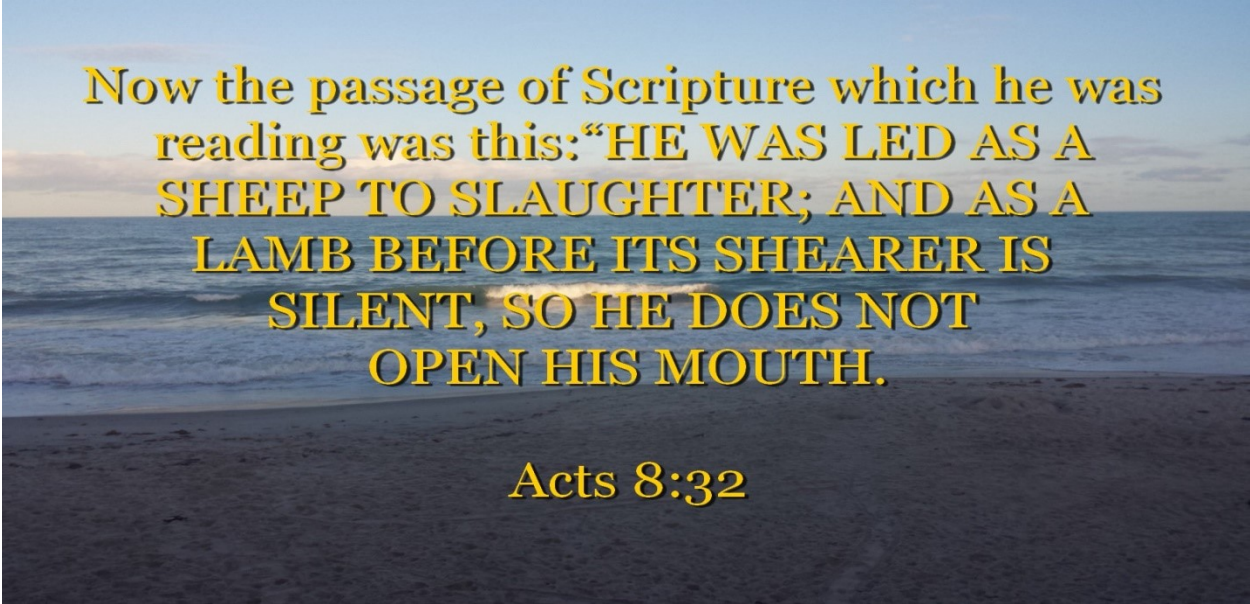
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by asking questions to people reading the Bible that prompt them to seek our help in understanding the Bible. Will you live holy in the family of God today by guiding people through the Bible?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 285

Passage Today



Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH."

Acts 8:32

What passage was the Ethiopian eunuch reading in the prophet Isaiah? The Ethiopian eunuch was reading about the sheep led to slaughter and remaining silent.

When Philip joined the chariot of the Ethiopian eunuch at his invitation, the Holy Spirit had already picked a perfect passage in the Old Testament for the Ethiopian eunuch to read. That passage provided a clear view of Jesus of Nazareth going to His death as a sheep led to slaughter. Jesus, like a lamb before its shearers, was silent. Jesus did not open his mouth.

Jesus had all the power in the universe and beyond to call to His execution. In fact, He could have obliterated the entire planet with the word. Yet, Jesus laid down His soul as a ransom for many. He intended to give His life to purchase the salvation of all people with His life's blood.

The Holy Spirit arranged the meeting, the question, the response, and the perfect passage. God set up the meeting for Philip to use the prophet Isaiah's words to lead the Ethiopian eunuch to salvation on a desert road.

The Ethiopian eunuch could now return home as a born-again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reading

1. **Passage**. What passage did the Holy Spirit pick for Philip to use in leading the Ethiopian eunuch to salvation? He picked a passage about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in Isaiah.

2. **Scripture**. The Scriptures testify to the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

3. **Led**. Isaiah the prophet wrote about Jesus being led to slaughter.

4. **Sheep**. Isaiah also described Jesus as a sheep, speaking of His meekness in laying down His soul.

5. **Slaughter**. Like a sheep is led to slaughter, so also Jesus was led to the cross.

6. **Open**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus did not open His mouth as He was led to slaughter for us.

7. **Mouth**. We rejoice today because Jesus did not open his mouth to resist His death, but followed the plan of God to save our souls by shedding His blood.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Jesus led as a lamb to slaughter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding why Jesus did not open His mouth as He was led to slaughter.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for being the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

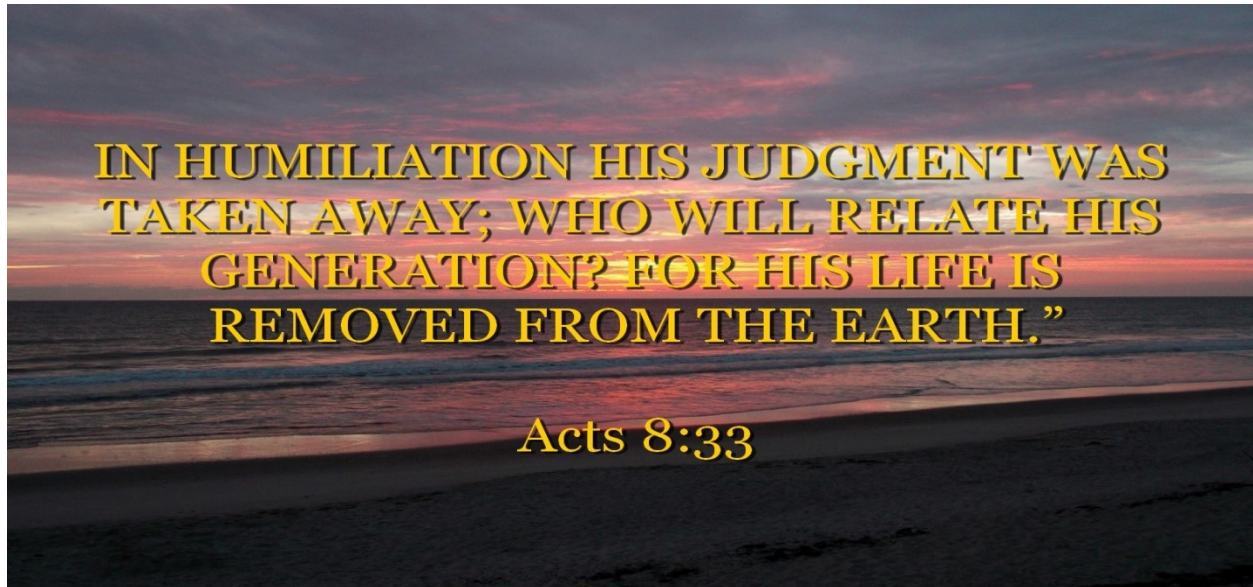
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Jesus as we break bread and drink the cup together. Will you live holy in the family of God today by telling others about the great love of Jesus that caused Him to lay down His soul for us?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 286

Humiliation Today



IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS
TAKEN AWAY; WHO WILL RELATE HIS
GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS
REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.”

Acts 8:33

What did Isaiah say about Jesus? Isaiah said that His judgment was taken away in humiliation.

Philip joined the chariot of the Ethiopian eunuch who was reading the prophet Isaiah. The Ethiopian eunuch did not understand what he was reading, but invited Philip to join his chariot and explain it to him.

Isaiah the prophet wrote hundreds of years before Jesus was born of the virgin Mary. Isaiah described the Suffering Servant. In humiliation His judgment was taken up. This phrase may mean that the Jesus was lifted up in judgment, indicating He would be lifted up on a cross. In the alternative, Jesus was certainly humiliated in many ways when He was arrested and then tried by Pilate. Then, Pilate rendered judgment of crucifixion, although Pilate found no guilt in Him. So, His judgment was taken away in humiliation.

Jesus did not have children and was never married. Some people today claim that Jesus was married, but nothing in the Bible supports such a notion. Because Jesus never had physical children, Isaiah asked who will relate His generation. Isaiah apparently meant that without physical

offspring, who would describe fully the life and times of Jesus? Of course, the spiritual children of Jesus and God would describe the life, death, and ascension of Jesus Christ, Who will come back to earth as King one day.

Judgment

1. **Humiliation**. What humiliation did Jesus suffer? Jesus suffered humiliation in many ways. He came to His own and His own rejected Him and killed Him after disowning Him, mocking Him, beating Him and whipping Him.

2. **Judgment**. The judgment of Jesus was taken away. Pontius Pilate condemned Jesus to death and handed Jesus over to the Jews who crucified Him. Jesus went to the cross marred more than any man, whipped, bruised and battered, but alert and intent upon doing His Father's will.

3. **Relate**. Jesus died on the cross because He laid down His soul. No one took it from Him. No one would relate His generation to His physical descendants because He died without physical offspring.

4. **Generation**. Jesus gave rise to no physical generation, but He has spiritual children from every generation.

5. **Life**. Jesus gave His life and left the land of the living.

6. **Removed**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Jesus laid down His soul voluntarily, doing the will of His Father. His life was removed from the earth.

7. **Earth**. We rejoice today because Jesus was resurrected and then ascended, after His life was removed from the earth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus laid down His soul on the cross, according to the Scriptures.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by the humiliation of Jesus our Savior at the hands of sinners He created.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for giving His life to free us from eternal death.**

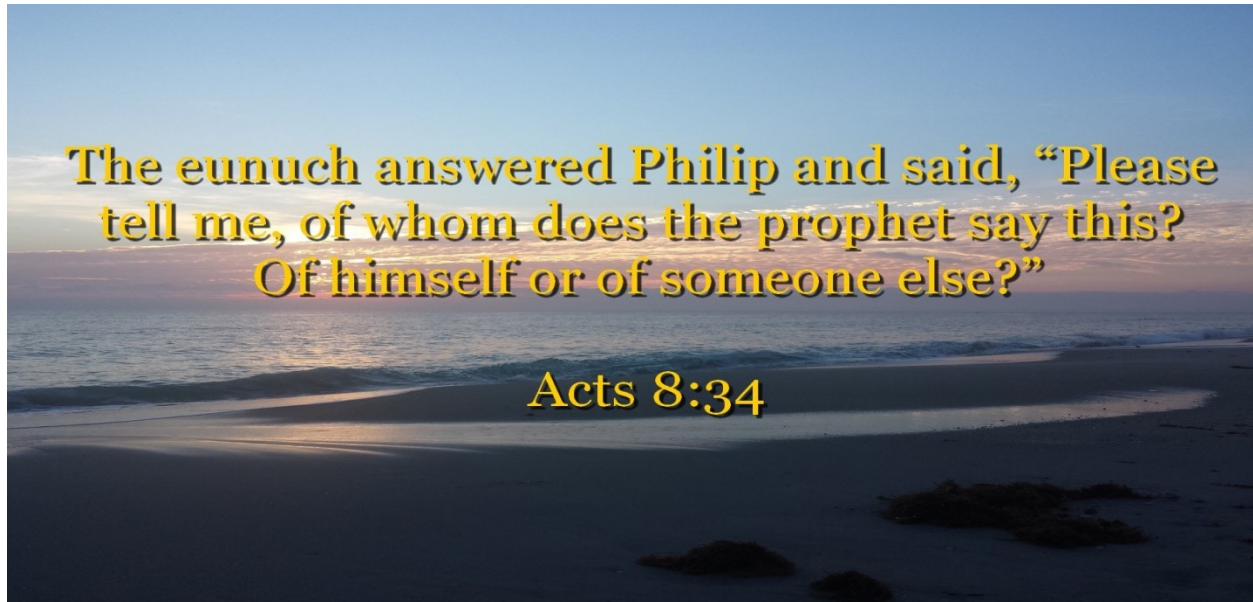
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah about the Messiah Savior who would come in the fullness of time. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Jesus opened the doors of heaven for all His spiritual children to join Him there in His Father's house for all eternity?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 287

Tell me Today



What did the eunuch want to know about Isaiah the prophet? The eunuch wanted to know if Isaiah was talking about himself or someone else.

The eunuch asked a very normal question about the prophecy of Isaiah. Who was the prophet talking about? The eunuch thought it could be Isaiah talking about himself or someone else.

Often when people read the Bible, they understand the general concepts like someone was judged and someone suffered humiliation. They often have a harder time understanding who suffered and why.

As Isaiah prophesied under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he spoke about the Messiah. Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah Isaiah spoke about. Philip knew that Isaiah spoke about Jesus of Nazareth and how Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah.

As an evangelist Philip proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He spoke to the entire city of Samaria and saw many people saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Having completed that mission, the Holy Spirit directed Philip

to meet one man on a desert road and share the same Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with the Ethiopian eunuch.

Whom

1. **Eunuch**. What question did the eunuch have for Philip? The eunuch wanted to know of whom the prophet Isaiah was speaking.

2. **Whom**. The eunuch had read the prophet Isaiah, but the eunuch did not know that the prophet was speaking about himself or someone else.

3. **Prophet**. Isaiah the prophet described the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth centuries before he was born of a virgin.

4. **Say**. The eunuch did not comprehend that Isaiah prophesied that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

5. **Himself**. The eunuch wanted to know if Isaiah was talking about himself. Actually, Philip explained to him that the prophet was describing Jesus of Nazareth.

6. **Someone**. Living holy in the family of God means that Isaiah was talking about someone named Jesus of Nazareth, the Suffering Servant of Isaiah.

7. **Else**. We rejoice today because Isaiah was speaking about someone else, not himself. Isaiah saw the day of Jesus suffering for the sins of His people and then being resurrected and ascending to heaven.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Isaiah described Jesus of Nazareth as the Suffering Servant.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for using the prophet Isaiah to show that Jesus of Nazareth was truly the Christ of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by sharing the Scriptures that speak of Jesus as Savior of the world centuries before He was born of a virgin.**

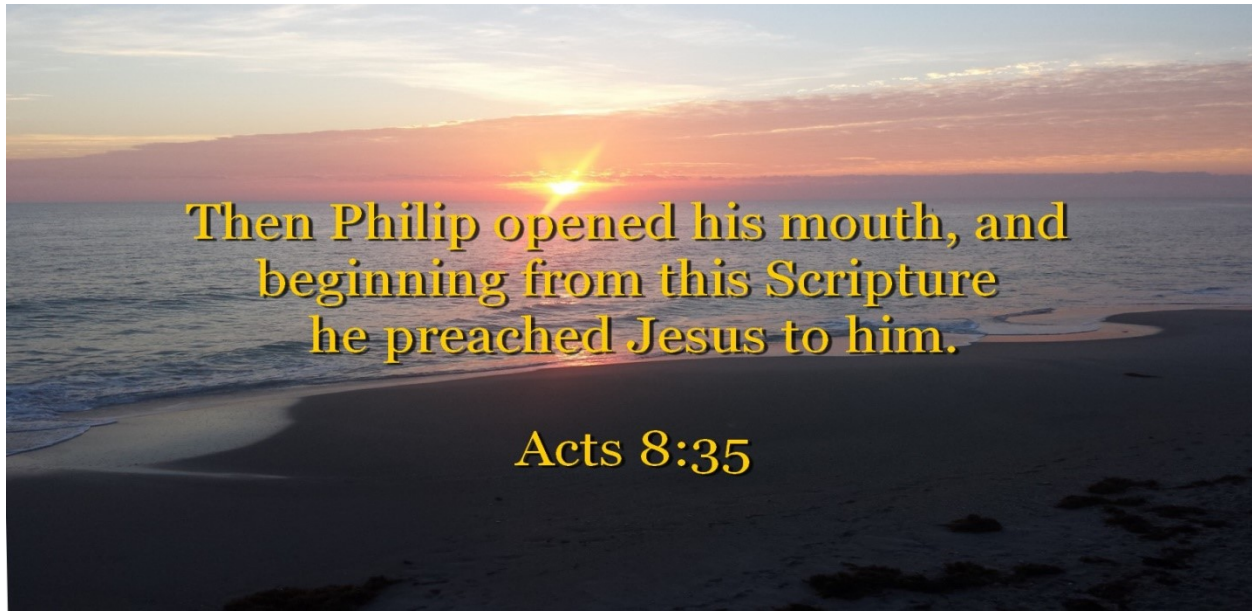
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for Jesus, the Suffering Servant described by Isaiah. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping Jesus, the Suffering Servant Who justified the many and interceded for our transgressions?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 288

Preached Today



What did Philip preach to the Ethiopian eunuch? Philip preached Jesus to him.

Preaching Jesus meant that Philip used the Scriptures to show how Jesus of Nazareth was also the Suffering Servant described by Isaiah. Notice that he began from the prophet Isaiah, but used other Scriptures as well. All the prophets spoke about Jesus.

Paul described the Gospel that he preached as Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures and was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. Paul, like Philip before him, preached Jesus from the Scriptures, for they testified of Him.

The Holy Spirit opens the minds of people to understand the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit opened the mind of Philip to understand how the prophet Isaiah spoke about Jesus. In fact, all the prophets spoke about Jesus. Please recall that Jesus has always been God and He was the God of Isaiah. The Scriptures reveal Jesus, the Savior of the world and the Son of God.

Jesus

1. **Philip**. Who did Philip preach about? Philip preached about Jesus.
2. **Mouth**. Philip opened his mouth to present Jesus as Savior to the Ethiopian eunuch. For that purpose the Holy Spirit had brought him to that chariot with the Ethiopian eunuch riding in it.
3. **Beginning**. Philip began his message about Jesus beginning with Isaiah the prophet describing the Suffering Servant and His death.
4. **Scripture**. The Scriptures confirm that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ, the Son of God, and Savior of the world.
5. **Preached**. The Holy Spirit sent Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch to whom he preached salvation in Jesus Christ.
6. **Jesus**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Gospel always focuses upon Jesus as revealed in the Scriptures.
7. **Him**. We rejoice today because we have salvation in Him, and no one comes to the Father except through Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by glorifying God for sending us His beloved Son, Jesus Christ the Righteous.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by sharing the great love of Jesus using the Scriptures.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by showing from the Scriptures that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God and only Savior of the world.**

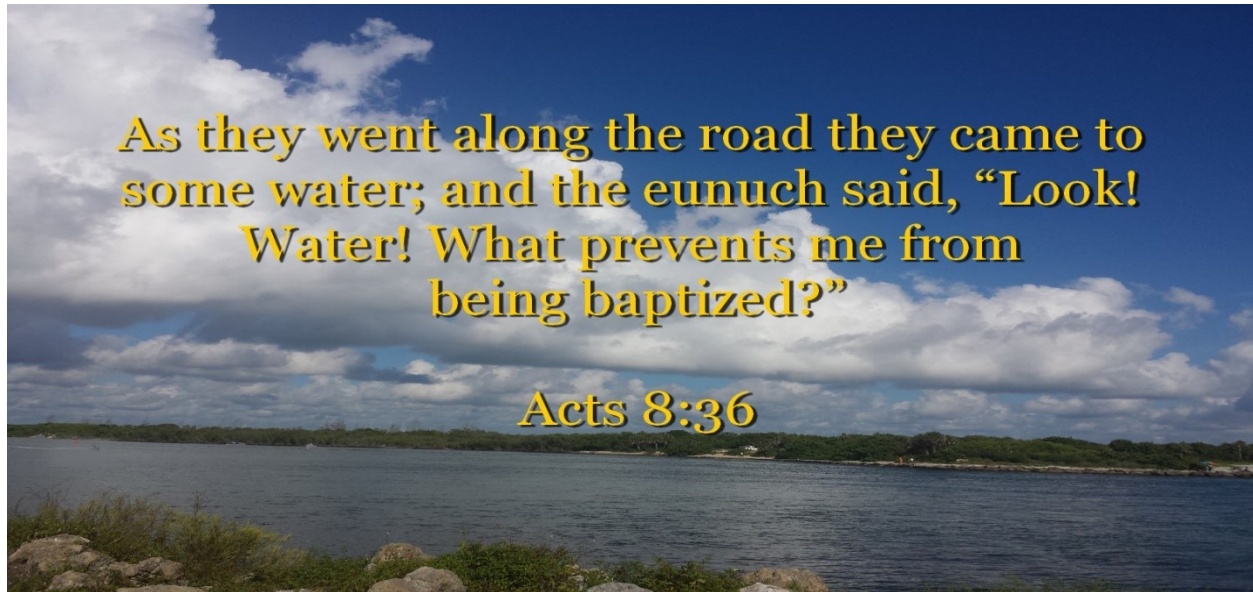
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by using the Scriptures to present Jesus as the Suffering Servant and Savior of both Jews and Gentiles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that the Scriptures prove that Jesus really is the Son of God, the Messiah?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 289

Water Today



When the Ethiopian eunuch saw some water, what did he want to do? He wanted to be baptized.

In the New Testament church, people were baptized immediately after salvation. Of course, John the Baptist baptized many people who were never saved. John preached a baptism of repentance preparing the way for Jesus Christ. John baptized with water, but Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

The Ethiopian eunuch serves as a good example of baptism. He first believed and then was baptized. Therefore, children too young to have saving faith should not be baptized. Likewise, unbelievers should not be baptized. Only people who have received the free gift of salvation by grace through faith should be baptized. Baptism proclaims faith in Christ to the whole world. The new believer identifies with Christ. The water baptism symbolizes that we go down into the water symbolizing our old life and we rise from the water symbolizing new life in Christ.

Make no mistake. Baptism saves no one. People are baptized because they have saving faith in Christ and they are believers. Baptism follows salvation. Baptism does not produce salvation.

Baptized

1. **Road**. What did the Ethiopian eunuch see traveling down the road with Philip? He saw water.

2. **Water**. The eunuch saw the water which triggered one thought in his mind.

3. **Eunuch**. The eunuch immediately had a question for Philip when he saw the water.

4. **Water**. The eunuch wanted to use that water for a very important spiritual purpose. He did not want to delay, but to act immediately.

5. **Prevents**. The eunuch asked Philip what prevented the eunuch from being baptized?

6. **Me**. Living holy in the family of God means that all new believers should ask a similar question: what prevents me from being baptized?

7. **Baptized**. We rejoice today because the eunuch wanted to be baptized immediately after his salvation, making a public identification and declaration of his faith in Christ as Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by being baptized as a believer.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by encouraging others to be baptized in obedience to the command of Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by declaring publicly with all of our lives that we have identified with Christ and follow Him from now on.**

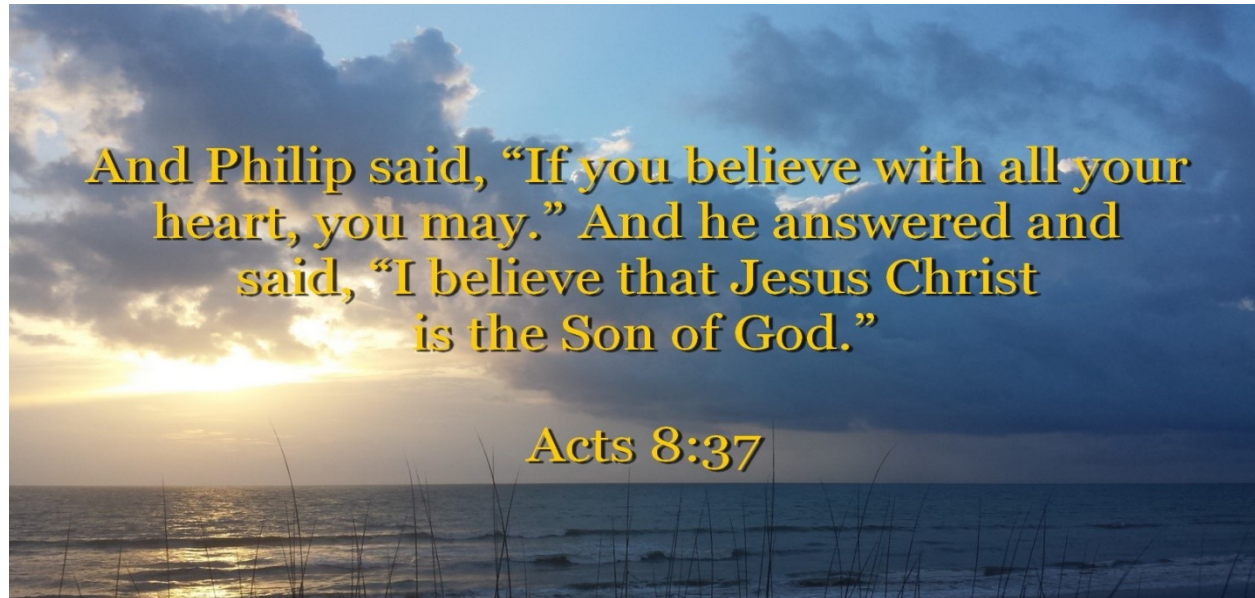
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by publicly declaring our faith in Jesus Christ through baptism. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being baptized, if you have not done so after becoming a saint?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 290

Believe Today



What did Philip ask the Ethiopian eunuch before baptizing him? Philip asked him about his faith.

Only born-again believers are candidates for baptism. Infants and unbelievers should not be baptized because they have no saving faith. Philip put the test perfectly when he said if you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized. Salvation comes before baptism. They are separate events. Baptism never saved anyone. Only faith in the Lord Jesus Christ brings salvation.

Baptism is about making a public profession of faith and identification with the Lord Jesus Christ. The Ethiopian eunuch made a profession of faith. He said that he believed that Jesus Christ is the son of God. Philip had already explained to him the Isaiah passage about Jesus being the Lamb of God led to slaughter. Philip had explained from the Bible that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel, and Savior of the world.

The Ethiopian eunuch represented Gentiles coming to faith in Christ and joining the church. Henceforth, the church would include Jews and Gentiles and Samaritans from all over the world.

Heart

1. **Philip**. How did Philip reply to the Ethiopian eunuch's question about baptism? Philip replied by asking him about his heart and faith.
2. **If**. Philip asking a question directed towards saving faith.
3. **Believe**. The eunuch must believe in the Lord Jesus as Savior before he may become a candidate for baptism.
4. **All**. Philip meant that the faith of the eunuch must be sincere.
5. **Heart**. The eunuch's faith must come from his heart and not mere intellectual assent.
6. **You**. Living holy in the family of God means that you may be baptized with God's blessing only if you have saving faith in Jesus.
7. **May**. We rejoice today because Jesus commands us to be baptized after faith in Him as Savior and so may all believers be joined to Jesus in baptism.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expressing our faith in Christ through baptism.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by declaring through baptism that our old lives have ended and we have become new creatures in Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God who gave us baptism to declare to the world that we love Jesus and follow Him.**

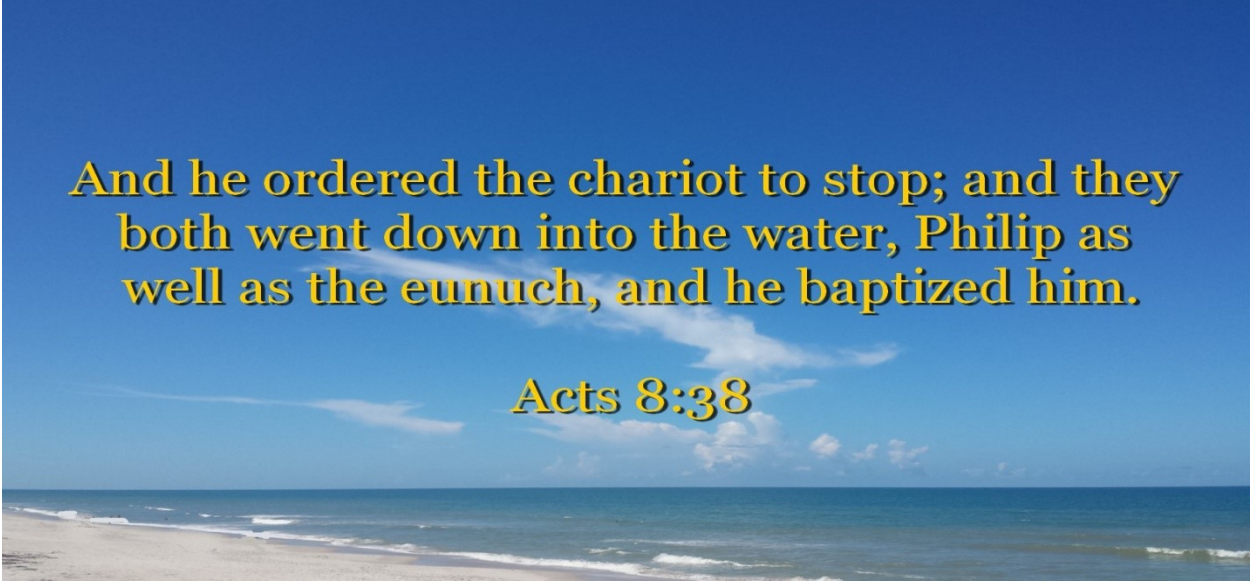
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by celebrating baptism as a public declaration of our new life in Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by showing the world through baptism that you love Jesus and follow Him?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 291

Ordered Today



And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Acts 8:38

Why did the eunuch order the chariot to stop? The eunuch wanted to be baptized in the water.

The Holy Spirit sent Philip to meet the Ethiopian eunuch on the desert road. Philip left behind the bustling city of Samaria and the great work of God that was going on there as many believed and received the Son of God as Savior.

As Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching through many Samaritan villages as they went, the Holy Spirit had other plans for Philip. As an evangelist Philip went from place to place proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. After harvesting souls in one location, people with the spiritual gift of evangelism often move on to the next place as God leads them.

Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah. Philip joined the chariot and explained to him that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, the Suffering Servant that the eunuch was reading about. Having

expressed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, and at the request of the eunuch, Philip baptized the eunuch in the water.

Baptized

1. **Ordered**. What was the eunuch thinking? The eunuch saw the water and wanted to be baptized.

2. **Chariot**. The eunuch ordered the chariot to stop, indicating the chariot had room for a driver and at least two people sitting in the back.

3. **Stop**. When the chariot stopped, the eunuch was ready to be baptized.

4. **Water**. They had come upon some water and the eunuch knew just what he wanted to do in that water.

5. **Philip**. Philip and the eunuch went down from the chariot into the water. Going into the water suggests baptism by immersion.

6. **Eunuch**. Living holy in the family of God means that the eunuch set a marvelous example of baptism immediately following a profession of faith.

7. **Baptized**. We rejoice today because the eunuch was baptized by Philip, reminding all of us about obeying the Lord's command to be baptized after we profess saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for sending Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch for salvation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by obeying the command of the Lord Jesus Christ to be baptized after we profess faith in Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the person who baptized us in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

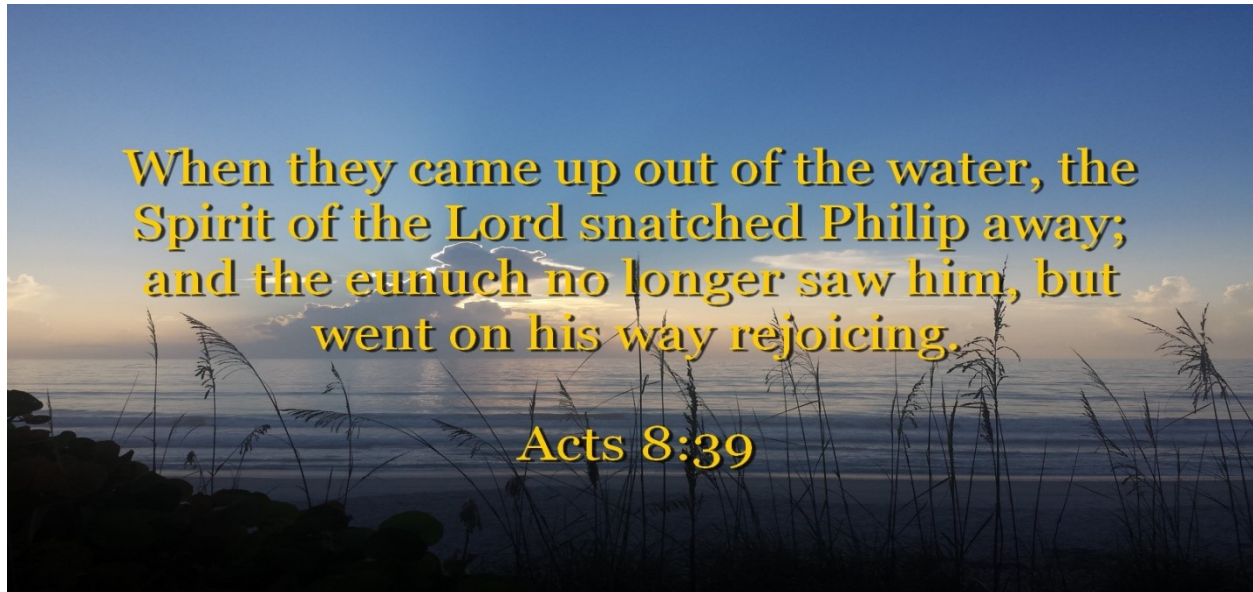
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the eagerness of the Ethiopian eunuch to be baptized. Will you live holy in the family of God today by encouraging people to obey Christ and be baptized after professing their faith in Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 292

Philip Today



What happened to Philip after the baptism? The Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away.

God used the term to snatch away to describe the spirit of the Lord taking Philip away. That same word is used to describe Saints being taken up to the clouds when Jesus comes back for the Clouds Resurrection. In the future Jesus will return to the clouds of earth with the saints who died previously. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the dead in Christ shall be raised and given resurrection bodies. In the next moment the saints alive on earth when Jesus returns to the clouds will be caught up and they will receive their resurrection bodies. The Clouds Resurrection marks the snatching away of the saints from Earth and the beginning of seven years of tribulation upon the earth.

The Holy Spirit often leads evangelists to move on to a new place after sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ at a particular location. Having baptized the eunuch, Phillip's work was done on the desert road. The Holy Spirit, however, was not done with Philip by a longshot. More fruitful ministry as an evangelist sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ awaited

Philip. The Holy Spirit snatched Philip away to a new place for ministry. The Ethiopian eunuch went on his way rejoicing, full of the joy of Christ, knowing that his sins had been forgiven. He would be heading home to Ethiopia with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in his heart and on his lips.

Snatched

1. **When**. What did the Holy Spirit do with Philip? The Holy Spirit snatched Philip away.

2. **They**. Philip and the eunuch went down into the water so that Philip could baptize the eunuch. Having completed the baptism, they came up out of the water.

3. **Spirit**. At that moment the Holy Spirit snatched away Philip.

4. **Snatched**. The Holy Spirit moved Philip to the desert road so that he could talk to the eunuch. With the eunuch saved and baptized, Phillip's work was done and the Holy Spirit snatched him away from that desert road.

5. **Rejoicing**. The Ethiopian eunuch went on his way rejoicing over his sins being forgiven. He had received the free gift of eternal life and would return to Ethiopia as a born-again believer.

6. **Philip**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit moved Philip around at will of the Holy Spirit.

7. **Holy Spirit**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit had a very active hand in Philip's life, moving him from place to place.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that the Holy Spirit moves us to do His will.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives so that we are at the right place at the right time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting the Holy Spirit to put us in the right place to use our spiritual gifts to His glory.**

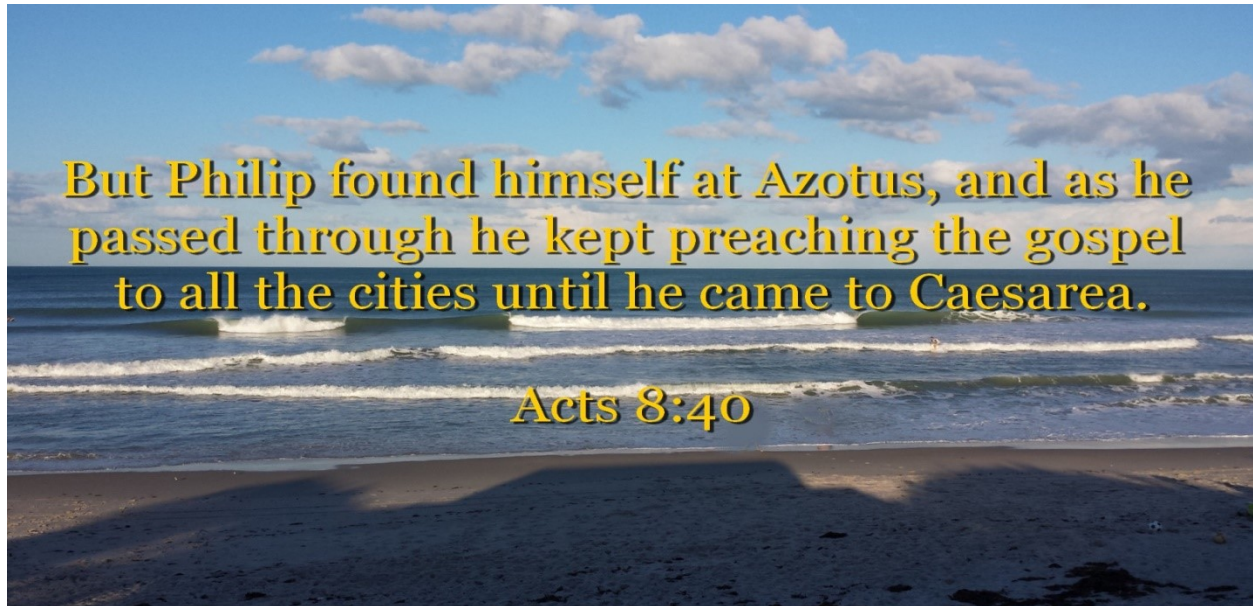
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the story of the Holy Spirit snatching Philip away. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the activity of the Holy Spirit in leading you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 293

Azotus Today



Where did the Holy Spirit take Philip? The Spirit of the Lord took Philip to Azotus.

Azotus, also known as Ashdod, was one of the five principal cities of the Philistines, the ancient enemies of Israel. The prophets Isaiah, Amos, and Jeremiah all spoke about the destruction of Ashdod. A few remnants of Ashdod remained and the people of Israel intermarried with them after the return from Babylon in Nehemiah's time.

The Holy Spirit continued His work of bringing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the enemies of Israel. First, the Jews in Jerusalem and Judea, following the pattern of their fathers who murdered the prophets and then crucified Jesus, heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Second, God sent Philip, Peter, and John to the Samaritans so they too could hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Third, the Holy Spirit snatched to Philip from the desert road and took him to Ashdod (Azotus), the ancient enemies of Israel known as the Philistines.

The compassion and mercies of the Lord Jesus Christ moved Him to die for the sins of the world. The Holy Spirit fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus regarding the expansion of the church outward from Jerusalem to the uttermost parts of the earth. The time to evangelize the Philistines had come and Philip would do the work.

From Ashdod, Philip preached the Gospel through Philistine territory until he arrived at Caesarea, a Roman city. God loves even the Philistines and sent Philip the Evangelist to them.

Preaching

1. **Philip**. Where did Philip find himself? He found himself at Azotus.
2. **Found**. The Holy Spirit snatched Philip away from the desert road where he just baptized the Ethiopian eunuch.
3. **Azotus**. Azotus, also known as Ashdod, was one of the five main cities of the Philistines and the Holy Spirit sent Philip there to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. **Passed**. Philip passed through Azotus, preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the land of the Philistines, the ancient enemies of Israel.
5. **Preaching**. God had compassion on the Philistines by sending Philip on a special mission to preach through their land.
6. **Gospel**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit snatched Philip and put him in the land of the enemies of Israel so that they would hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. **Cities**. We rejoice today because Philip preached through the cities of the Philistines and made his way to Caesarea, a Roman city.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Philip preaching through the land of the Philistines.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He loves Samaritans and Philistines.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by learning that God loves our enemies and we should share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God loves our enemies, because we were all enemies of God at one point. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving your enemies and sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them?

HALLELUJAH !

9

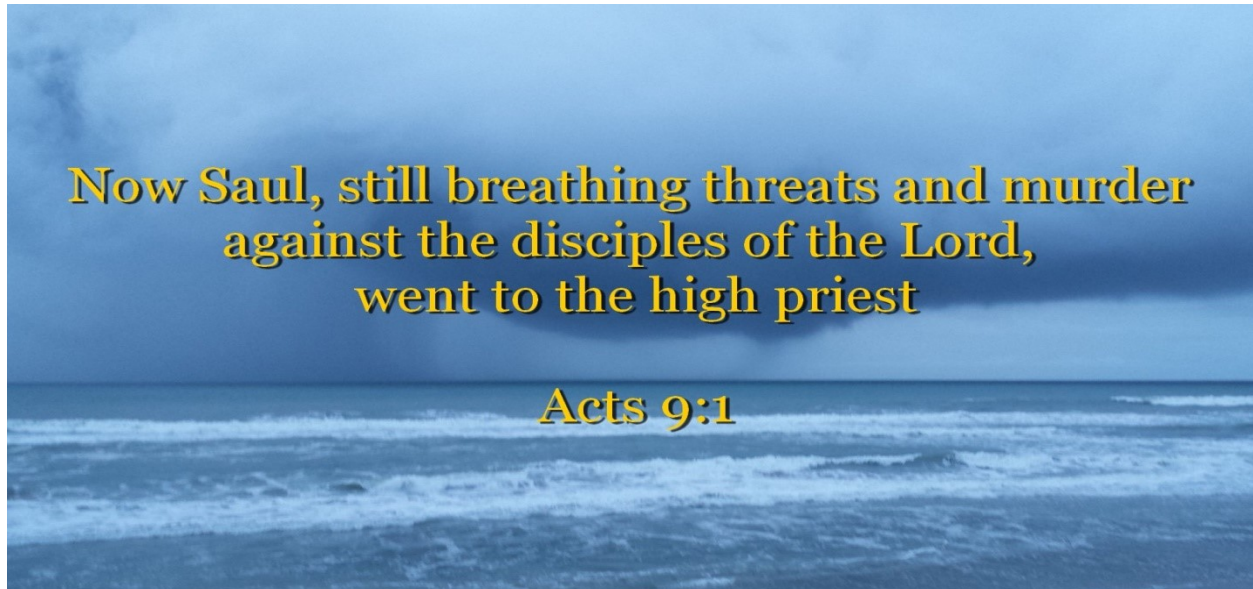
Saul Meets Jesus Today

Saul met Jesus on the Damascus Road. Saul was traveling with letters from the chief priests in Jerusalem to arrest all the Christians he could find in Damascus and bring them bound back to Jerusalem to imprison them. About noon a bright light shined upon Saul as he traveled towards Damascus. A voice from heaven asked, "Saul, Saul, where you persecuting Me?" Saul replied, "Who are you, Lord?" Jesus then responded that Saul was persecuting Him. Jesus then directed Saul to get up and go to the city and there it would be told him what he must do. As Saul rose from the ground, he could see nothing, although his eyes were open. The men who traveled with him stood speechless hearing the voice, but seeing no one. Saul's entire life and eternal destiny changed because he met the Lord Jesus Christ.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 294

Saul Today



What was Saul doing? Saul was breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The persecution against the church intensified with the stoning of Stephen. The witnesses laid their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. A great persecution arose against the church at that point and the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ scattered to new lands. The apostles, however, remained in Jerusalem. Saul sought letters from the high priest to persecute Christians elsewhere.

Saul was going house to house in Jerusalem and dragging away men and women who professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Very dangerous times for the church had arisen in Jerusalem. As the church flourished under the ministry of the Holy Spirit through the apostles, so the devil and his minions pushed back against the church using the religious Council and the Roman government.

Persecution often expanded Christianity. As saints fled from the persecution in one place, they carried the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

with them. They left Jerusalem and Judea and went to places like Samaria and Ashdod and the cities of the Philistines. They also spread out across the Mediterranean world.

Threats and Murder

1. **Saul**. How did Saul feel about the disciples of Jesus Christ? Saul was breathing threats and murder against them.

2. **Breathing**. Saul was breathing threats and murder against the disciples of Jesus Christ, but thought he was being zealous for God.

3. **Threats**. Saul not only made threats against disciples, but he also acted upon the saints dragging men and women away from their homes because they were disciples of Jesus Christ.

4. **Murder**. Saul not only imprisoned the disciples of Jesus, but he also threatened to murder them.

5. **Disciples**. Saul targeted the disciples of Jesus and Saul zealously pursued them.

6. **Lord**. Living holy in the family of God means that Saul opposed the Lord Jesus Christ by attacking His disciples.

7. **High Priest**. We rejoice today because God had plans for Saul after he received letters from the high priest to apprehend disciples of Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Saul led the persecution against the disciples of Jesus in Jerusalem.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He loves His enemies and the people who persecute disciples.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God can change a man like Saul.**

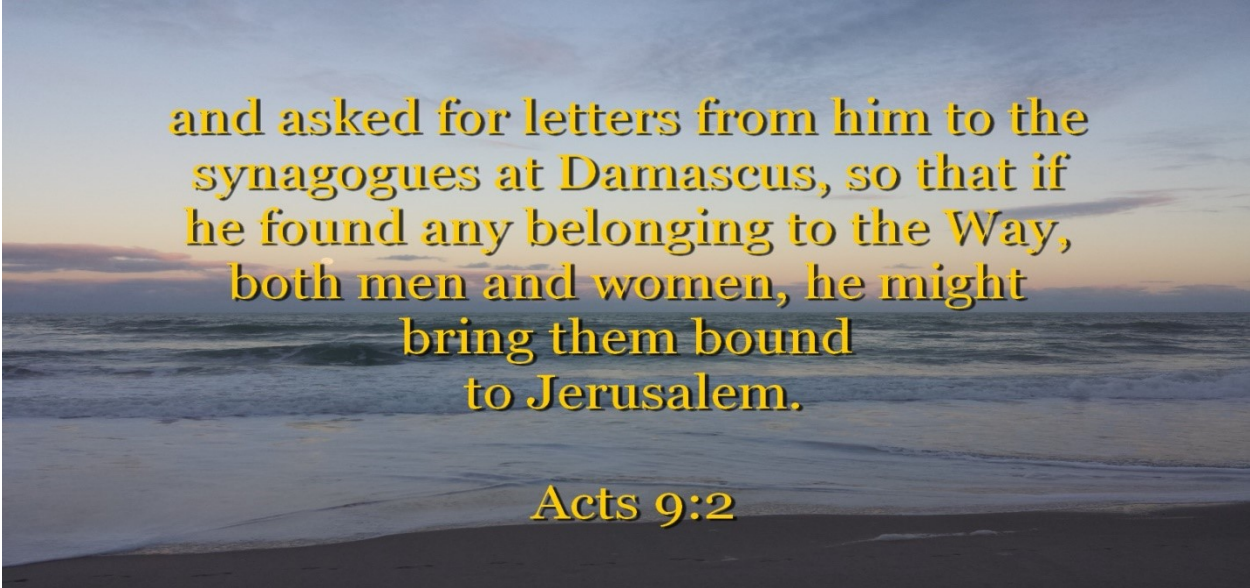
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never underestimating what God can do with the enemies who persecute the family of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying that God would change the hearts of the people who persecute the disciples of Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 295

Damascus Today



and asked for letters from him to the
synagogues at Damascus, so that if
he found any belonging to the Way,
both men and women, he might
bring them bound
to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:2

What did Saul want from the high priest? Saul sought letters for him to go to the synagogues in Damascus.

Damascus, the capital of Syria, became a new target for Saul. As the head of religious Israel and of all Jews, the Roman government had invested some authority in the high priest to enforce religious laws. Generally, they were not allowed to put anyone to death without the authority of Rome sanctioning that execution.

Saul had been busy going through the houses in Jerusalem and surrounding areas, dragging away saints, both men and women, and putting them in prison. Saints fled from such persecution. Saul, breathing threats against the church, wanted to expand his evil reach to Damascus.

Saul wanted to arrest saints there too. The Gospel of Jesus Christ had apparently reached Damascus and people there had believed. Historically, the people of Damascus had fought many wars against the Jews. God's grace had already reached out to the Jews of Damascus. With letters from the high priest, Saul sought to exercise religious authority to arrest the saints in

Damascus and put them in prison in Jerusalem. Saul led the persecution spreading across Israel and surrounding areas.

The Way

1. **Asked**. Why did Saul want letters from the high priest? Saul wanted authority to persecute saints in Damascus.

2. **Letters**. Saul sought letters to the Damascus synagogues which granted him authority from the high priest to bind the followers of the Way (saints) he might find there.

3. **Synagogues**. Saul targeted followers of the Way in the synagogues.

4. **Damascus**. Saul intended to travel to Damascus with those letters and find the followers of the Way in the synagogues at Damascus.

5. **Way**. Saints were called followers of the Way. Remember Jesus referred to himself as the Way to God, saying that no one comes to the Father but through Him.

6. **Bound**. Living holy in the family of God means that Saul intended to carry bound saints, both men and women, away from the synagogues in Damascus.

7. **Jerusalem**. We rejoice today because God would protect saints being bound and carried a way from Damascus to Jerusalem. God had plans for Saul as he traveled on the road to Damascus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Saul planning to persecute the followers of the Way.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Saul targeted saints in the synagogues at Damascus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that the letters of authority for Saul to persecute saints in Damascus actually paved the way for God to save Saul on the Damascus Road.**

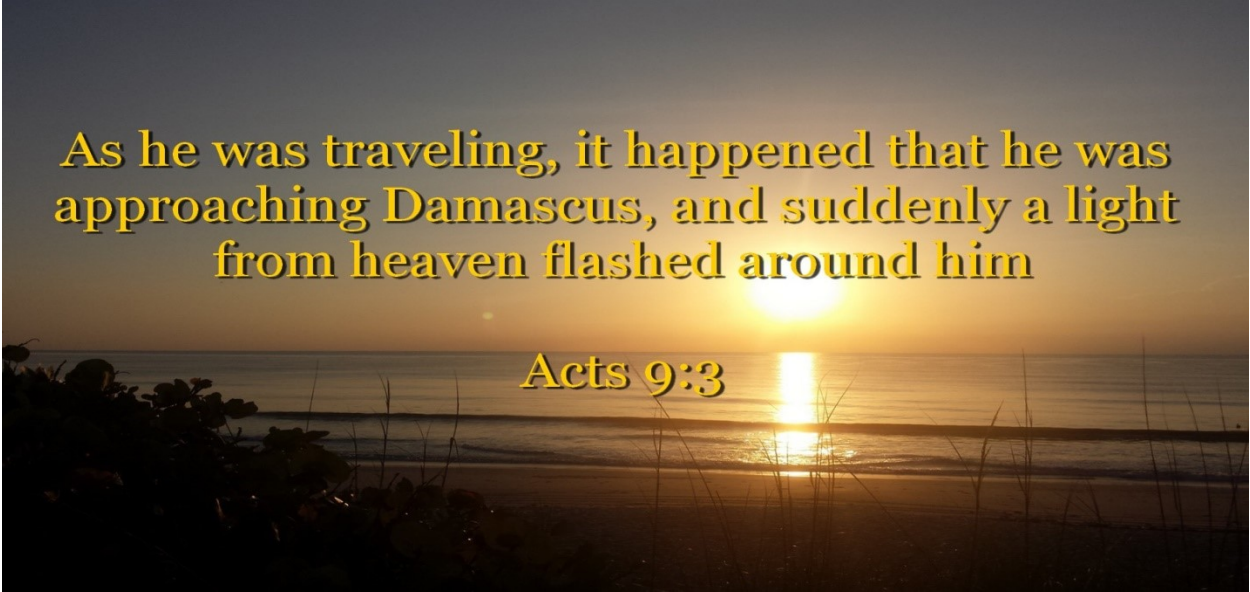
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He protects the saints and many unusual ways. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for the freedom and protection He provides against persecution?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 296

Traveling Today



As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him

Acts 9:3

As Saul traveled to Damascus, what happened? A bright light from heaven flashed around him.

Saul was breathing threats and murder against the saints. He dedicated himself to persecuting followers of the Way. He obtained letters from the high priest to imprison both men and women who followed the Way. He was on a mission from Jerusalem to the synagogues of Damascus to arrest and imprison followers of the Way. He wanted to take them to Jerusalem for imprisonment there.

Saul had become a leading persecutor of the saints. When the Jews stoned Stephen to death, they laid their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. After that event a great persecution broke out against the Jews in Jerusalem and the surrounding area and they fled. They moved away from the persecution and took the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them. The Gospel spread to many lands as a result of the persecution in Jerusalem.

As Saul approached Damascus, a great light flashed from heaven. God was in the process of changing Saul's life forever. God loved Saul, a great persecutor of the church.

Light from Heaven

1. **Traveling**. Where was Saul headed? He was headed to the synagogues in Damascus.

2. **Approaching**. As he was approaching Damascus, something happened that changed his life forever.

3. **Damascus**. Damascus was another ancient enemy of Israel, but at times they also became allies. Some Jews lived there and established synagogues.

4. **Suddenly**. Things happen quickly on the Damascus road that day.

5. **Light**. A bright light flashed out of heaven and illuminated Saul.

6. **Heaven**. Living holy in the family of God means that God opened the heavens, flashed the light upon Saul and called him to salvation and service in the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Flashed**. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus Christ had compassion upon Saul, the persecutor of the church intent upon imprisoning and murdering the family of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Damascus Road and the light that shone there that day.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He is compassionate, gracious and loving, even to His enemies.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the light He shone into our lives one day and brought us to salvation and service for the Lord Jesus Christ.**

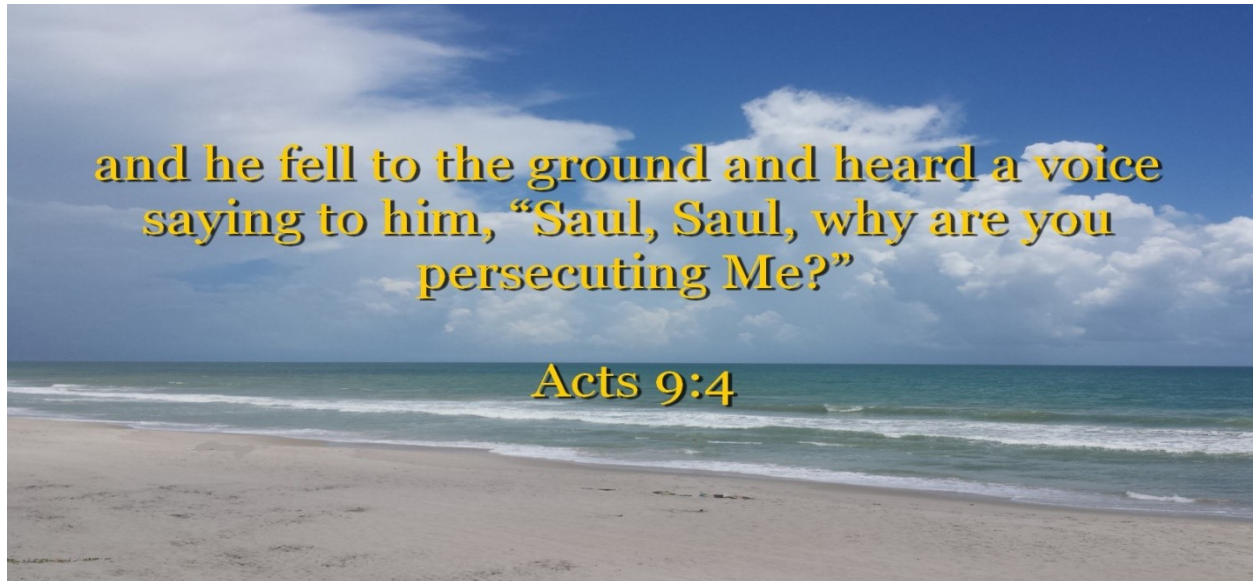
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the light on the Damascus Road. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the day of your calling to service for the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 297

Voice Today



What happened to Saul when he fell to the ground? He heard a voice.

Saul obtained letters from the high priest to persecute the saints in the synagogues of Damascus. Saul had left Jerusalem and was traveling down the Damascus Road intent upon murdering the saints, both men and women. He thought he was doing God's will, but he had never known God, despite being very religious.

Many people are very religious today, but they have never known God. They pray to God every day and attend church frequently. They may have sat in the same seats in the church for many years. Those very religious folks even think they are doing God's will when they actually oppose God and His work. They often attack saints thinking they are quite evil, but in fact the saints are doing God's will. If you have never had a day in your life when you received the free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord, then you knew for sure you were born again on that day, then maybe you have a lot in common with Saul.

God shined the light on Saul that day on the Damascus Road. Jesus called upon Saul and confronted him for persecuting Jesus by persecuting the children of Jesus. Is God shining His light upon you today?

Why?

1. **Fell**. What happened when Saul fell to the ground? He heard a voice.
2. **Ground**. After Saul fell to the ground, he heard a voice speaking directly to him.
3. **Voice**. The voice came from heaven.
4. **Saying**. The voice was saying something directly to Saul.
5. **Saul**. The voice started by addressing Saul by name and followed with a question about Saul and his behavior.
6. **Persecuting**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus called Saul by name and asked him: “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”
7. **Me**. We rejoice today because God just reached down to Saul and asked why Saul was persecuting Me? Persecuting the children of God amounts to persecuting God Himself.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the voice on the Damascus Road calling out Saul by name.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God can turn the heart of His enemy to Himself at any time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He knows all of our names and loves us individually.**

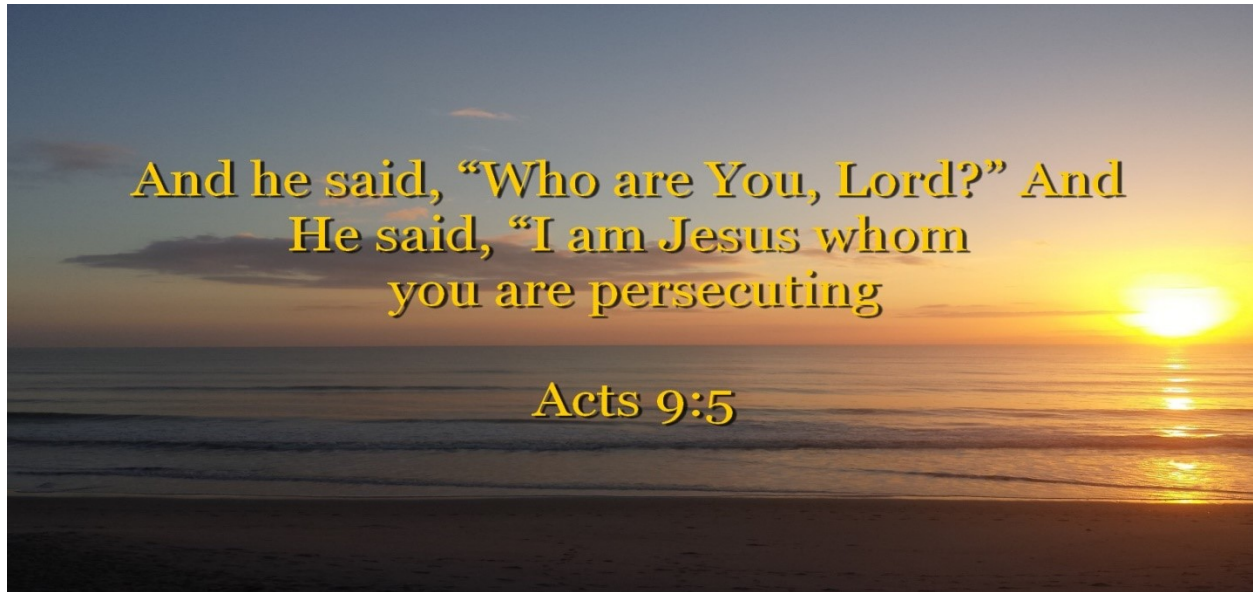
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God always knows when His beloved children are persecuted and views persecuting the children of God as persecuting God Himself. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He knows every drop of persecution poured out upon us and takes it personally?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 298

Who Today



Once Saul saw the Light and fell down, what did Saul say? Saul asked: "Who are you, Lord?"

Saul knew right off that a Person had contacted him. The Light was an unmistakable calling card from heaven. Saul understood that God was speaking to him, but he did not know the identity of God. Saul did not know that Jesus Christ, the risen Lord, was speaking to him. In fact, Saul had been convinced that Jesus Christ was not God and all who followed Him were evil people.

Jesus identified Himself to Saul directly and immediately. Jesus said: "I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting." Saul had not made the connection before that persecuting the followers of the Way was identical to persecuting Jesus Himself. Because Jesus loved even Saul, Jesus talked to Saul on the Damascus Road.

Not only does Jesus love His enemies and sends evangelists to them, He also takes His enemies and makes them Evangelists. Jesus has the power to transform the vilest offender into an apostle and teacher to all the nations.

Saul, later known as Paul, never held the office of apostle because he could not meet the qualifications described in Acts 1. Upon conversion Saul received The Spiritual Gift of Apostle and used it to the glory of God traveling to many lands spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saul became Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles. God took the biggest Jew and made him the apostle to the Gentiles so that God would use an unimpeachable Jew to proclaim Jesus Who removed the historic gap between the Jews and Gentiles as God united them into one church.

Jesus

1. **Who**. Did Saul recognize the voice? No, Saul asked Who was speaking?
2. **You**. Saul addresses the speaker directly, asking who are You, Lord?
3. **Lord**. Saul understood that he was talking to someone very important by using the term Lord. Saul had not yet put two and two together in his mind that persecuting followers of the Way was the same as persecuting Jesus Himself.
4. **I Am**. Jesus identified Himself by calling Himself “I am Jesus.”
5. **Jesus**. Jesus told Saul very directly that His name was Jesus. Saul was about to get news that would shake him to the core of his being.
6. **You**. Living holy in the family of God means that when you persecute the family of God, you persecute God Himself.
7. **Persecuting**. We rejoice today because He cares about the people persecuting us and knows their names. God always cares about us.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus called Saul by name.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Jesus considers persecution against His family as persecution against Himself personally.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking Jesus for loving Saul and saving him.**

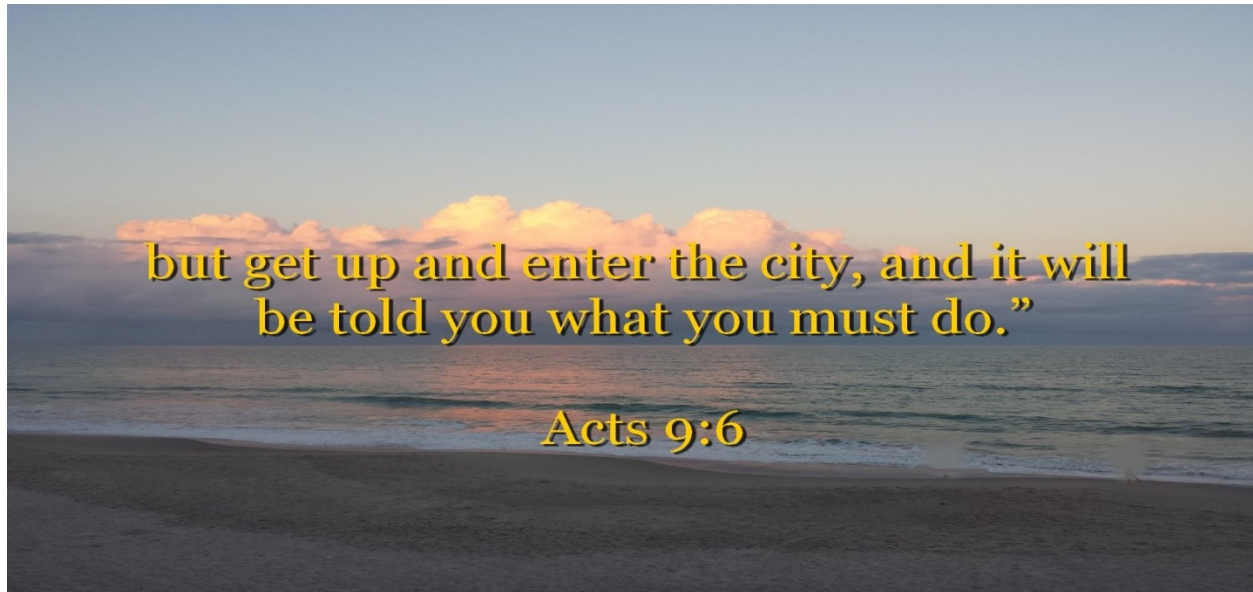
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving Jesus more for His great compassion, even on His enemies. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Jesus saying: “I am Jesus Who you are persecuting?”

HALLELUJAH !

Day 299

Enter Today



What did Jesus command Saul to do? Jesus commanded Saul to get up off the ground and enter the city of Damascus.

Jesus confronted Saul on the Damascus Road. A bright light flashed from heaven upon Saul and he fell to the ground. Jesus then said to Saul, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" Jesus equated persecuting the family of God as persecuting Jesus Himself. Therefore, Jesus asked Saul why he was persecuting Me.

Saul should have been very concerned when the voice from heaven knew his name. He should have even been more concerned when He told Saul by name that he was persecuting Jesus. Saul must have understood immediately that his plans to arrest and murder the followers of the Way in Jerusalem and in Damascus were opposed by God. Furthermore, Saul now had unmistakable evidence that Jesus was alive, having been resurrected from the dead, and considered Saul's activity to be persecution against Jesus Himself.

Jesus directed Saul to go into the city where it would be told to him what he must do. So Saul knew that Jesus had plans for him in Damascus, but they did not include persecuting Him or His church.

City

1. **Get**. What did Jesus tell Saul to do? Jesus said to get up and go into the city.

2. **Enter**. God directed Saul to enter into the city of Damascus. Saul already knew that there were some followers of the Way in Damascus. News about Saul and his threats and murders preceded his arrival in Damascus.

3. **City**. The Syrian Empire, headquartered in Damascus, had been a tremendous thorn in the side of Israel for centuries. At times, however, some kings of Israel had allied themselves with the Syrians, often to God's displeasure.

4. **Will**. Jesus told Saul that only after he entered the city of Damascus would he learn what he must do. All of Saul's plans were immediately scrapped and replaced with divine commands from Jesus. Jesus did not lay out all of those plans immediately, but gave Saul directions about Damascus.

5. **Told**. Jesus told Saul that after he entered Damascus he would learn about what he must do. Jesus let Saul know on the Damascus Road that his life was not over, but henceforth would be under the direction of Jesus.

6. **You**. Living holy in the family of God means that we all expect Jesus to say words to us like: "I will tell you what you must do." Jesus provided lots of commandments in the Bible that tell us what we must do as we apply His commands to our lives.

7. **Do**. We rejoice today because Jesus reveals to us what we must do at the right place and at the right time.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Saul was directed to enter the city of Damascus by Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Jesus tells us what we must do to glorify Him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that Jesus sent Saul to Damascus because He had work for Saul to do in Damascus.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting Jesus to always tell us what to do to please Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by doing what Jesus tells you to do?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 300

Speechless Today



The men who traveled with him stood
speechless, hearing the voice
but seeing no one.

Acts 9:7

What effect did the voice of Jesus have on the men traveling with Saul? They heard the voice, but they did not see anyone.

The men who traveled with Saul became eyewitnesses of what happened on the Damascus Road. They saw the light, they heard the voice, they saw Saul fall down, and they heard what Saul said in reply to the voice.

While some men may say that Saul had a mental breakdown or a hallucination or some kind of vision, the men traveling with Saul provided eyewitness testimony that something supernatural had happened on that road that day. Those men do not play a conspicuous role in the story, except to confirm that Saul had a life-changing event and something supernatural happened on the Damascus Road.

In later life Saul said that he was a persecutor of the church, but he acted in ignorance. God forgave Saul of all his sins because of his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In some cases the Lord Jesus reaches out to some people in supernatural ways to get the attention of everyone there at the time. The

conversion of Saul was truly a spectacular event burned into the minds of everyone who was there at the time.

Hearing

1. **Men**. Did other people hear the voice speaking to Saul? Yes, they heard a voice.

2. **Traveled**. The men traveling with Saul heard the voice from heaven.

3. **Stood**. They stood speechless when they heard the voice.

4. **Speechless**. The men stood speechless because something supernatural had just happened and they had no idea what was going on.

5. **Hearing**. While the men were hearing the voice, Saul was falling to the ground.

6. **Voice**. Living holy in the family of God means that Saul and the men traveling with him heard a voice that day on the Damascus Road. As we learn from later accounts, only Saul could understand the voice.

7. **Seeing**. We rejoice today because God provided eyewitnesses to the events on the Damascus Road. The men traveling with Saul heard the voice, but they were seeing no one.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the travelers on the Damascus Road with Saul heard the voice, but saw no one.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God can speak to us in ways He does not speak to others at the same time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He spoke to Saul that day while his fellow travelers looked on, seeing no one.**

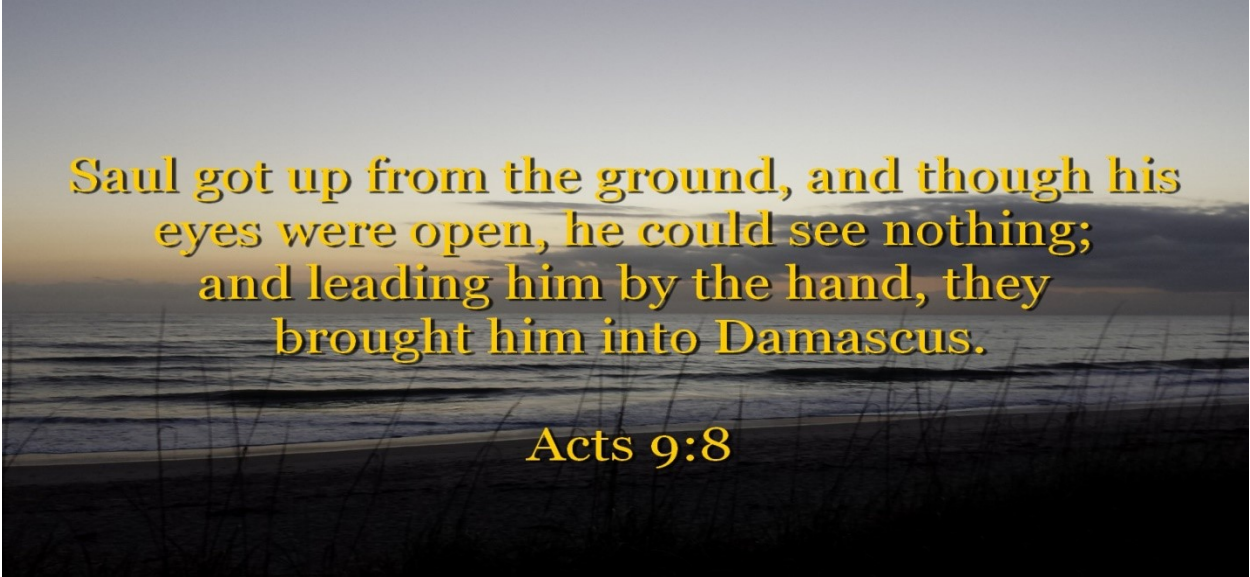
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the way that God changed the life of Saul forever, even as Saul's fellow travelers heard the voice, but saw no one. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the different ways He brings people to salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 301

Saul Today



Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.

Acts 9:8

What happened to Saul on the Damascus Road? Saul became blind.

As Saul travelled down the Damascus Road, the Lord Jesus asked Saul: “Why are you persecuting Me?” Jesus then revealed Himself to Saul and told him to get up and go into the city of Damascus. There he would learn what Jesus wanted him to do.

The fellow travelers of Saul heard the voice from heaven, but did not understand the words. Only Saul understood what the Lord Jesus had said to him.

When Saul stood up, his eyes were open, but he could not see. He had to be led by the hand. They brought him into Damascus. Saul had his plans for arresting and murdering all followers of the Way he may find in the synagogues of Damascus. Jesus Himself told Saul that persecuting the family of God was the same as persecuting Jesus directly.

Saul went into Damascus blind. His sight was gone after seeing a great light on the Damascus Road. Saul just had the best day of his life, because he had met the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Saul’s life would never be the same

after that day. Jesus had great plans for Saul. He too would become a follower of the Way.

Damascus

1. **Saul**. How was Saul brought into Damascus? He was led by the hand.
2. **Up**. When Saul got up from the ground, he noticed he could not see.
3. **Eyes**. Although his eyes were open, he saw nothing.
4. **Nothing**. Seeing nothing with his eyes wide-open posed serious problems for Saul getting around by himself.
5. **Hand**. Saul had to be led by the hand.
6. **Brought**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Saul was brought into Damascus, led by the hand because Jesus had blinded him.
7. **Damascus**. We rejoice today because Saul was no longer entering Damascus breathing threats and murder against the followers of the Way in synagogues of that city.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the power of Jesus to blind Saul on the way to Damascus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His ability to change lives in dramatic ways.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by testifying of His great love for people who killed His Son and persecuted His children.**

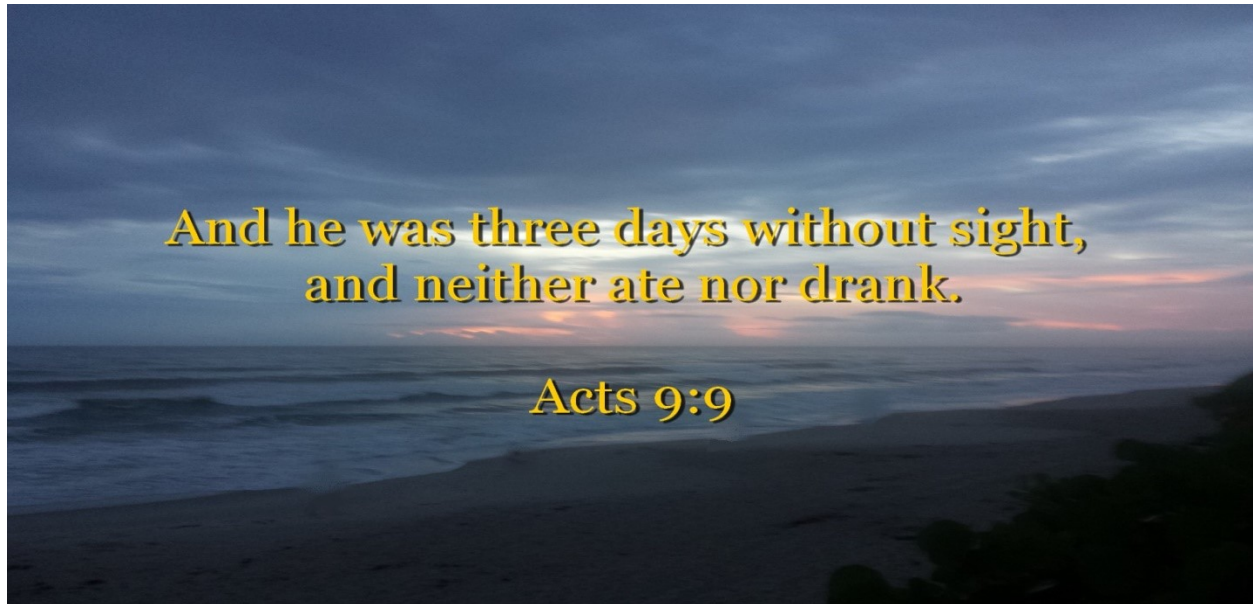
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God because he made a blind man see. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He led you to Jesus Who opened your eyes?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 302

Three Days Today



How long did the blindness last? The blindness lasted three days.

Saul lost his sight on the Damascus Road. A bright light shone upon him and a voice spoke to him. Jesus confronted him: "Why are you persecuting Me?" Saul did not know who was talking to him until the Lord Jesus said: "I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting."

Within a few minutes the Lord Jesus revealed Himself to Saul. At first Saul did not know Who was talking to him. Saul asked the voice Who was talking to him. Jesus loved Saul and God the Father rescued him from the domain of darkness and transferred him into God's beloved Son.

God had great plans for Saul and they all started right there on the Damascus Road. Saul arrived in Damascus that day physically blind and led by the hand. Spiritually, Saul had the best day of his life admitting Jesus Christ as Savior. For the first time in his life Saul saw the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ and the eyes of his heart were opened for the first time.

Saul neither ate nor drank for three days, living in darkness and fasting. Saul wanted to know God's will. He suddenly understood that Jesus was alive and ready to lead him as a follower of the Way.

Without Sight

1. **He**. Jesus blinded Saul and he had three days and three nights unlike any he had had before.

2. **Three**. For three days and three nights, Saul neither ate nor drank.

3. **Days**. Three days of fasting symbolized the changes coming into Saul's life.

4. **Nights**. After three nights without food, water or sight, Saul would emerge from the darkness into the light.

5. **Neither**. Saul neither ate nor drank for three days.

6. **Ate**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Saul ate nothing for three days after he was blinded by Jesus.

7. **Drank**. We rejoice today because Saul drank nothing for three days, but the fountain of the water of eternal life sprang up inside of him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Saul neither ate nor drank for three days.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by fasting and praying for God's will in our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that Saul neither ate or drank for three days, but God sustained him with spiritual food and water unlike anything he had before.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for providing food, clothing and shelter for us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that you now see Jesus clearly?

HALLELUJAH !

10

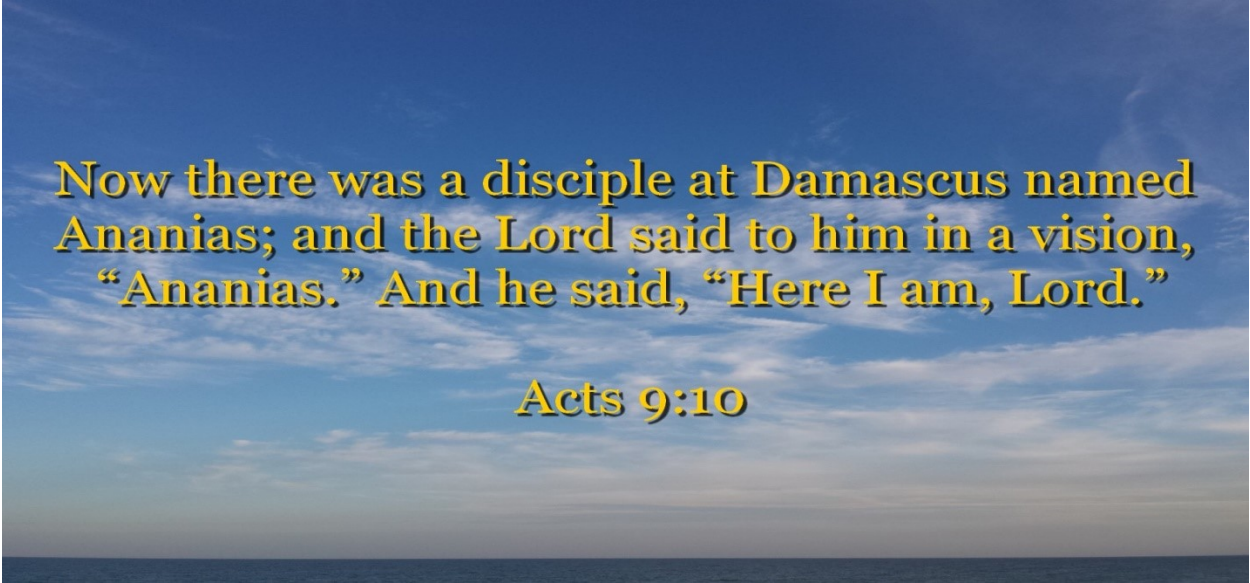
Ananias of Damascus Today

Ananias of Damascus, a disciple of the Lord Jesus, played a crucial role in helping Saul of Tarsus become Paul the apostle. Ananias received a vision from the Lord Jesus Christ directing him to go to Saul who had arrived in Damascus blind. Ananias reacted to those directions with misgivings because he had heard much about Saul persecuting the church in Jerusalem in bringing that authority to persecute to Damascus. The Lord Jesus told Ananias that Paul was a chosen instrument of the Lord who must bear the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ before Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel. The Lord Jesus would show Saul how much you must suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Ananias then went to Saul and addressed him as brother Saul. Ananias then told Saul that the Lord Jesus had sent him so that Saul may regain his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight, got up and was baptized. He ended his fast and took food and was strengthened.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 303

Ananias Today



Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”

Acts 9:10

Who was Ananias of Damascus? Ananias of Damascus was a disciple prepared by the Lord to help Saul.

Saul was led blind into Damascus. He depended upon another to lead him by the hand. He already knew that the letters he carried from the high priest to arrest and murder Christians in the synagogues of Damascus were of no use. Jesus had proved to Saul that Jesus was alive and all action against the family of God was action against Jesus Himself.

Saul left Jerusalem breathing threats and murder against the saints. He arrived in Damascus led by the hand and blind after Jesus enlightened him on the Damascus Road. Saul would end up in the synagogues of Damascus, but he would be proving that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God. The irony of the man holding letters from the high priest in Jerusalem to persecute Christians became their chief defender and advocate of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. The very people he came to persecute became the people he would spend eternity with. God gave Ananias a vision instructing him what to do with Saul and where to find him.

Vision

1. **Disciple**. What happened with Ananias? Ananias, a disciple of Jesus Christ, had a vision from the Lord.
2. **Damascus**. Ananias of Damascus should not be confused with the high priest Ananias in Jerusalem.
3. **Ananias**. The Lord used a vision to communicate with Ananias.
4. **Lord**. The Lord called Ananias by name in the vision.
5. **Vision**. God used visions to communicate with various prophets in the Old Testament.
6. **Here**. Living holy in the family of God means that Ananias responded to God by saying: “Here I am, Lord.”
7. **Lord**. We rejoice today because the Lord of Ananias had become the Lord of Saul of Tarsus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God spoke to prophets through dreams and in other ways.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by having the attitude of Ananias: “Here I am, Lord.”**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon God to know our name and lead us to do His work.**

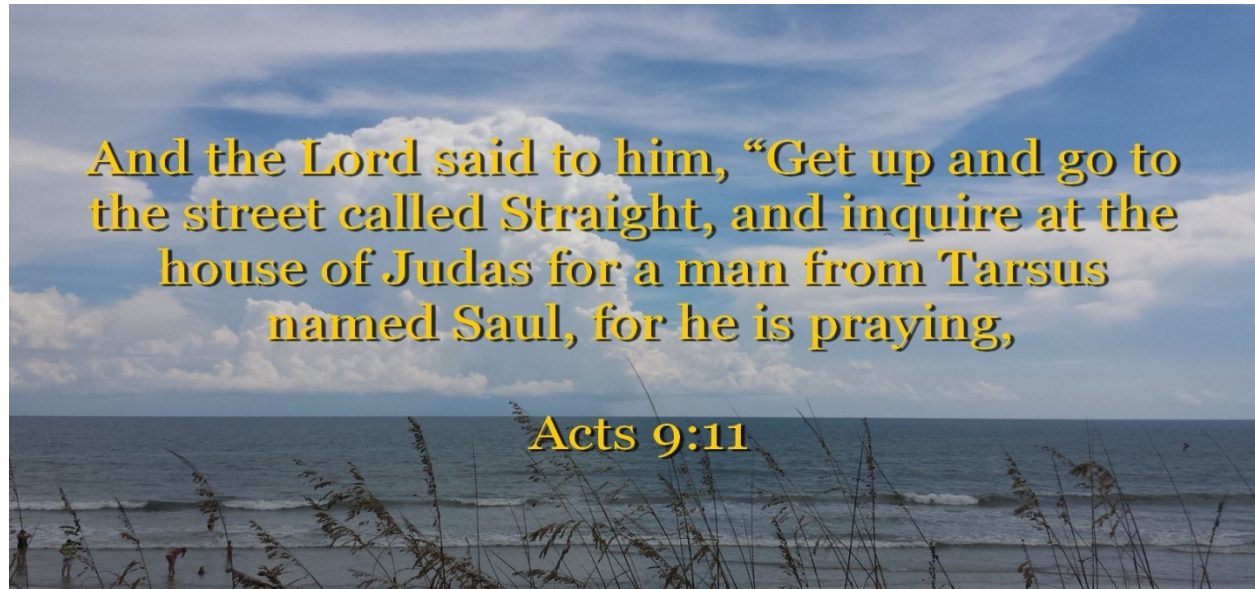
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by responding to God's call in our lives with the words: "Here I am, Lord." Will you live holy in the family of God today by hearing God call you today to service for Him?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 304

Inquire Today



What did God tell Ananias to do? God told Ananias to go find Saul.

Ananias of Damascus was a Jew faithful to God. The Lord gave him precise instructions on where to find Saul. The Lord directed him to the street called Straight and there inquire at the house of Judas about a man named Saul from Tarsus.

As we often see in Scripture, God works simultaneously in different people in different places so that they will come together and benefit one another when they meet. Left to their own devices, those two people would not have met on friendly terms, except for God's direct intervention.

God spoke to Ananias of Damascus because Saul needed help. God chose Ananias to provide that help and direction for Saul. Ananias, like many other Jews in Damascus and elsewhere, knew the reputation of Saul. He breathed threats and murders against the followers of the Way. Saul had supervised at the stoning of Stephen and persecuted men and women from house to house in Jerusalem. That kind of evil reputation spread quickly

among Christians. Saul would not be welcome by the Christians because they feared him as a great persecutor of the church in Jerusalem.

Praying

1. **Lord**. Where did the Lord send Ananias? The Lord sent Ananias to find Saul.

2. **Get Up**. The Lord told Ananias to get up.

3. **Go**. The Lord told Ananias to go.

4. **Straight**. In Damascus was a street called Straight.

5. **Judas**. God sent Ananias to the street called Straight, looking for the house of Judas.

6. **Saul**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Lord directed Ananias to find Saul of Tarsus in the house of Judas on the street called Straight in Damascus. God can provide very specific directions at times.

7. **Praying**. We rejoice today because Saul was praying and fasting while he was waiting for the Lord to lift his blindness and put him to work for the kingdom of God and the ministry of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God can give very specific directions for our lives.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by believing that God wants to use us to minister to other people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by blessing God leads us to help others going through difficult times.**

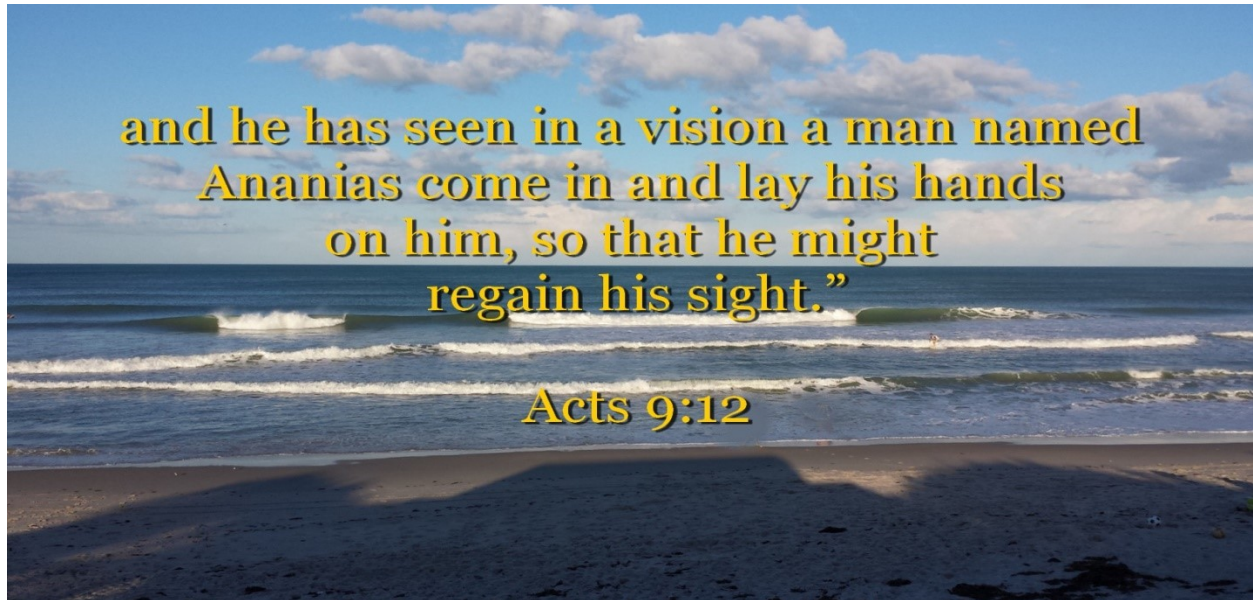
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by following the directions that God provides for our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the way He sends people in your life to minister to you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 305

Ananias Today



What did God tell Ananias about Saul? God told Ananias that he would heal Saul of his blindness.

God spoke to Ananias of Damascus through a vision. In that vision God told Ananias that Saul had a vision too. In Saul's vision, he saw Ananias come in and lay his hands upon him so that he might regain his sight.

Ananias suddenly understood what God wanted him to do. Ananias must find Saul and lay his hands upon Saul. Then Saul would regain his eyesight.

After losing his sight on the Damascus Road, Saul was led into Damascus by the hand because he was blind. He did not eat or drink for three days while he was blind. That blindness symbolized the life of Saul before he started service for Jesus Christ.

God intended for Saul's new life to begin at Damascus. Ananias would lay his hands upon Saul and his blindness would leave. Even better, the eyes

of his heart were opened by Jesus and he would begin a brand-new life of service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hands

1. **Vision**. What did God tell Saul about Ananias? God told Saul that Ananias would come and he would regain his sight.

2. **Man**. In his vision Saul saw a man named Ananias.

3. **Ananias**. Ananias would come to Saul and help him.

4. **Come**. Ananias would come and help Saul regain his sight.

5. **Hands**. Ananias would lay his hands upon Saul.

6. **Regain**. Living holy in the family of God means that God had a plan for Ananias to meet Saul, lay his hands upon him, and Saul would regain his eyesight.

7. **Sight**. We rejoice today because God used Ananias to help Saul regain his sight, all according to the plan of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the intricate plans of God to bless our lives.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God can speak to two people in distant places at the same time so that they meet at the right time and place.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon God to send us help when we need it.**

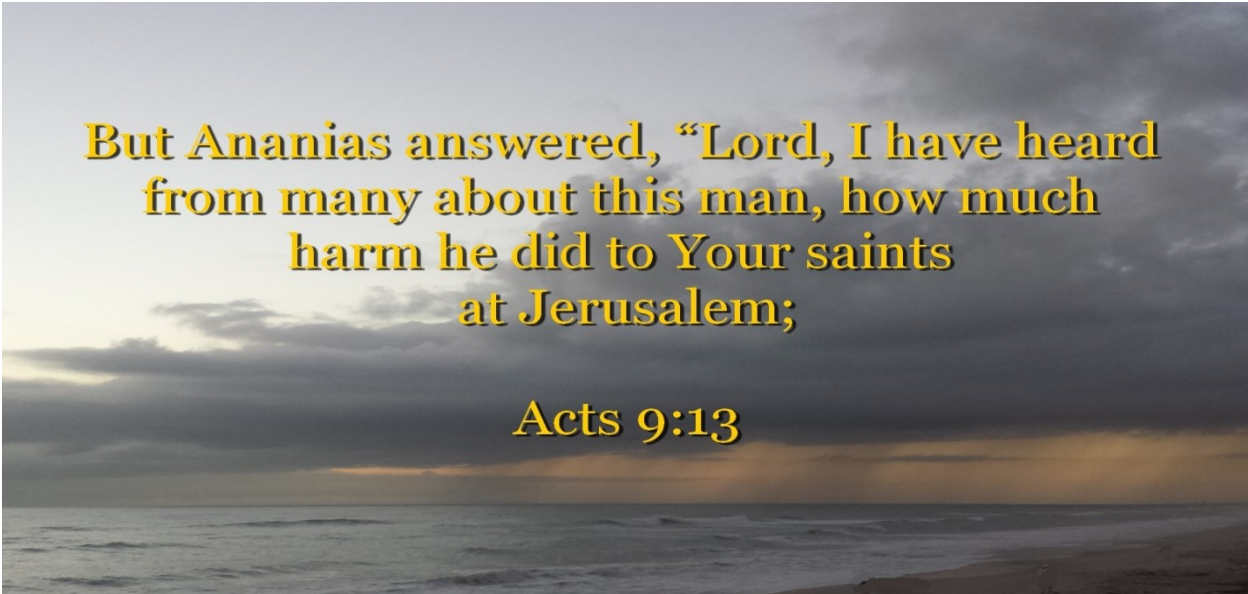
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Ananias and Saul have been interrelated by visions of each other. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God can lead you to help another person who was led to meet you by God so you could help them?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 306

Heard Today



But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard
from many about this man, how much
harm he did to Your saints
at Jerusalem;

Acts 9:13

What did Ananias know about Saul? Ananias knew that Saul caused great harm to the saints in Jerusalem.

Ananias had a vision from the Lord. In that vision Ananias understood that he should go to a street called Straight and find the house of Judas. In that house he would find Saul of Tarsus, who was praying.

About the same time Saul of Tarsus had met Jesus on the Damascus Road. Later, in a vision, Saul of Tarsus had seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he would regain his sight.

God had just set up a meeting between Ananias and Saul of Tarsus by giving both of them a vision of the future where they would meet each other. Ananias, however, had serious misgivings about going to see Saul of Tarsus. Ananias remembered that Saul of Tarsus had conducted great persecution against the saints living in Jerusalem and now he had come to Damascus.

Harm

1. **Ananias**. What bothered Ananias? Ananias and heard bad reports about Saul.
2. **Answered**. Ananias had a vision from the Lord directing him to meet Saul. Ananias answered back with his reservations.
3. **Lord**. Ananias was not disrespectful, but questioned the Lord.
4. **Heard**. Ananias had heard from many people that Saul had done great harm in Jerusalem to the saints.
5. **Many**. Many sources had informed Ananias about Saul's persecution of the church.
6. **Harm**. Living holy in the family of God means that Ananias obeyed God, even though he had reservations initially.
7. **Saints**. We rejoice today because God can forgive anything, even the persecution of His saints, through the blood of Jesus Christ His Son.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Ananias and his concerns about Saul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expressing our concerns to God, but always calling Him Lord and never doubting His purposes.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by having respectful conversations with God so that He may address our concerns in love.**

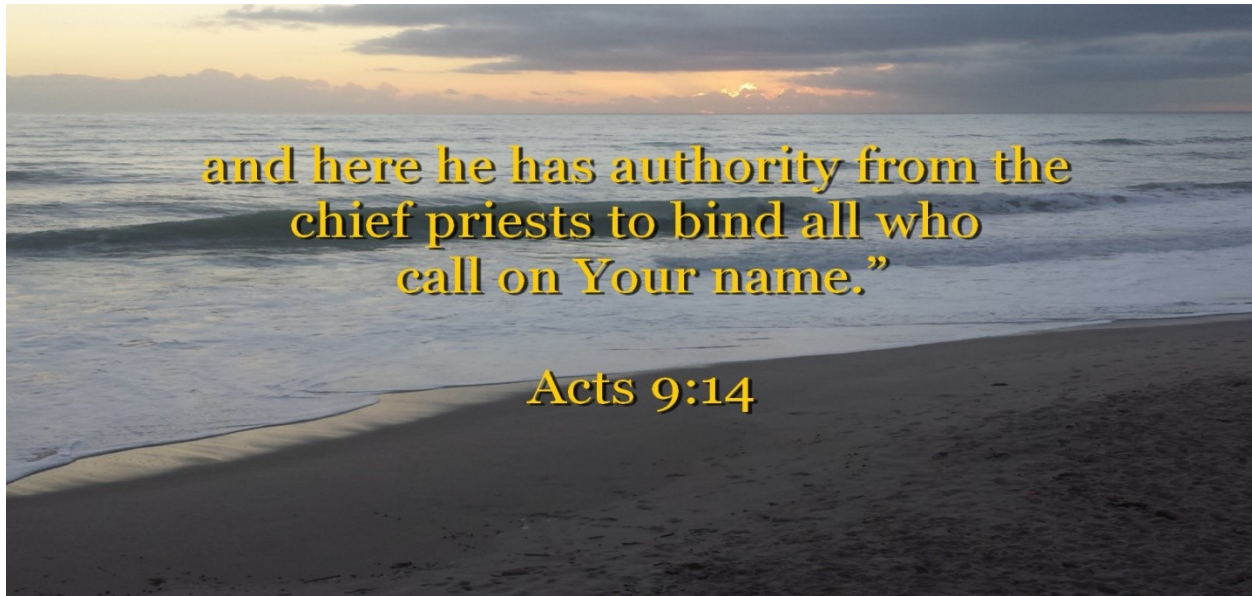
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that he uses faithful people to accomplish His will. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to accomplish His will through your life of obedience to Him?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 307

Authority Today



What news traveled fast? The news that Saul had authority to bind saints in Damascus traveled fast.

Ananias knew that Saul had authority from the chief priests to bind all the people who call on the name of the Lord. That news had traveled to the saints in Damascus. The chief priests had granted Saul letters authorizing him to bind and imprison all who called on the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ananias in his vision was talking with God. Ananias reacted strongly to the news that God wanted him to go meet Saul of Tarsus on the street called Straight at the house of Judas. Based on the news that Ananias had about Saul, he expressed great reluctance about going.

At times God calls us to do things we might not like. God may want us to visit somebody who poses a danger to our safety. Saul of Tarsus posed a danger to all the followers of the Way in Damascus. God, however, knew all about Saul because He had blinded Saul on the road to Damascus and changed his life forever.

Ananias now had to trust God and obey God's command to go see Saul. God loved Saul and Ananias and things would work out.

Bind

1. **Here**. What authority did Saul have? Ananias was concerned because he knew that Saul had authority to bind saints in Damascus.

2. **Authority**. Ananias also knew that Saul received letters of authority to bind saints in Damascus.

3. **Chief Priests**. The chief priests had given Saul letters of authority to go to Damascus and bind all the followers of the Way that he could find there in the synagogues.

4. **Bind**. Saul was breathing threats and murders against the saints, intending to bind the ones he could find in the synagogues of Damascus and imprison them in Jerusalem.

5. **All**. Saul intended to bind all of them, men and women.

6. **Call**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that evil people target the saints, because they call on the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Name**. We rejoice today because the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ is the power of God for salvation to all who believe.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that saints are targets of evil people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God calls us to overcome our fears of persecution so that we may serve Him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His plans to change the lives of people who persecute His church.**

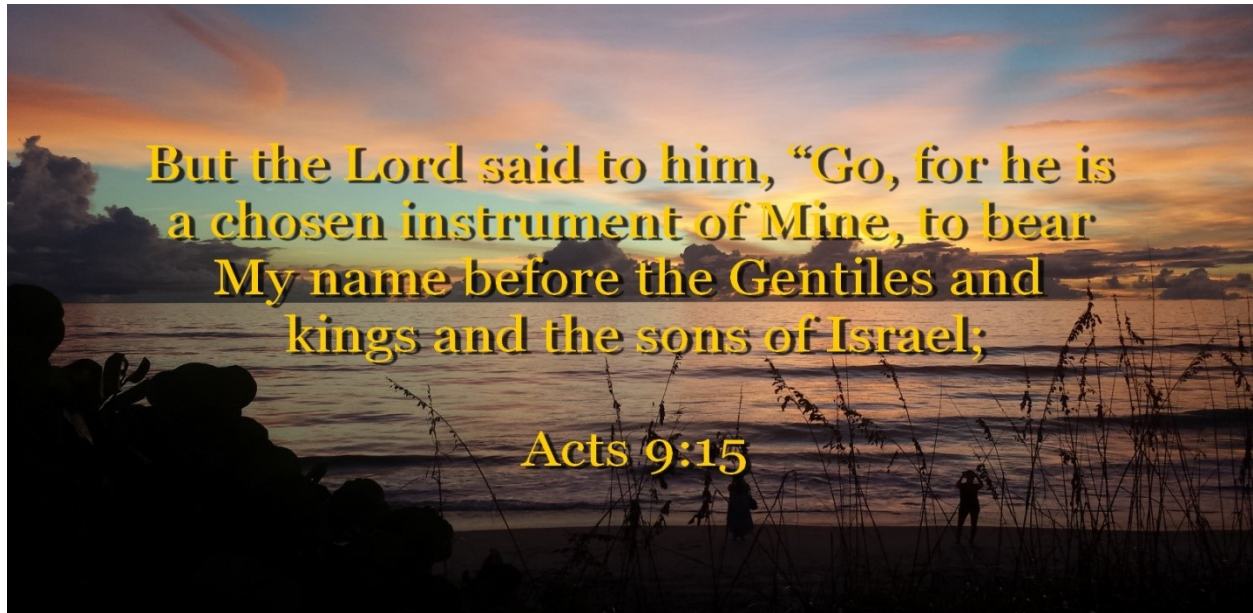
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the letters of persecution issued to Saul and the grace of God which stopped Saul from enforcing those letters. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to help you endure persecution?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 308

Chosen Instrument Today



What further information did God give Ananias about Saul? God told Ananias that Saul was God's chosen instrument.

God declared that Saul was the chosen instrument of God. God also revealed that He had chosen Saul to bear the name of God before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel.

Notice the three categories of people that God described. God was going to send Saul to the Gentiles. Of course, the Gentiles and the Jews historically did not get along. They often avoided one another for a variety of reasons. God had a plan to unite them in one church through one faith in one Savior.

God also had a plan for Saul to appear before kings. Saul certainly appeared before many kings as he spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in many lands.

God also planned for Saul to bear His name to the sons of Israel. Saul went to many synagogues proclaiming Jesus as Messiah. More often than not

the Jews rejected and his message of salvation in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Bear My Name

1. **Lord**. How did the Lord deal with the concerns of Ananias? God told Ananias about His purposes for Saul.

2. **Go**. God commanded Ananias to go see Saul and overcame his fears by explaining Saul's role in the program of God.

3. **Chosen**. God told Ananias that He had chosen Saul to go into the ministry of Christ.

4. **Instrument**. God said he would use Saul as His chosen instrument.

5. **Name**. Saul would bear the Name of God before many different groups.

6. **Gentiles**. Living holy in the family of God means that God chose Saul to bear his Name to the Gentiles and kings.

7. **Israel**. We rejoice today because God changed Saul so that he would bring the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the people of Israel, being a Jew himself and a Pharisee.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that we are all chosen of God to be His daily ministers to the world.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by working as a team of daily ministers for Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God as a team of daily ministers doing the things God has called us to do each day.**

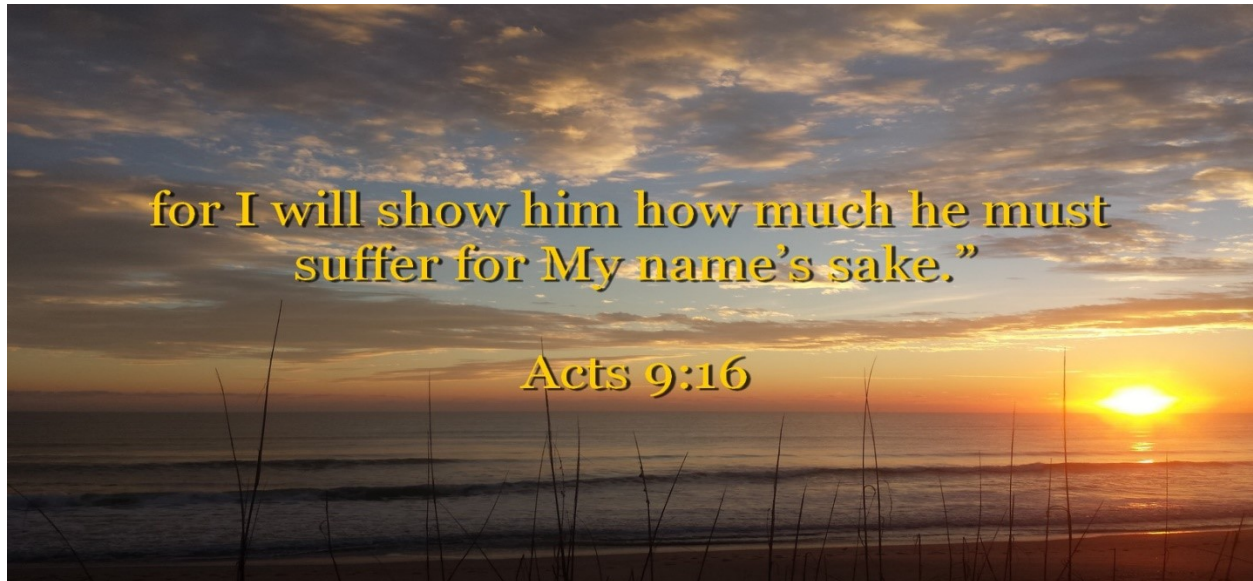
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Saul as the chosen instrument of God, bearing the Name of God to Gentiles and kings and the people of Israel. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering you too are a chosen instrument of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 309

Show Today



What was in store for Saul? God said that Saul must suffer many things for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God made it sound like a prophecy of suffering. He would show Saul how much he must suffer for the sake of the Lord Jesus and his Name. In the Old Testament, the Name of God was holy and blessed. People revered the name of God.

As Ananias contemplated meeting Saul of Tarsus, he expressed severe misgivings to God. God allayed some of Ananias's fears by revealing to Ananias some of the things that were in store for Saul. Not only would Saul be the chosen instrument for God, but he would also be subjected to much suffering for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Saul acted very wickedly toward Jesus Christ and His followers. Saul had supervised the stoning of Stephen. He had arrested and dragged off to prison many saints, both men and women, in Jerusalem. Just as Saul had caused many to suffer for the Name of Christ, so also Saul would experience great suffering from others like he had caused those saints to suffer.

Suffer

1. **I**. What was God going to show Saul? God was going to show Saul how much he must suffer.

2. **Show**. God told Ananias that He would show Saul that he must suffer in the future. Saul had made many people in the family of God suffer and now suffering would be coming into his life.

3. **Him**. God planned to show him how much he must suffer as part of his ministry for God. Suffering and ministry often go together.

4. **Much**. God wanted Saul to know how much he must suffer in the future.

5. **Suffer**. Jesus was called the Suffering Servant of God and so all of the servants of God may suffer as part of their service to God.

6. **My**. Living holy in the family of God means that God told Ananias that Saul would suffer much in My Name.

7. **Name**. We rejoice today because God calls some people to suffer in His Name, because God has counted them worthy to suffer for Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God would show Saul how much he must suffer.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God calls some of His servants to suffer as part of their ministry for God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving God more for sustaining us through our suffering for Him.**

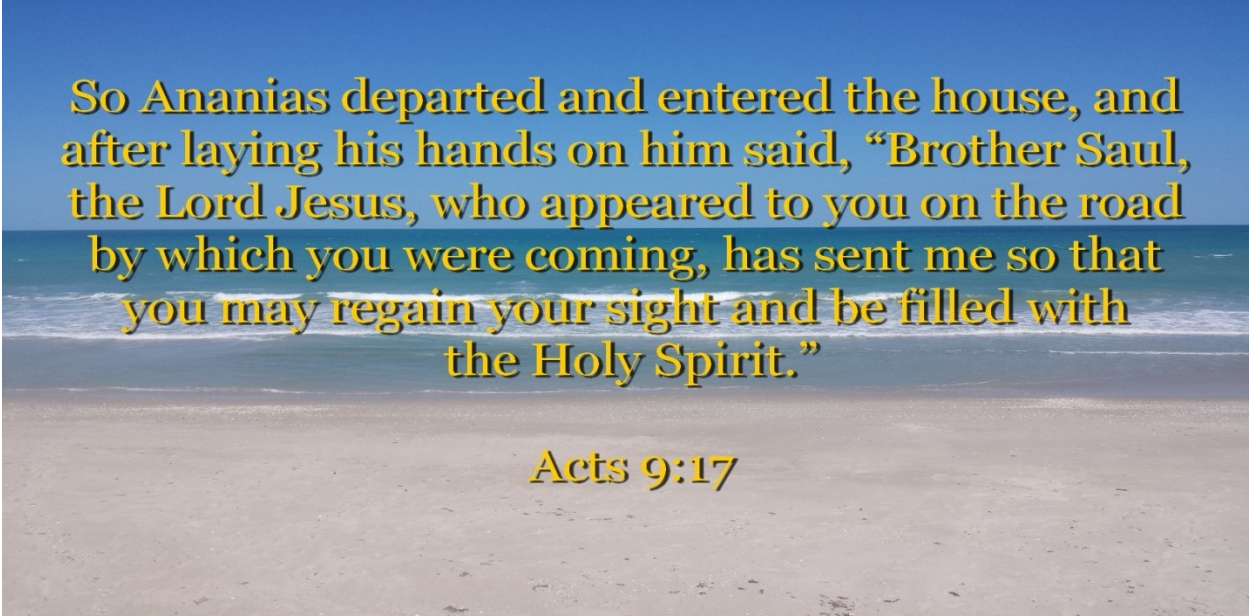
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God would show Saul how much he must suffer for the Name of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering those saints who suffered for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 310

Sight Today



So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 9:17

What did Ananias do after the vision? Ananias obeyed God and went to Saul.

Ananias went to the street called Straight to the house of Judas and found Saul, just as the Lord told him. Ananias arrived and laid his hands on Saul.

Thus Ananias laid his hands upon Saul, he also spoke to Saul. Ananias started by calling Saul his brother. Ananias believed what God told him about Saul and the great change in Saul. Ananias then said that he knew that the Lord Jesus had appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus. Ananias also told Saul that the Lord Jesus had sent him so that Saul would regain his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Ananias had overcome his fear of Saul and obeyed the Lord Jesus. We always do well to believe what God tells us and act upon it without fear. God may well lead us into danger and require us to lay down our lives for Him. God told us never to fear what men can do to us, but to fear God and obey

Him. Things worked out well for Ananias when he visited Saul and obeyed God.

Filled

1. **Ananias**. What did Ananias tell Saul? Ananias explained to Saul why he had come.

2. **Departed**. Having received the vision from God, Ananias departed to the house of Judas to meet Saul.

3. **Laying**. Ananias talked to Saul after laying his hands upon Saul.

4. **Brother**. After laying his hands on Saul, Ananias addressed Saul as his brother, indicating that Ananias believed what God told him about how Saul had already become part of the family of God.

5. **Sent**. Ananias told Saul that Jesus had sent him specifically to meet Saul.

6. **Sight**. Living holy in the family of God means that God sent Ananias so that Saul would regain his eyesight.

7. **Holy Spirit**. We rejoice today because Saul received the Holy Spirit after Ananias laid his hands upon Saul.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Saul regaining his eyesight.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by faithfully obeying the Lord Jesus Christ as He directs us to meet other people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He restores eyesight to the blind and fills saints with the Holy Spirit so that they may minister for Him.**

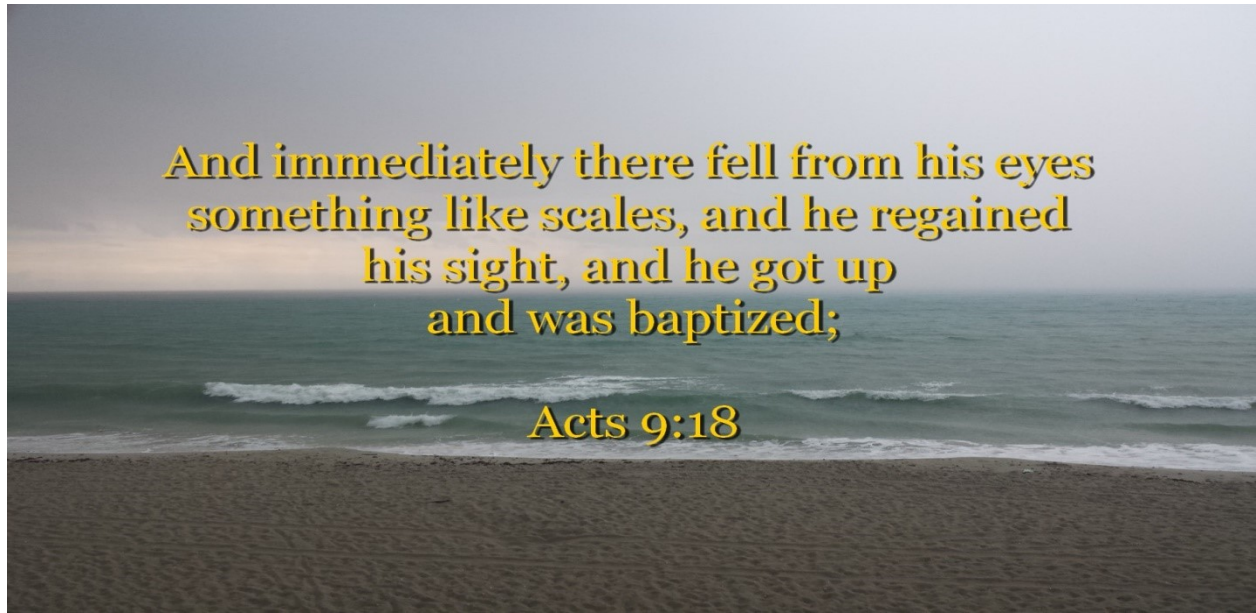
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remember Ananias laid his hands upon Saul so that Saul would regain his eyesight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following God's plans for your life to change the lives of others according to the plans of God for their lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 311

Immediately Today



What happened when Ananias laid his hands upon Saul? Something like scales fell from his eyes.

Saul came to Damascus blind. He had met Jesus on the Damascus Road and his life changed forever. Saul went to the street called Straight to the house of a man named Judas. Saul had a vision where he saw Ananias come to help. Meanwhile Ananias had a vision also where he went and helped Saul. Ananias had serious misgivings about going to meet Saul because he had heard the reports that Saul had persecuted the church in Jerusalem and come to Damascus to do the same thing.

Ananias overcame his fears and went to see Saul. Having laid his hands upon Saul, he prayed for him and Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he regained his sight. He was then baptized.

In the space of a few days Saul was transformed from the great persecutor of the church to a stout defender of the Christian faith. He left

Jerusalem for Damascus intent upon harming the family of God. Jesus intervened on the Damascus Road and called Saul into the service for Christ.

Baptized

1. **Immediately**. Ananias laid his hands upon Saul; something like scales fell immediately from Saul's eyes.

2. **Scales**. On the Damascus Road something like scales covered Saul's eyes so that he could not see.

3. **Fell**. With a touch from Ananias, something like scales fell from the eyes of Saul.

4. **Regained**. Immediately Saul regained his sight. Having regained his sight, Saul wanted to press forward in his brand-new faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

5. **Sight**. Having regained his sight, Saul no longer needed someone to lead him by the hand. From then on the Holy Spirit would lead Saul.

6. **Up**. Living holy in the family of God means that Saul got up as the scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight.

7. **Baptized**. We rejoice today because Saul, the great persecutor of the church, was baptized immediately after the scales fell from his eyes. Saul made a public identification with Christ and began a brand-new public ministry for Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering something like scales falling from Saul's eyes.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that the blind now see after salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His infinite mercy and grace to change wolves into sheep.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that he makes us new creatures at the moment of salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that you are nothing like the person you were before Christ saved you?

HALLELUJAH !

11

Saul in Damascus Today

Saul stayed with the disciples in Damascus for a few days and immediately began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues of Damascus. Paul declared that Jesus is the son of God. Everyone hearing Paul was amazed because they remembered he was the one sent from Jerusalem to persecute the church in Damascus. Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

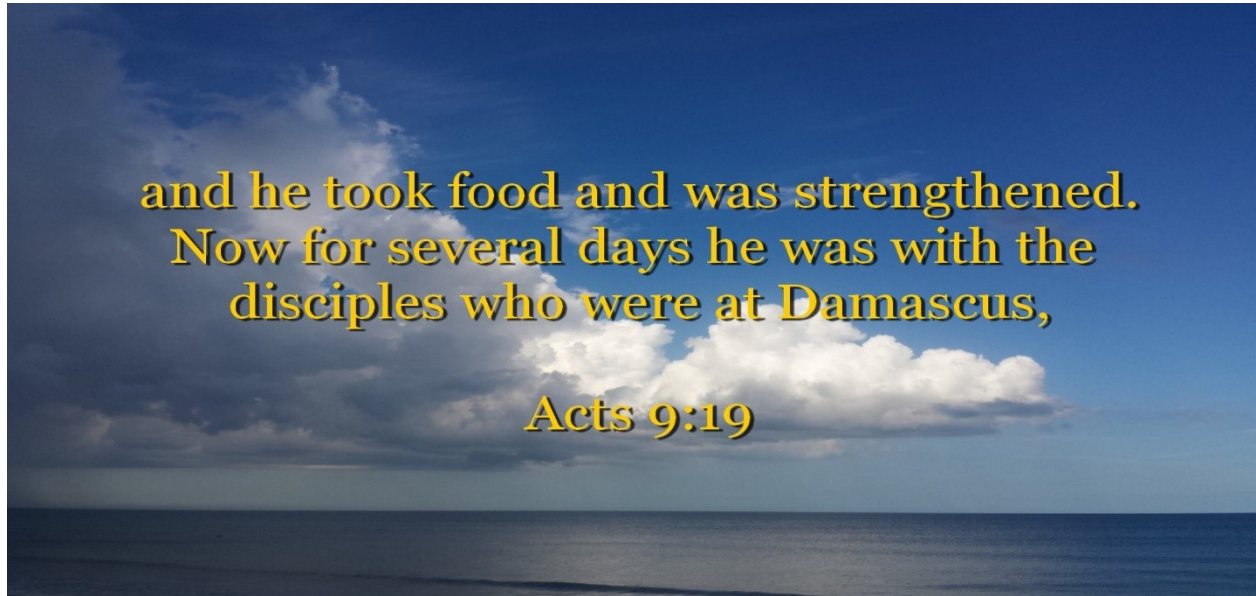
After many days, the Jews plotted together to kill Paul, but he learned of their plans. They were watching the gates day and night so they might put him to death. The disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

Paul went to Jerusalem and tried to associate with the disciples there. They were all afraid of Paul, doubting he was really a disciple of Jesus. Barnabas, the son of encouragement, took hold of Paul and brought him to the apostles and related how Paul had seen the Lord Jesus on the Damascus Road. Then he was freely moving among the Jerusalem disciples, speaking out boldly in the Name of the Lord Jesus. As Paul was talking with the Hellenistic Jews, they too tried to put him to death. When the brethren learned of that plot, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus, his birthplace.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 312

Strengthened Today



Why did Saul take food? Since meeting Jesus on the Damascus Road, Saul did not eat or drink for three days.

When Ananias arrived and laid his hands on Saul, Saul regained his sight was baptized. Having not eaten or drunk for three days and nights, Saul was hungry and thirsty. Having regained his sight and received the Holy Spirit, Saul took food. He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days.

Saul began his public ministry for Christ at Damascus. The rest of Saul's life would be devoted to proclaiming Christ to the Gentiles, Jews and kings. As Jesus told Ananias, Saul would suffer greatly for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saul became Paul, the teacher and apostle to the Gentiles. Peter was the apostle to the Jews.

God chose Saul to reach out to the Gentiles with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He traveled around the Mediterranean world, often going from synagogue to synagogue and proclaiming Christ as the Messiah.

At Damascus Saul intended originally to arrest and imprison all the followers of the Way. Jesus changed his mind on the road, but the Jews in Damascus still opposed the followers of the Way.

Damascus

1. **He**. Having regained his sight and been baptized, what did Saul do next? Saul took food and ate.

2. **Took**. Saul took food because he had gone three days and three nights without eating or drinking.

3. **Food**. Saul not only ate physical food, but he was also nourished on the spiritual food God provided in the form of doing the will of God.

4. **And**. God emphasized that taking the food strengthened Saul.

5. **Was**. God used passive voice (was strengthened) to describe the strengthening of Saul. God did not describe who or what strengthened Saul.

6. **Strengthened**. Living holy in the family of God means that Saul was not only strengthened with food, but he was also strengthened by God for service to Christ.

7. **Changed**. We rejoice today because Saul took food and was strengthened for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the synagogues of Damascus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Saul taking food and receiving strength.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God strengthens us each day so that we would be ready to serve Him using His strength.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by being strong together in Christ and ministering as strong teams for Christ.**

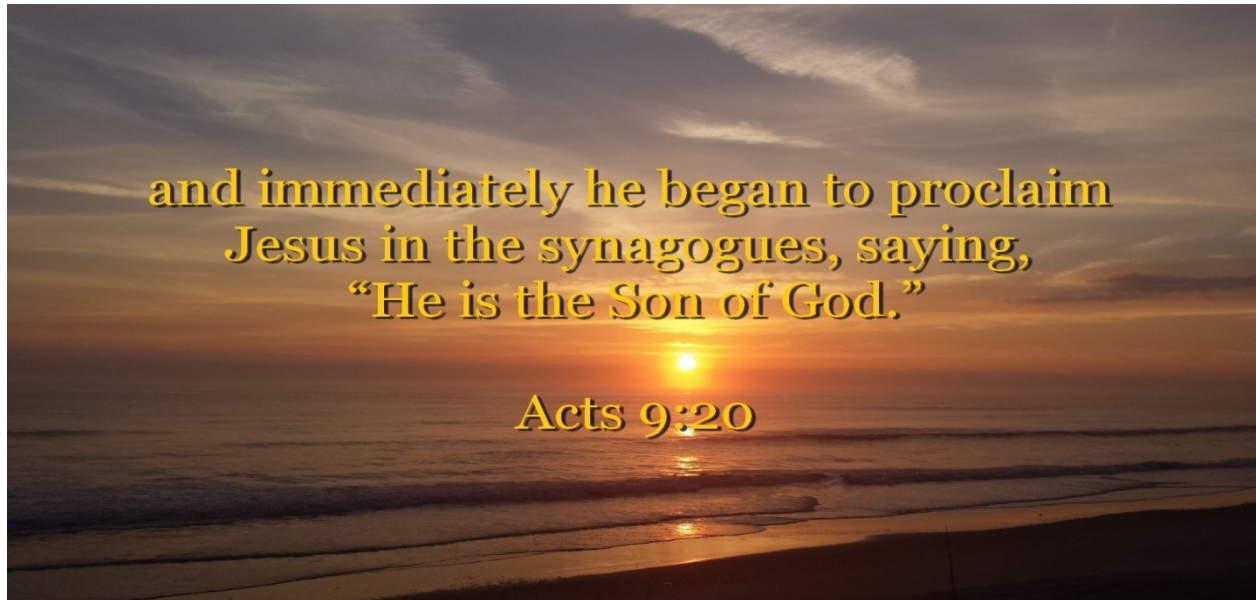
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the food that the Father provides for us each day by opening His hand and satisfying the desire of every living thing. Will you live holy in the family of God today by using the food from God to minister with the strength of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 313

Proclaim Today



What did Saul do in the synagogues in Damascus? Saul began in the synagogues to proclaim Jesus, saying that He is the Son of God.

Jesus did not waste any time in putting Saul into service. Many people in the synagogues of Damascus knew Saul to be a persecutor of the church. They expected him to use the authority of the high priests to arrest and imprison the followers of the Way in the Damascus synagogues.

The people in the synagogues of Damascus must have been astounded by Saul standing up and proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God. Having received the Holy Spirit, Saul was now proclaiming the truth of God with the power of God. Suddenly, Saul understood the Scriptures and how they testified of Christ, because the Holy Spirit was at work within him.

Overnight Saul became a mighty champion of the Lord Jesus Christ by the power of faith and the Holy Spirit speaking through him. Saul went to the synagogues, but for a very different purpose. No longer was he intent upon arresting and imprisoning the followers of the Way. He became one of the chief speakers for the Way, much to the astonishment of all the people in

Damascus who expected Saul to come and persecute the followers of the Way.

Jesus

1. **Immediately**. How did Saul spend his time in Damascus? He talked in the synagogues.

2. **Proclaim**. Saul proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues.

3. **Jesus**. He said that Jesus is the Son of God.

4. **Synagogues**. Saul went to the synagogues of Damascus proclaiming Jesus as the Savior and Messiah.

5. **He**. Saul declared that Jesus was the Son of God. The people hearing Saul immediately understood that a drastic change had come over him.

6. **Son**. Living holy in the family of God means that God creates a new person in Christ who proclaims Christ as Savior to all the world.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because Saul boldly proclaimed Christ in the synagogues of Damascus which were filled with people who hated Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Saul proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God in the synagogues of Damascus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by going to religious places to proclaim Jesus as the Son of God, even when we know they may not want to hear about Jesus.**

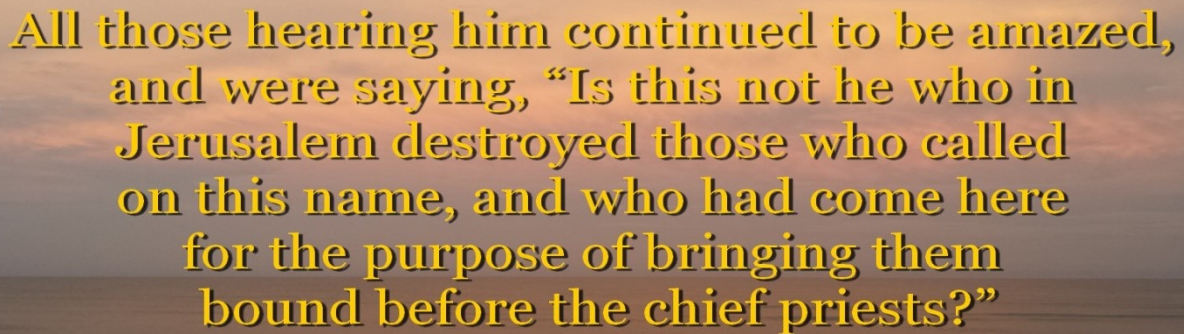
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Saul proclaiming in the synagogues of Damascus that Jesus is the Son of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming that Jesus is the son of God to the people you know?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 314

Hearing Today



All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, “Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?”

Acts 9:21

What did the people in the synagogue feel about Saul? They were amazed.

The people in Damascus who heard Saul were amazed at his words. They questioned if he was the same man who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on the Name of Jesus. They also questioned if he was the same man who came to Damascus for the purpose of bringing followers of the Way before the chief priests in Jerusalem.

The short answer to their questions was that Saul had become a new creature in Christ. Meeting the Lord Jesus Christ on the Damascus Road changed Saul forever. He was no longer breathing threats and murders against the followers of the Way. Saul himself had become a follower of the Way.

Saul knew the reception he would get in the synagogues. He knew when he stood up and proclaimed that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Messiah, the Son of God, that opposition would mount against him by the chief priests and other officials. His life would be in danger too. Even so Saul stood up and

that synagogue and began to proclaim Christ as Savior. With great courage born of the Holy Spirit, Saul stood in the Damascus synagogues and proclaimed Christ.

Amazed

1. **All**. What reception did Saul receive in the synagogues? The people were amazed at what Saul said.

2. **Hearing**. The people hearing Saul in the synagogues listened carefully to what Saul said.

3. **Amazed**. They were amazed that Saul declared Jesus to be the Son of God.

4. **Jerusalem**. They remembered that Saul actively persecuted the church in Jerusalem.

5. **Destroyed**. Saul destroyed people who followed the Way in Jerusalem.

6. **Bound**. Living holy in the family of God means that although Saul intended to bind the followers of the Way in Damascus, God bound Saul to Himself on the Damascus Road.

7. **Chief Priests**. We rejoice today because while Saul carried letters from the chief priests to bind saints in Damascus, he no longer needed those letters because he had lost all interest in binding saints. He had learned to obey Christ rather than the chief priests.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by obeying God rather than religious authorities opposed to God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by boldly proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God to religious people who do not know God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God to religious groups who long ago gave up on following Jesus as Savior.**

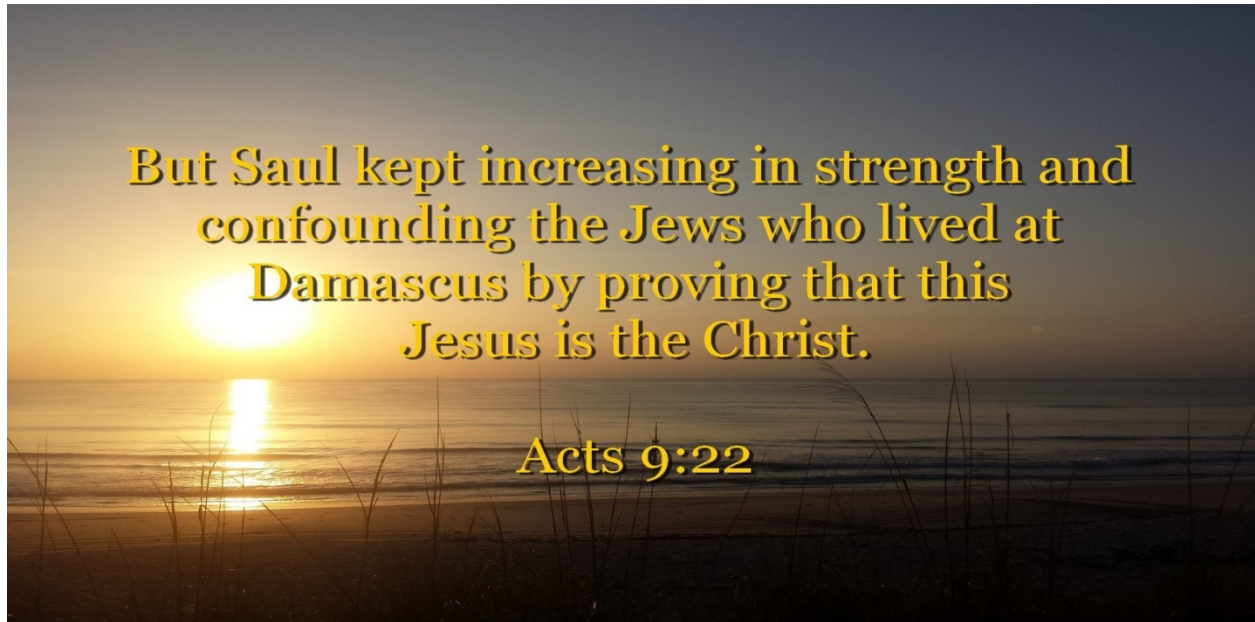
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming Christ as the only Savior of the world. Will you live holy in the family of God today by boldly proclaiming Christ to very religious people who have never known Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 315

Increasing Today



What happened to Saul as he proclaimed Jesus Christ as Savior? He kept increasing in strength.

Saul used that strength from God to confound the Jews who lived at Damascus. Saul proved that Jesus is the Christ. Saul was mighty in the Scriptures, having studied them thoroughly as a Pharisee. Jesus had great compassion upon Saul and opened his spiritual eyes to the truth of God.

Jesus indicated that Saul would be His instrument before Jews, Gentiles and kings. Jesus also indicated that Saul would suffer greatly at the hands of his opponents. The kind of persecution Saul inflicted upon others was inflicted upon him. Saul stood in the synagogue of Damascus as living proof of the grace and love of God for His enemies.

Jesus had taken one of the greatest persecutors of the church and changed him into one of the greatest advocates of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. Even in Damascus Saul would face a great backlash for proclaiming Jesus as the Christ.

Confounding

1. **Saul**. What did Saul do in the synagogues? Saul talked to the Jews in the synagogues.

2. **Increasing**. Saul kept increasing in strength as he spent time with the disciples in Damascus.

3. **Strength**. Saul used his strength to proclaim in the synagogues of Damascus that Jesus is the Christ.

4. **Confounding**. Saul was confounding the Jews in the synagogues of Damascus.

5. **Jews**. The Jews were amazed at Saul because they expected him to come and arrest the followers of the Way in the synagogues of Damascus.

6. **Proving**. Living holy in the family of God means that God gives supernatural strength for proving that Jesus is the only Savior and that He is the Christ of God.

7. **Christ**. We rejoice today because Saul regained his sight and increased in strength so that he was confounding the Jews in the synagogues of Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Son of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by using our strength to proclaim Christ as the only Savior.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proving to other people that Jesus is the Son of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by strengthening one another and encouraging one another to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and prove that Jesus really is the Son of God.**

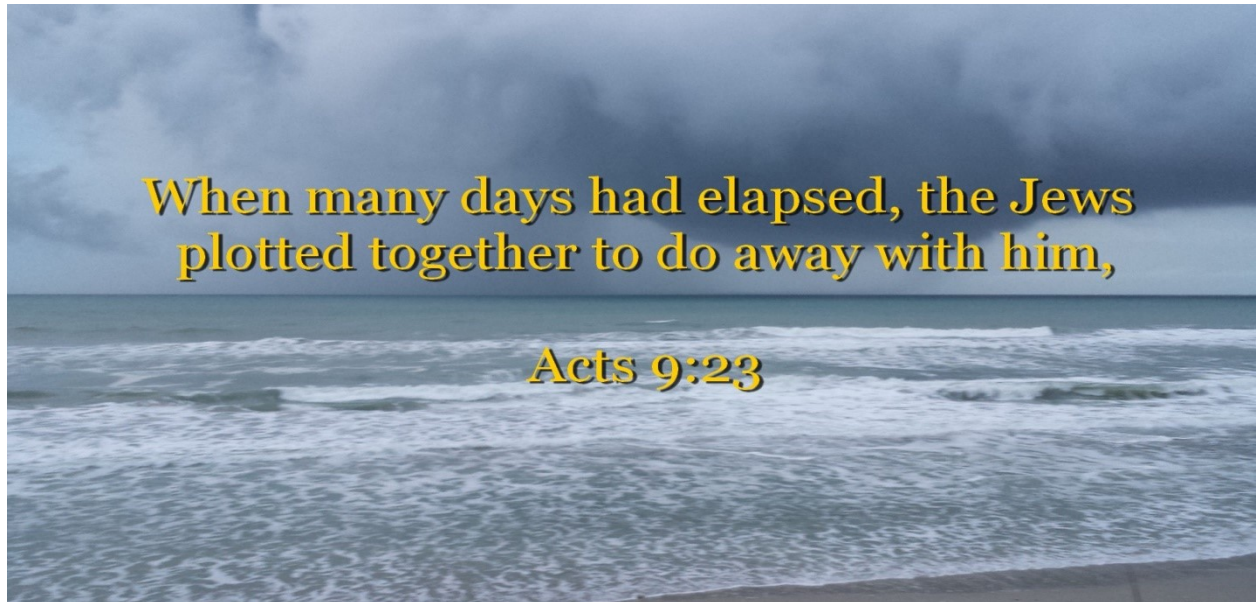
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His strength and power to prove that Jesus is the Son of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon God strengthening you so that you can proclaim Christ as your personal Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 316

Jews Today



How did the Jews of Damascus react to Saul's conversion? They plotted to kill him.

Saul devoted himself to imprisoning and murdering Christians. Jesus met Saul on the Damascus Road and his life change forever. Jesus revealed to him that he would suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. He would bear the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ before Jews, Gentiles and kings. He would travel far and wide planting churches.

After Saul was baptized Damascus, he stayed many days at Damascus proving that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. Saul knew the Scriptures very well as a Pharisee, but he did not understand them before his conversion because he did not know the God who wrote them.

The Jews knew about the conversion of Saul because he boldly proclaimed Jesus as the Savior in the synagogues of Damascus. The Jews there plotted to kill him. Just as Saul had once plotted to arrest and imprison the followers of the Way in Damascus, so also the Jews plotted to kill him. Jesus had great plans for Saul far beyond Damascus.

Plotted

1. **When**. How did Saul get out of Damascus? The disciples helped him out.
2. **Days**. After many days the Jews decided it was time to kill Saul.
3. **Jews**. Before his conversion Saul originally sought to kill the followers of the Way in Damascus. Now the Jews sought to kill him.
4. **Plotted**. The Jews plotted to find a way to kill Saul. Because Saul had confronted them and confounded them in the synagogues of Damascus, proving that Jesus was the Christ, the Jews wanted him dead.
5. **Together**. The Jews plotted together because they all hated Saul because of his conversion.
6. **Kill**. Living holy in the family of God means that evil Jews sought to kill Saul because he now proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God.
7. **Him**. We rejoice today because Jesus loved Saul and the plots against him would not thwart the plans of Jesus to use Saul to reach many people with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Jews plotting together to kill Saul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that Saul was not alone in Damascus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus because He always has our back in times of trouble.**

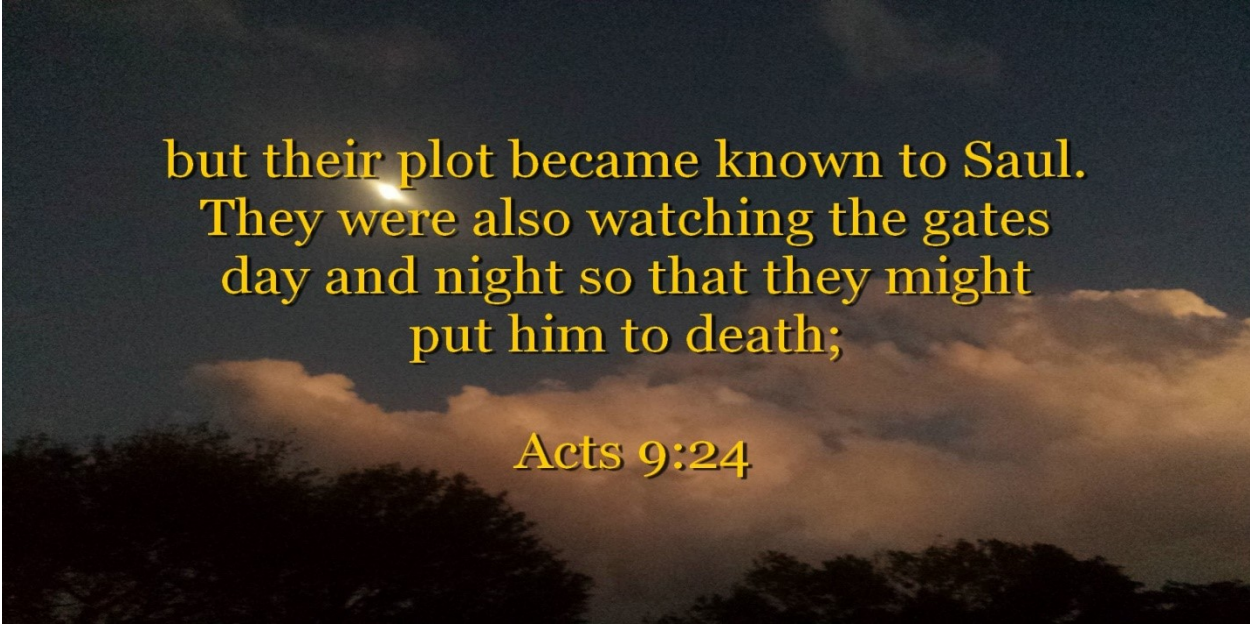
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the people plotted against Jesus and Saul to put them to death. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to do His will in your life during times of persecution?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 317

Plot Today



but their plot became known to Saul.
They were also watching the gates
day and night so that they might
put him to death;

Acts 9:24

What steps did the Jews take to carry out their plan to kill Saul? They watched the gates of the city night and day.

Saul became aware of the plot of the Jews to kill him. They hated Saul just like they hated the other followers of the Way, but they especially hated Saul for confounding them by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

The Jews wanted to be sure that Saul did not escape from Damascus. They wanted to get him under their control as quickly as possible. The Scripture does not indicate here how Saul came to know about the plot to kill him.

The followers of the Way in Damascus, like Ananias, had serious misgivings about Saul when he arrived. He came into town led by the hand and blind, but his reputation for persecution preceded him. The disciples in Damascus may have been slow to receive Saul, but once he began boldly proclaiming Jesus as the Christ, everyone suddenly understood that he was truly converted to Jesus and His disciple.

Death

1. **But**. What did Saul learn in Damascus? Saul learned about the plot of the Jews to kill him.

2. **Their**. Saul learned about how the Jews were plotting together to kill him and the details of the plot.

3. **Plot**. Evil people like the Jews in Damascus still plot to kill believers, even today.

4. **Known**. By the grace of God Saul learned that the evil Jews were watching the gates of the city night and day so that they might put him to death.

5. **Watching**. The evil Jews were watching the different gates of the city of Damascus day and night. They must have had quite a few men watching and waiting to cover all the gates for twenty four hours each day.

6. **Gates**. Living holy in the family of God means that the evil Jews effectively closed the gates of Damascus to Saul, trying to trap him inside where they could find and kill him. Earlier in Jerusalem Saul himself had gone house to house looking for followers of the Way.

7. **Death**. We rejoice today because the death plot of the Jews and their watching the gates night and day could never defeat the plans of God to use Saul elsewhere for His glory.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the evil Jews plotting to kill Saul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that they joined together to watch all the gates night and day so that they could put Saul to death.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that the plans of evil men never defeat the plans of God.**

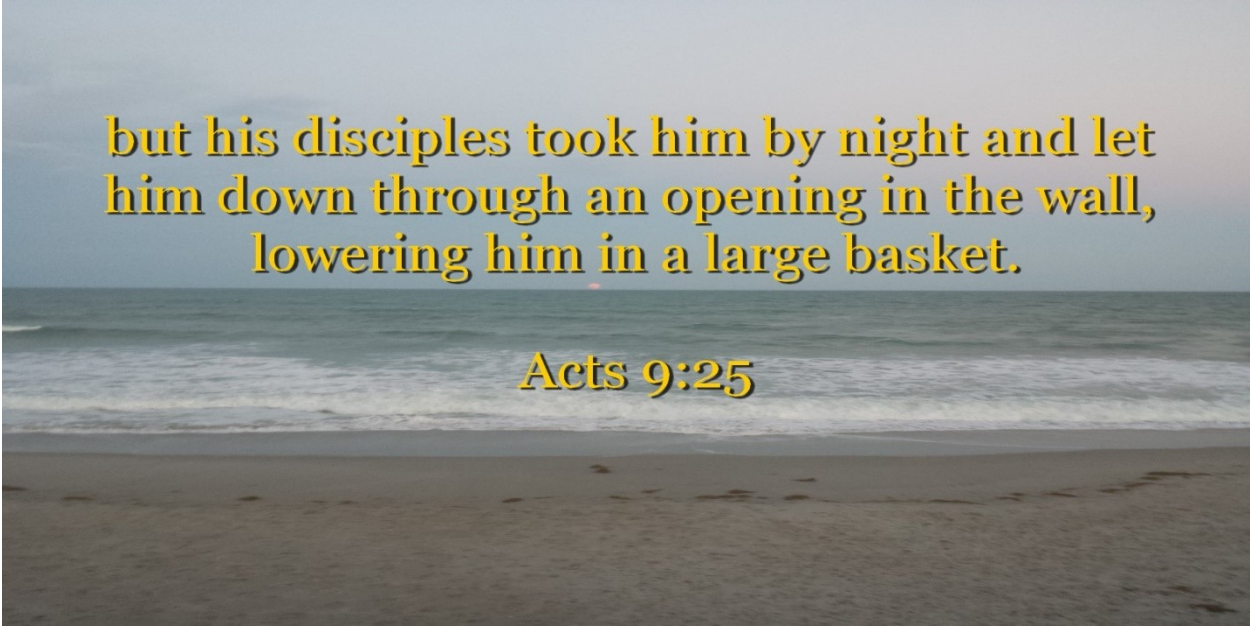
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the plots against Saul in Damascus as he began his public ministry in the synagogues proclaiming the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting serious opposition to everyone who proclaims the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 318

Disciples Today



but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

Acts 9:25

How did Saul escape from Damascus? The disciples let him down through an opening in the wall.

The Jews plotted together to kill Saul, but first they had to find him and lay hands on him. They watched the gates of Damascus night and day to prevent Saul from escaping the city.

The disciples of Damascus had warmed significantly to Saul. They decided to help Saul escape. If Saul could not escape through the gates of the city of Damascus, then the disciples would find another exit. They determined that they could lower Saul through an opening in the wall by putting him in a large basket. Under the cover of darkness, the disciples implemented their plan and Saul left the city of Damascus, never passing through the gates.

The very people that Saul came to arrest and murder saved his life. The very people that he came to support sought his life. Saul's life had changed from serving darkness to walking in the Light of God. God had saved the soul

of Saul and provided a means of escape from Damascus. Faithful disciples helped him escape to fruitful service for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Basket

1. **Disciples**. How did the disciples help Saul? They helped him escape from Damascus because the Jews plotted to kill him.

2. **Took**. The disciples took Saul to the wall of Damascus.

3. **Night**. The disciples planned a night escape for Saul from Damascus without going through the city gates which were watched night and day by the evil Jews intent upon killing Saul.

4. **Down**. The disciples created a plan to let Saul down through the wall of Damascus.

5. **Wall**. Going out through the wall was the best option for Saul because the city gates were watched night and day.

6. **Lowering**. Living holy in the family of God means that the disciples found a way to lower Saul through the wall of Damascus.

7. **Basket**. We rejoice today because they put Saul in a large basket and lowered him down to safety outside the wall at night.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the disciples that lowered Saul in a large basket.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for the ingenuity of the disciples helping Saul escape Damascus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God that He provides clever escapes for His ministers in times of need.**

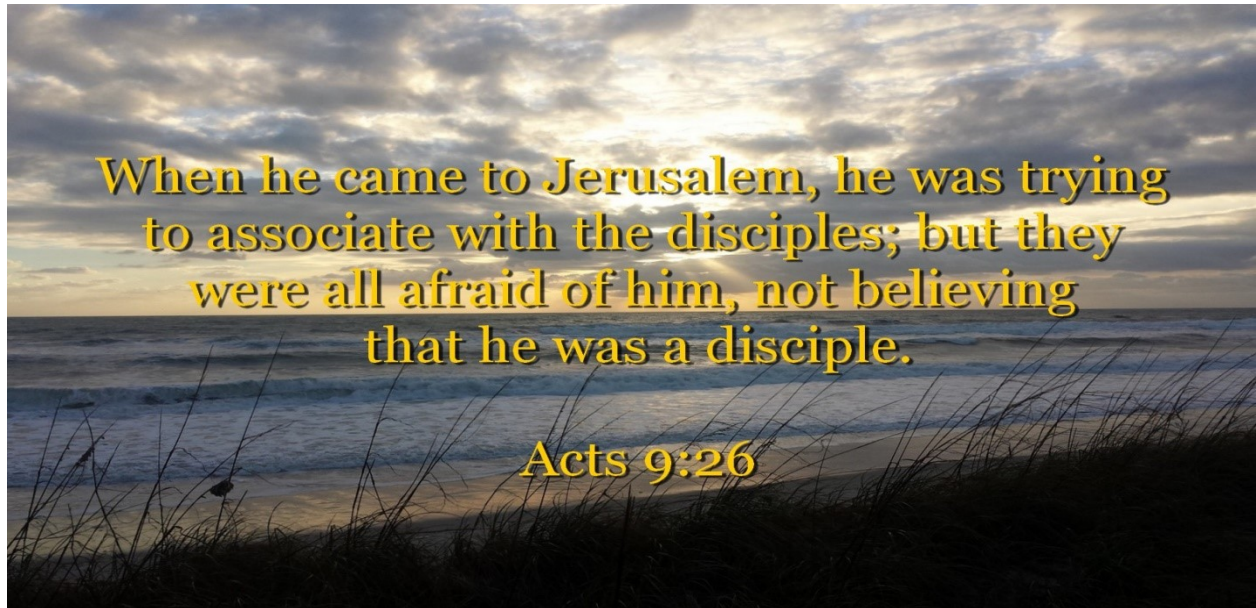
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering how the disciples under cover of darkness let Saul down in a basket to escape from Damascus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by helping saints flee from persecution as the need arises?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 319

Jerusalem Today



What happened when Saul came to Jerusalem? The disciples were afraid of him.

Saul earned a reputation in Jerusalem for being a persecutor of the church. He had gone house to house, dragging away both men and women to prison. The robes of the witnesses were laid at the feet of Saul at the stoning of Stephen.

When Saul came to Jerusalem after his conversion on the Damascus Road, the disciples in Jerusalem did not believe that he was truly a disciple of Jesus Christ. Like Ananias at Damascus, they had severe misgivings about Saul's conversion.

Saul tried to associate with the disciples in Jerusalem, seeking the fellowship with people of like precious faith in Christ. Saul had escaped from Damascus with the help of the disciples there. He had changed their minds by the way that he talked in the synagogues, proclaiming Jesus as the Christ. Saul had become powerful with the Scriptures proving from them that Jesus

was the Christ. The disciples in Jerusalem were not convinced that Saul had truly been converted and so they were reluctant to associate with him.

Afraid

1. **Came**. What kind of reception did Saul receive in Jerusalem? The disciples were afraid of Saul.

2. **Jerusalem**. The disciples in Jerusalem remembered Saul going from house to house and dragging saints, both men and women, off to prison.

3. **Associate**. The disciples in Jerusalem did not want to associate with Saul because of their fear.

4. **Disciples**. Saul tried to associate with the disciples when he arrived in Jerusalem, having escaped from the evil Jews in Damascus with the help of the disciples there.

5. **All**. When he arrived in Jerusalem, all the disciples there did not want to associate with him.

6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that the disciples in Jerusalem did not believe that he was truly a disciple of Jesus Christ.

7. **Disciple**. We rejoice today because Saul was truly converted by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ and had become His disciple on the Damascus Road.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the disciples in Jerusalem did not even believe that Saul was a disciple of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by avoiding hasty decisions about people before we know all the facts about them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He makes disciples of some of the most hostile enemies of Christ by His grace and mercy.**

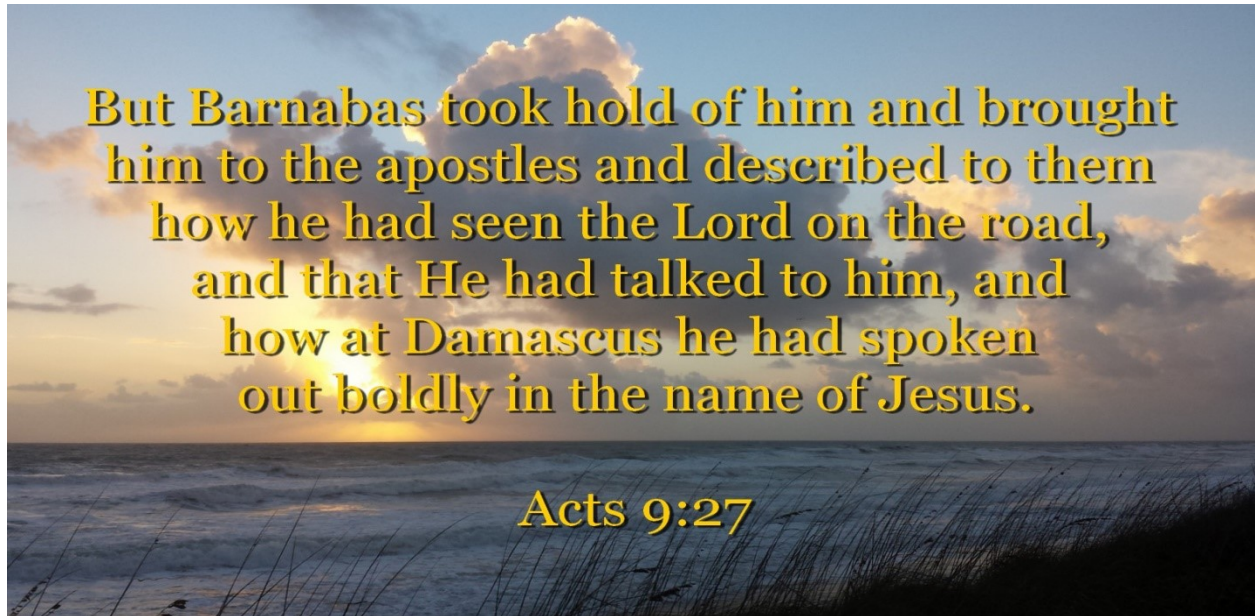
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the disciples in Jerusalem did not want to associate with Saul when he arrived there because of their fears based upon their past experience with him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking past the past and seeing the present?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 320

Barnabas Today



What did Barnabas do for Saul? Barnabas, the Son of Encouragement, took hold of Saul and brought him to the apostles. He described to them how he had seen the Lord on the Damascus Road. Barnabas had talked to Saul and learned how Saul had spoken out boldly in the Name of Jesus in the synagogues of Damascus.

Barnabas demonstrated The Spiritual Gift of Exhortation, with a ministry of encouragement. Barnabas laid hold of Saul for the purpose of introducing him to the disciples and apostles in Jerusalem. Without the special introduction from Barnabas, Saul would have had a difficult time making his way among the disciples in Jerusalem.

Barnabas had the courage to talk to Saul and heard his remarkable testimony about Jesus talking to him on the Damascus Road. Barnabas also knew about Saul preaching in the Damascus synagogues as a follower of Christ. Barnabas reached out to Saul when everyone else was running away from Saul. Barnabas had a spiritual gift of exhortation that empowered him to build up other believers and bridge gaps between believers.

Described

1. **Barnabas**. How did Barnabas help Saul? Barnabas took hold of Saul to introduce him to other believers in Jerusalem.

2. **Took**. Barnabas took hold of Saul when everyone else was too scared to associate with him.

3. **Brought**. Barnabas took Saul to the apostles.

4. **Apostles**. Barnabas described to the apostles how Saul had seen the Lord on the Damascus Road and then spoken out boldly about the Lord Jesus Christ in the synagogues of Damascus.

5. **Lord**. Saul had become a disciple of the Lord Jesus and boldly proclaimed Jesus as the Christ in the synagogues of Damascus.

6. **Damascus**. Living holy in the family of God means that Saul preached Christ in the synagogues of Damascus and incurred the wrath of the evil Jews there.

7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Saul became a disciple of the Lord Jesus and the apostles in Jerusalem received Saul as a brother in Christ because Barnabas had taken hold of him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for saints who take hold of other saints and introduce them to other saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Barnabas, the Son of Encouragement, helping Saul in Jerusalem.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by helping one another to be received into the fellowship with other disciples.**

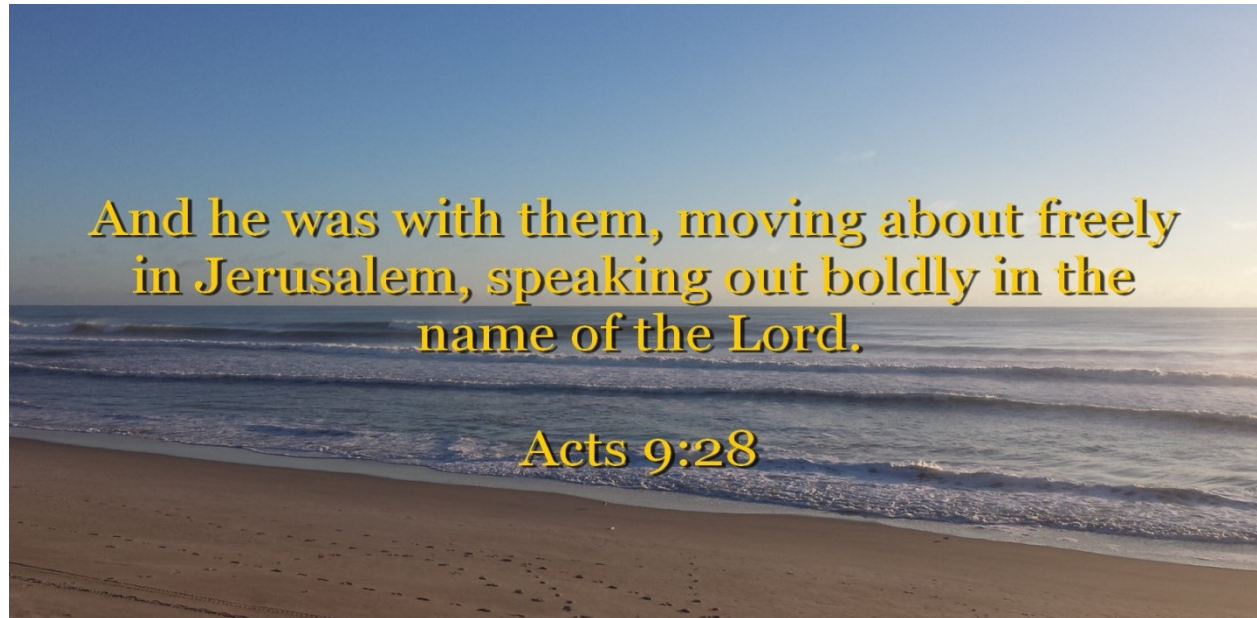
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by encouraging saints to overcome their fears and learn that some wolves can become sheep in the flock of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by overcoming your fears and seeing people for who they really are today in Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 321

Freely Today



What did Saul do in Jerusalem? He associated with the apostles because Barnabas took hold and introduced him to the apostles.

Once Saul escaped from Damascus and arrived in Jerusalem, the disciples in Jerusalem were very reluctant to associate with him. They remembered that Saul had gone from house to house in Jerusalem, dragging away both men and women to imprison. They also remembered that Saul had gone to Damascus with letters from the high priest to arrest the followers of the Way in the synagogues of Damascus.

According to God's plan Barnabas, the Son of Encouragement, took hold of Saul and introduced him to the apostles and the disciples. From then on Saul moved freely among the disciples in Jerusalem. Saul began to speak out boldly in the Name of Jesus.

Jesus confronted Saul on the Damascus Road. He left Jerusalem breathing threats and murders against the saints. He returned to Jerusalem boldly proclaiming Jesus as the Savior of the world. Meeting Jesus on the Damascus Road was the best thing that ever happened to Saul.

Boldly

1. **Was**. How did the apostles do with Saul? Saul associated freely with the apostles and the disciples.
2. **With**. Saul was with the disciples and apostles.
3. **Moving**. Saul was moving freely about Jerusalem.
4. **Freely**. Apparently, Saul was not ducking the religious authorities.
5. **Jerusalem**. Saul had returned to Jerusalem a very different man than he left heading to Damascus. With the aid of Barnabas, Saul was well received in Jerusalem, overcoming the initial fear of the saints toward him.
6. **Speaking**. Living holy in the family of God means that Saul began speaking out boldly in Jerusalem in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Saul came to love Jesus and spent the rest of his life proclaiming Jesus to the whole world, particularly the Gentiles.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Saul moving freely about Jerusalem.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding how God used Barnabas to overcome the initial fear of the disciples in Jerusalem toward Saul.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by speaking out boldly in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to strengthen the saints in their faith.**

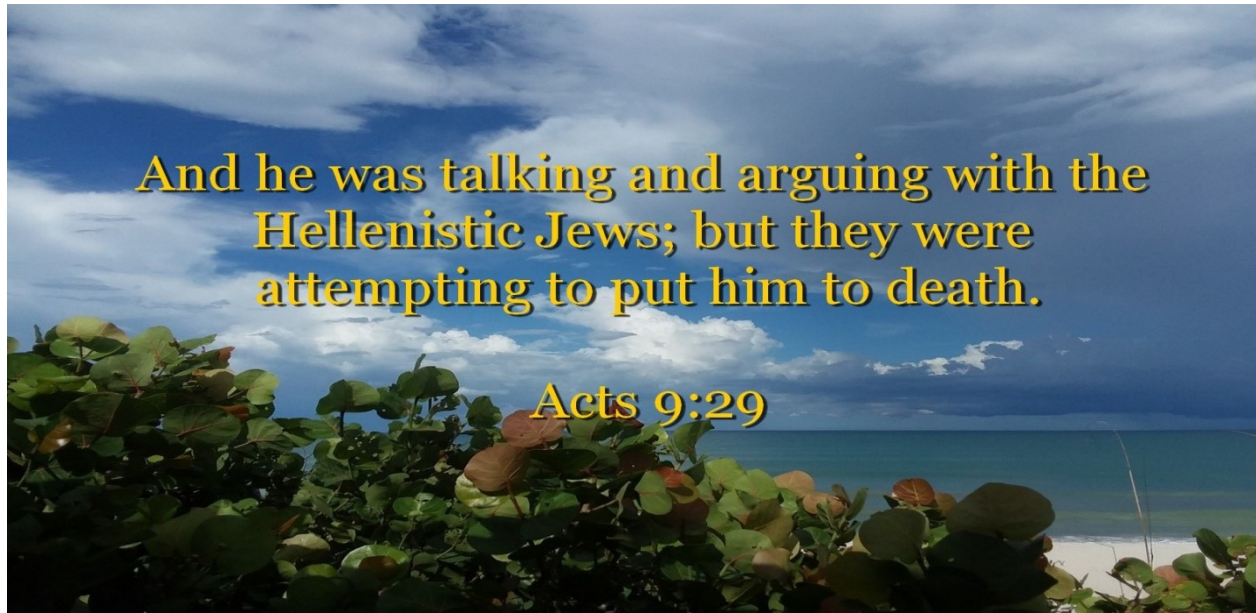
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by speaking out boldly in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Saul eventually being welcomed by the saints in Jerusalem?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 322

Talking Today



Who wanted to kill Saul in Jerusalem? The Hellenistic Jews wanted to kill Saul.

Alexander the Great (death 333 B.C.) conquered the Mediterranean world centuries before Jesus was born on earth. He spread Greek culture and the Greek language around the Mediterranean Sea. In other words, he Hellenized the areas he conquered. Koine Greek became the business language of traders. Later, the Romans, using their military power, spread their influence over many of the same areas. Even so, the Greek language and culture stuck around in many places. At the birth of Christ, Rome ruled Israel and much of the surrounding areas, but many people still spoke Greek.

The term Hellenistic Jews referred to Jewish people who spoke Greek and adopted some Greek aspects of Greek culture. In the early church a complaint arose that the widows of some Hellenistic Jews were not being served with food properly.

The Hellenistic Jews in Jerusalem began to persecute Saul. This pattern of persecution would characterize the remainder of Saul's life. They attempted to put him to death in Jerusalem and later in many other places.

Arguing

1. **Talking**. Why did the Hellenistic Jews want to kill Saul? Saul proclaimed Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah of God and so they hated him and wanted to kill him.

2. **Arguing**. Saul was arguing with the Hellenistic Jews and showing them that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ, according to the Scriptures.

3. **Hellenistic**. Saul infuriated the Hellenistic Jews to the point where they were attempting to kill. The same pattern, first seen at Damascus, of preaching and persecution characterized Saul's life. Saul preached Christ and the Jews tried to kill him.

4. **Attempting**. The Hellenistic Jews were attempting to kill Saul because he preached Christ and argued from the Scriptures that He was the Christ. Saul confounded the opponents of Christ by proving from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Son of God.

5. **Put**. The Hellenistic Jews wanted to put Saul to death.

6. **Him**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Hellenistic Jews sought to put Saul to death for talking and arguing that Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God.

7. **Death**. We rejoice today because Saul preached Jesus, knowing the people would hear him and attempt to put him to death.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Saul put his life in danger by talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ can be very dangerous.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He calls people to suffer for His Name's sake so that many more people can hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and receive the free gift of salvation.**

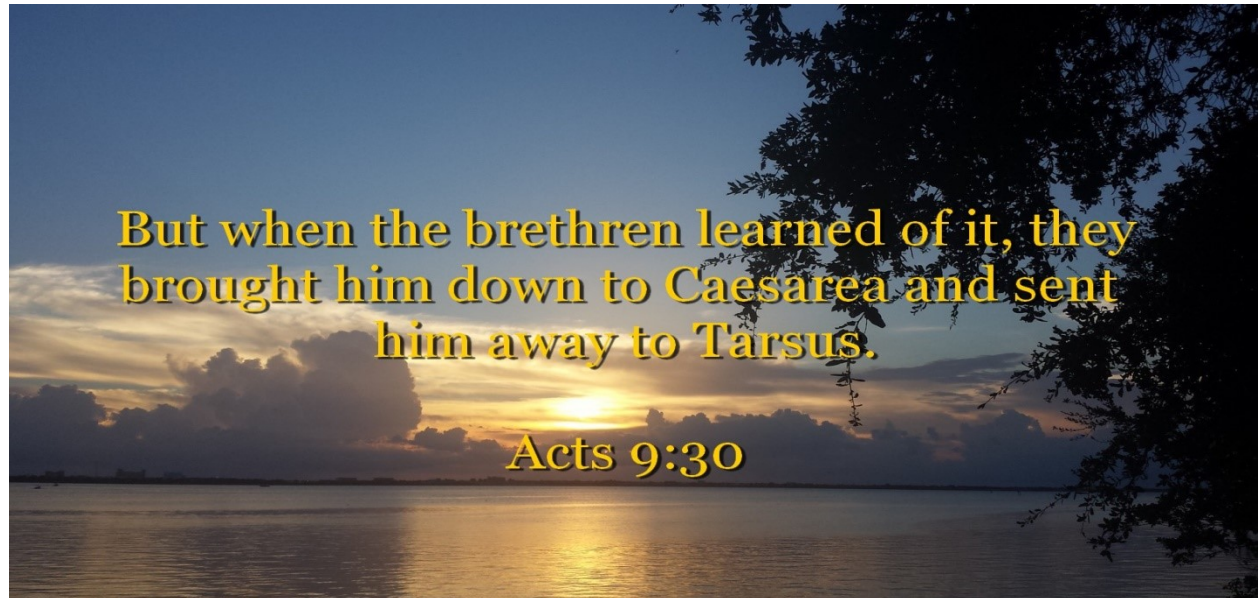
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by encouraging the saints who talk about Jesus and argue that He is the Savior of the world. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for men and women who courageously share their faith in hostile environments?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 323

Brethren Today



What did the brethren do to help Saul? They brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

Saul held Roman citizenship, an honor in the Roman Empire. He was born a citizen of Rome, although other people purchased such citizenship. Saul was born in Tarsus and the disciples arranged for him to leave Jerusalem and return there. Caesarea was a Roman seaport which Saul would use for long voyages to other parts the Mediterranean world. Many people living in Jerusalem would go to Caesarea and board a ship to travel.

The brethren in Jerusalem at first rejected Saul, fearing he would continue his ways of persecuting the church and dragging away saints to prison. Because of the intervention of Barnabas, Saul was eventually welcomed into the Jerusalem church and fellowshiped with many believers.

Similar to the plot by the Jews in Damascus to kill Saul for preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ there, so also the Hellenistic Jews in Jerusalem wanted to kill Saul for preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem. The brethren in Damascus helped Saul escape by letting

him down through the wall, but the Jerusalem brethren helped him leave the country.

Tarsus

1. **Brethren**. How did the brethren help Saul escape the plot to kill him in Jerusalem? They arranged for him to leave the country.

2. **Learned**. The brethren learned that the Hellenistic Jews wanted to kill Saul for proclaiming that Jesus is the Christ of God.

3. **They**. They helped Saul leave the city of Jerusalem.

4. **Brought**. They brought him down to Caesarea.

5. **Caesarea**. Herod the Great built Caesarea and it became a major administrative center for the Roman province of Judea.

6. **Sent**. Living holy in the family of God means that the brethren sent Saul away to preserve his life from his enemies.

7. **Tarsus**. We rejoice today because Saul of Tarsus survived persecution in Jerusalem and continued his ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the brethren in Jerusalem helping Saul escape persecution.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by acting quickly to help saints persecuted for their faith and ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by taking swift action to help saints escape persecution once we learn about plots to kill them.**

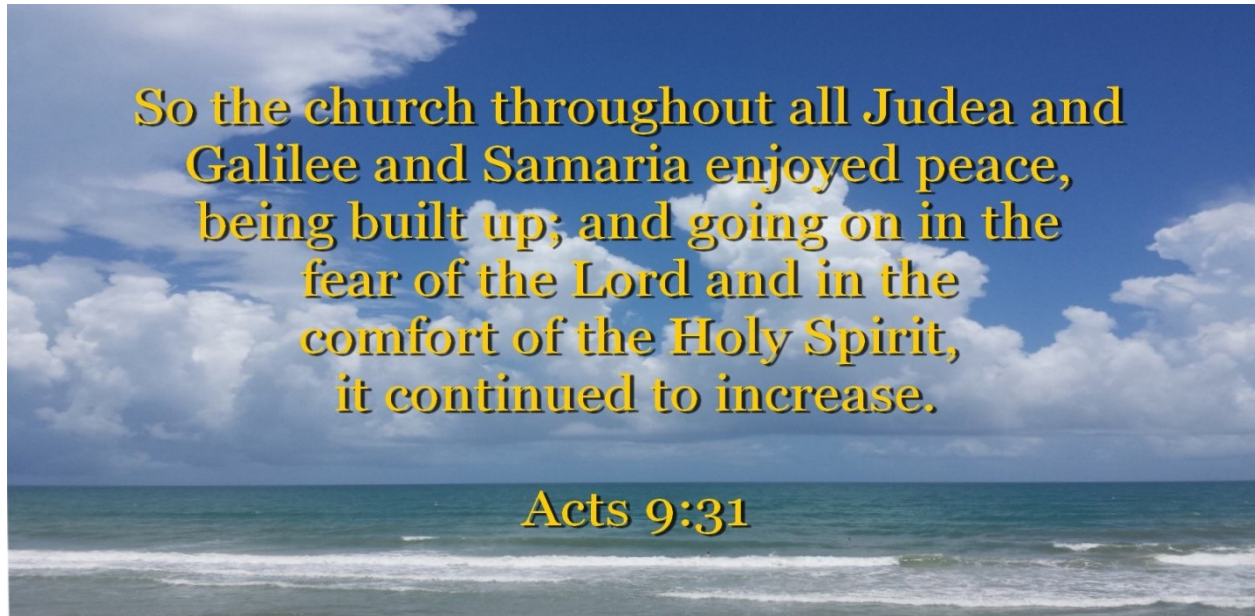
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He often delivers His ministers from persecution through saints acting swiftly. Will you live holy in the family of God today by helping saints escape persecution through your swift action?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 324

Church Today



What happened after Saul left Jerusalem? The church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace.

In many ways Saul was the focal point of persecution. Originally Saul persecuted the church in Jerusalem, and then expanded his activity towards Damascus. On the way to Damascus, however, the Lord Jesus Christ confronted him and saved him. After the Jews in Damascus sought to kill him, he escaped the city and returned to Jerusalem. Then the Hellenistic Jews in Jerusalem sought to kill and he escaped to Tarsus.

After Saul's departure the persecution subsided for a time. The Gospel was spread through Judea, Galilee and Samaria through the ministry of the apostles and Philip the Evangelist, just as Jesus had prophesied. With the death of Stephen, a tremendous persecution of the church arose in Jerusalem and was spreading outward. Saul led that persecution and it ended with his departure. The church throughout all of Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up. The church continued to increase, going on in

the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. The church enjoyed some wonderful times of growth and development.

Increase

1. **So**. Did the church find peace for a time? Yes, with the departure of Saul, the church found peace for a time.

2. **Church**. Jesus had been building His church through the ministry of the apostles and other saints.

3. **Throughout**. Peace began to spread among the churches.

4. **Judea, Galilee, Samaria**. Peace spread through all the regions of Judea and Galilee and Samaria.

5. **Peace**. After facing fierce persecution, the early church experienced peace through the blessing of God.

6. **Fear**. Living holy in the family of God means that the early church was built up, enjoying peace. The church was going on in the fear of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Comfort**. We rejoice today because God gave comfort through the Holy Spirit during that time of peace and the church increased.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the times of peace that followed times of persecution.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by living in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that Jesus continues to build His church today and the Holy Spirit continues to comfort saints.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by living in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that Jesus still builds His church and often brings peace after persecution?

HALLELUJAH !

12

Peter Heals Today

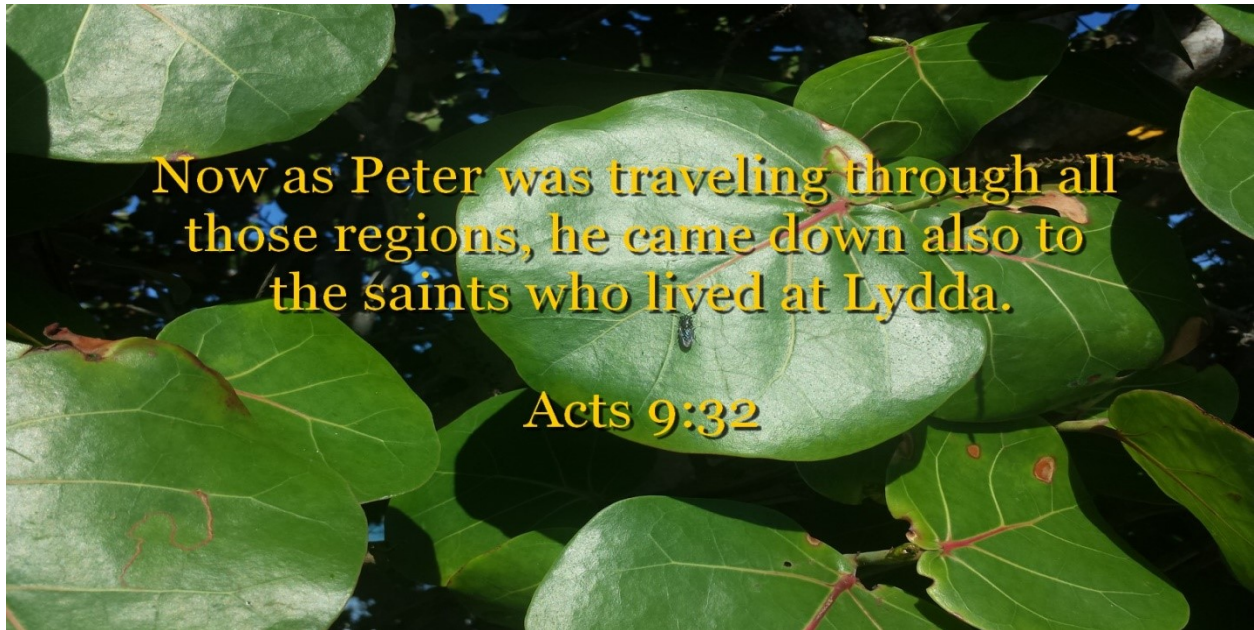
Peter traveled to the saints living at Lydda. There he found a paralyzed man named Aeneas. He had been bedridden for eight years. Peter announced that Jesus Christ healed him and told him to get up and make up his bed. Aeneas immediately got up and all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw Aeneas and turned to the Lord.

In Joppa lived a disciple named Tabitha, a woman abounding in kindness and charity. She fell sick and died. Lydda was near Joppa and they sent for Peter, imploring him to come quickly. Peter came and saw the body of Tabitha. He said, "Tabitha, arise." She opened her eyes. Peter took her hand and raised her up. He called the saints and widows and presented her alive. The great miracle became known all over Joppa and many believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter stayed many days in Joppa with Simon the Tanner.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 325

Traveling Today



What was Peter doing? Peter was traveling through Judea, Galilee and Samaria.

After Saul departed to Tarsus, the church in Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. Jesus had prophesied that the apostles would be instrumental in expanding the church throughout those regions. Jesus built the church upon the foundation of the apostles, with Himself being the Chief Cornerstone.

Peter and John had already been to the city of Samaria when Philip the Evangelist was there. Now that peace had come, Peter went down to visit the saints who lived at Lydda, which lies between Jerusalem and Joppa on the coast.

Although the church was enjoying a time of peace and going on in the fear of the Lord in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, the apostles still played an important role in encouraging the saints. Peter traveled to Lydda as part of

his ministry traveling through that region. Jesus had commissioned the disciples to go into all the world, beginning in Jerusalem and Judea.

Lydda

1. **Peter**. Where did Peter go? Peter traveled through the regions of Judea, Galilee and Samaria.

2. **Traveling**. Peter was traveling to encourage the saints and share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

3. **Through**. Peter was traveling through those regions, but his home base remained in Jerusalem.

4. **All**. Peter went through all those regions around Jerusalem as the Lord described to the apostles before He ascended.

5. **Down**. Jerusalem sits at an elevation of about 2,500 feet above sea level. Therefore, when you leave Jerusalem, you go down first to reach other places, except Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives. Peter went down to Lydda, having left Jerusalem.

6. **Saints**. Living holy in the family of God means that the apostles visited churches to comfort them and encourage them in the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

7. **Lydda**. We rejoice today because Peter had time to go to Lydda and do great ministry there.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering to visit other saints who need encouragement, as we all do from other saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following God's plans to encourage and support the family of God scattered abroad.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the global scope of the church and the need to visit saints scattered abroad.**

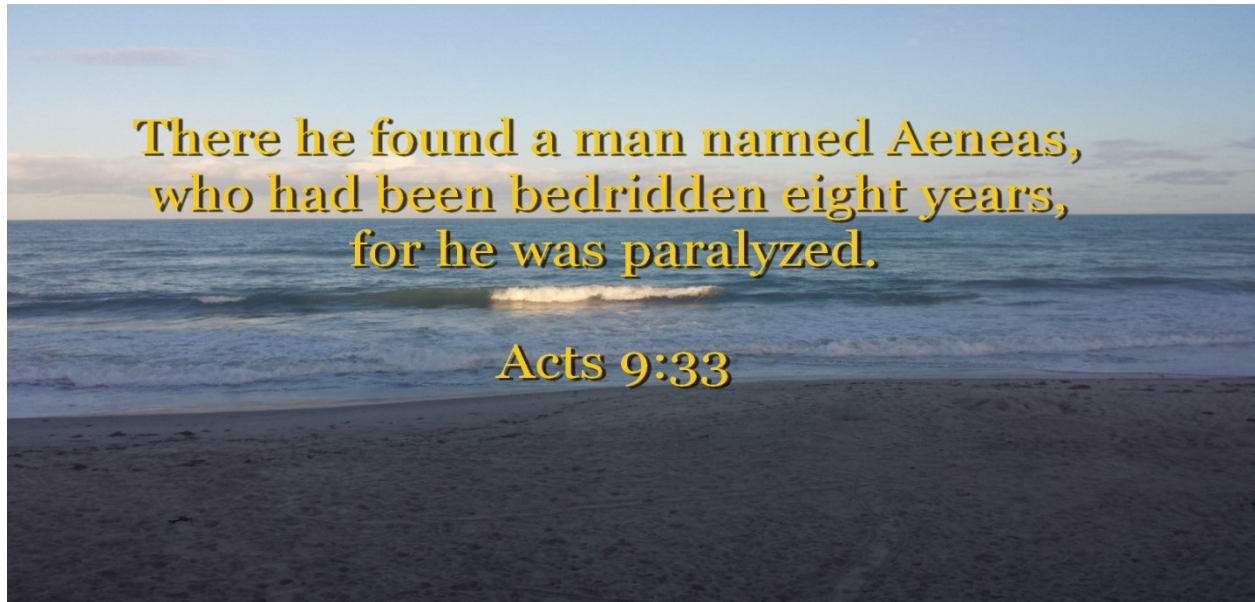
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by visiting other saints in need of comfort and encouragement, as we all are. Will you live holy in the family of God today by spending time with other saints, bringing strength and encouragement in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 326

Aeneas Today



Whom did Peter meet in Lydda? Peter met Aeneas.

Peter and John had visited the city of Samaria when they heard about the great conversion of the Samaritans through the ministry of Philip the Evangelist. They laid their hands on the Samaritan saints and they received the Holy Spirit, just like the apostles did in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Peter and John returned to Jerusalem preaching through the villages of Samaria along the way.

After Saul left Jerusalem, the church in that area enjoyed great peace. They prospered in the fear of the Lord Jesus and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

During that time of peace and prosperity in the church, Peter started to visit various churches. Peter went to visit the saints in Lydda, lying between Jerusalem and the seaport of Joppa. At Lydda Peter met Aeneas who had been bedridden for eight years, living as a paralytic.

The New Testament presents many accounts of healing of individual people and large groups of people. Many people in the early church came to Jerusalem and lined up by the road so that Peter's shadow might fall on them and they would be healed.

Paralyzed

1. **There**. What was wrong with Aeneas? He was paralyzed.
2. **Found**. Peter found a paralyzed man there.
3. **Aeneas**. Aeneas had a great day when Peter found him.
4. **Bedridden**. He had been bedridden but the Bible does not tell us what caused his problem.
5. **Eight**. He had been lying in bed for eight years.
6. **He**. Living holy in the family of God means that sent Peter to Lydda to meet Aeneas and help him. In the process of helping Aeneas, the saints at Lydda would be strengthened and other people would learn of the great miracle done in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. **Paralyzed**. We rejoice today because God sent Peter to heal Aeneas so that he would walk for the first time in eight years.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the compassion of the Lord Jesus Christ for the paralytic named Aeneas.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His compassion upon individuals suffering daily.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by glorifying God for His many acts of tender mercy and helping people who have been sick for a very long time.**

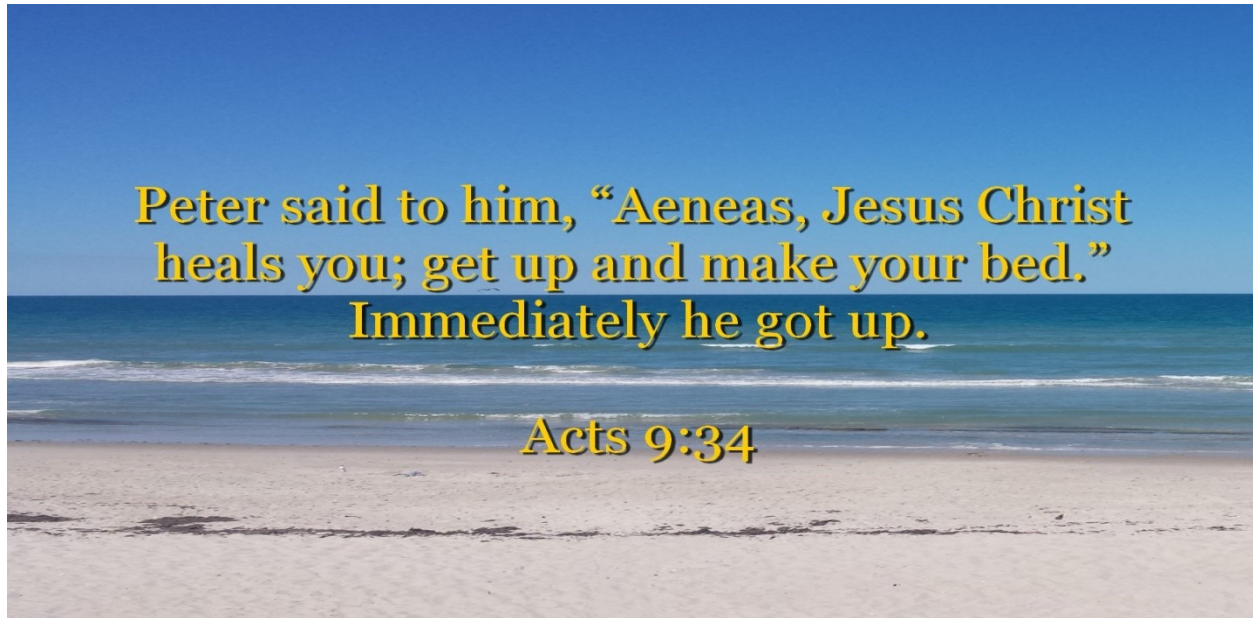
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Aeneas of Lydda, a paralytic. Will you live holy in the family of God by walking with Jesus today?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 327

Heals Today



Who healed Aeneas? Jesus Christ healed Aeneas.

Peter met Aeneas at Lydda. The Holy Spirit worked in all the apostles to be witnesses of the resurrection of Christ and to encourage and comfort saints. Peter was travelling through the region of Lydda and found Aeneas.

Peter said: "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you." Peter left no doubt about who was doing the healing. Just as he had told the Beautiful Beggar in Jerusalem, no one was healed by his works or his piety. Jesus Christ always did the healing, working through the hands of the apostles.

Peter also told Aeneas: "Get up and make your bed." Peter had absolute confidence that Aeneas would arise. Jesus healed a paralytic and His Spirit recognized that the people around Him in their hearts accused Him of blasphemy for saying that that man's sins were forgiven. Jesus then told those doubters that it was easy to say his sins were forgiven, but Jesus said to him: "Get up, pick up your pallet and go home."

Jesus continued to work miracles through the apostles for many reasons. Jesus confirmed the ministry and authority of the apostles with signs and wonders. Jesus loved the people needing healing, among many other reasons.

Get Up

1. **Peter**. What did Peter command Aeneas the Paralytic to do? Peter commanded Aeneas the Paralytic to get up.

2. **Said**. Peter said to Aeneas, “Jesus Christ heals you.”

3. **Jesus**. Peter could not have made it plainer that Jesus Christ was alive and working.

4. **Heals**. Peter proclaimed that Jesus was doing the healing, not Peter.

5. **Up**. Jesus Christ commanded Aeneas the Paralytic to get up and make his bed.

6. **Immediately**. Living holy in the family of God means Aeneas the Paralytic got up immediately.

7. **Got**. We rejoice today because Aeneas the Paralytic got up immediately after Jesus healed him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God that Jesus Christ healed Aeneas the Paralytic.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Peter used his hands and voice to show people that Jesus Christ was among them healing Aeneas the Paralytic.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His great compassion upon people with sickness.**

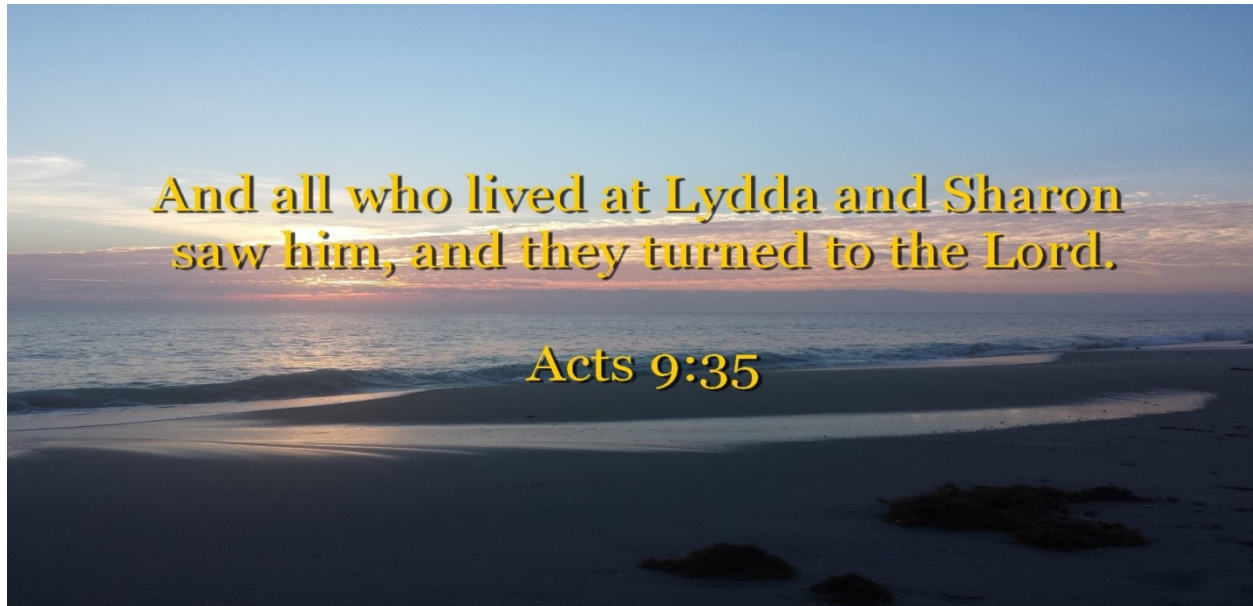
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord to heal people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by glorifying Jesus Christ by proclaiming His great love and power?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 328

All Today



How did God evangelize Lydda and Sharon? Peter healed Aeneas the Paralytic and everyone in Lydda and Sharon turned to the Lord.

Jesus often used one person to evangelize an entire city or town. For example, the woman at the well reached the city of Sychar in Samaria. The Gadarene Demoniac reached the Decapolis. Lazarus reached crowds of people in Bethany and other places. The widow of Nain (and her son) reached the entire city of Nain and the surrounding area. The Ethiopian eunuch would return home with the Lord Jesus Christ in his heart. One person being touched by Jesus can make a difference for many other people.

When Peter healed Aeneas the Paralytic in Lydda, all the people in Lydda and Sharon turned to the Lord Jesus Christ. Terrific things happen with one miracle of healing having such a broad effect upon many people. Miracles do not save people by themselves, but they often grab the interest of people so that they hear and receive the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and become believers in Him as Savior. Jesus displayed compassion upon many people and healed them of all sorts of diseases and problems. Jesus did

not intend for people whose bodies had been made well to then go to the Lake of Fire for all eternity. He healed people so that they would receive Him as Savior and go to heaven.

Lydda and Sharon

1. **All**. What effect did the healing of Aeneas the Paralytic have? All the people living in Lydda and Sharon turned to the Lord.

2. **Lived**. The inhabitants of Lydda saw the great work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Lydda**. By the leading of God, Peter traveled to Lydda and healed Aeneas the Paralytic. During the eight years of his paralysis, many people in both Lydda and Sharon knew about Aeneas the Paralytic.

4. **Sharon**. The term “Sharon” may refer to the region of great fertility and beauty surrounding Lydda and extending from Caesarea to Joppa. Therefore, the reference to Sharon probably means the area around Lydda, and not another city or village.

5. **Saw**. Many people apparently saw Aeneas the Paralytic walking after Jesus Christ healed him.

6. **Turned**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus Christ used one miracle to turn many people to Him for salvation.

7. **Lord**. We rejoice today because God has great plans for people scattered abroad that they would hear the Gospel and see a miracle and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by watching people turn to the Lord Jesus because of the great things He has done in the lives of people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for the many ways He turns hearts toward Him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by drawing attention to the great things God has been doing among us.**

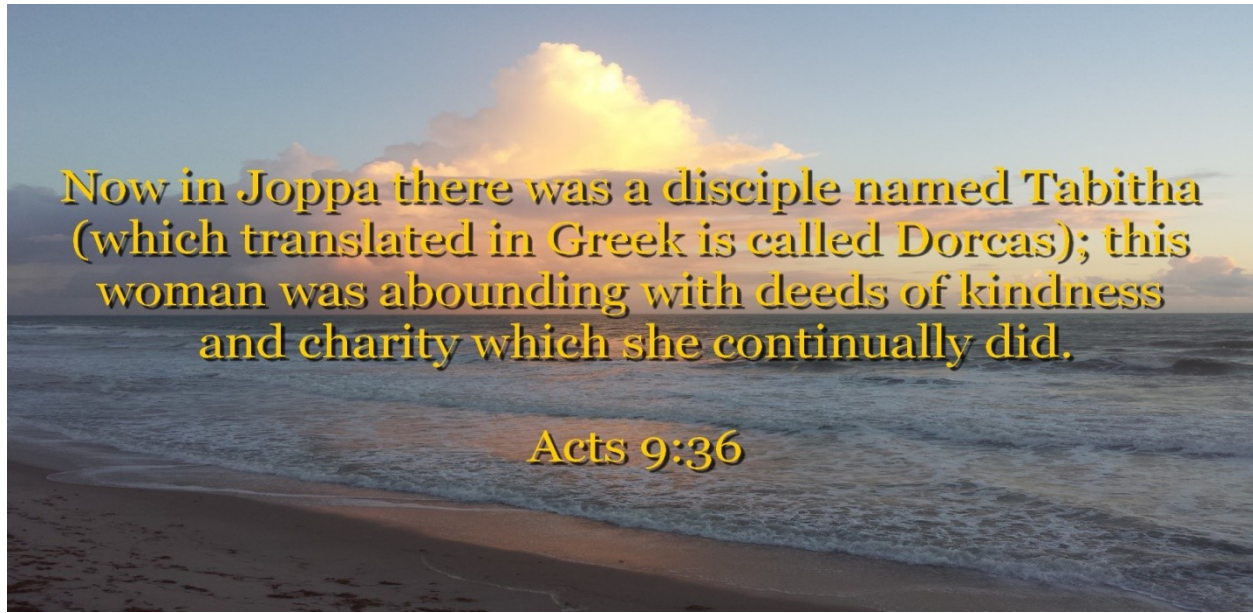
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His divine plans to turn hearts to Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by drawing attention to the great things God has been doing for you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 329

Tabitha Today



What was Tabitha like? She abounded in deeds of kindness and charity.

Based upon the pattern of the Lord Jesus helping one person to reach an entire village or city, we expect that God had a special purpose for sending Peter to meet Tabitha in Joppa. Notice that Luke provided the Greek translation of her Aramaic name Tabitha as Dorcas.

Peter travelled to the saints in those regions to strengthen and encourage them. As he travelled to meet saints, Jesus also did works of powers through him. Those works of powers not only encouraged the saints and helped the individual healed, but they also turned other people towards the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

While God used Saul to evangelize the Gentile world, God was already using Peter to reach the Jewish world. Jesus Christ did great miracles through Peter in Jerusalem, Lydda and Joppa.

Tabitha stands out as a woman of great Christian virtue. She was abounding in works of kindness and alms that she did continually. Jesus

healed all kinds of people, from all walks of life. He healed both the saints and immoral people. Jesus loved them all.

Kindness

1. **Joppa**. Where was Joppa located? Joppa was located on the Mediterranean Sea.

2. **Disciple**. Disciples of Jesus Christ lived in Joppa before Peter traveled there.

3. **Tabitha**. Tabitha of Joppa had a fine Christian reputation.

4. **Dorcas**. The Aramaic name Tabitha translated in the Greek as Dorcas. As a seaport doing business, many people in that area would have spoken Greek as the business language.

5. **Kindness**. Tabitha of Joppa was known for her deeds of kindness.

6. **Alms**. Living holy in the family of God means that Tabitha of Joppa was known not only for her deeds of kindness which she did continually, but also for her alms (charitable giving).

7. **Continually**. We rejoice today because Tabitha set a great example for the saints by continually doing deeds to please the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Tabitha of Joppa as a woman of continuous deeds of kindness and alms.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for saints who live a consistent lifestyle pleasing to the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for sending people to encourage our lives with their kindness and alms.**

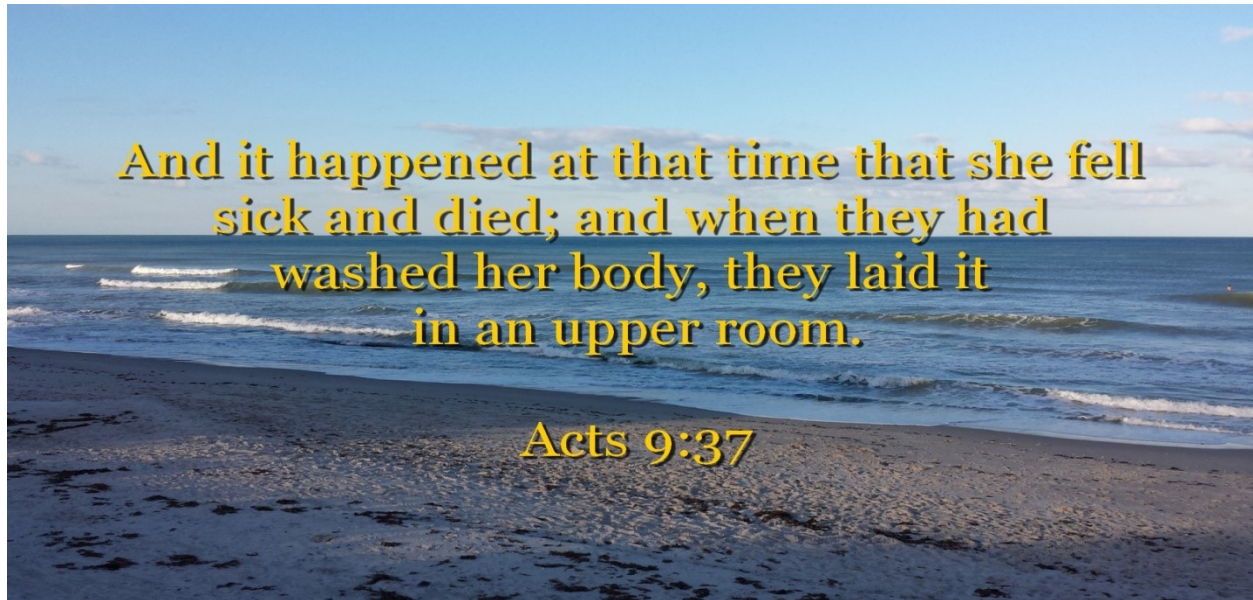
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Tabitha of Joppa and her consistent deeds of kindness and alms. Will you live holy in the family of God today by doing deeds of kindness and alms?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 330

Died Today



What happened to Tabitha? She died about the time that Peter was coming to Joppa.

About the time that Peter was arriving in Joppa, Tabitha fell sick and died. God had great plans for Tabitha, even after death. People had washed her body and laid it in an upper room. Tabitha lived a Godly life of kindness and alms. She apparently had the reputation of doing good all the time.

The story of Tabitha has some similarities to the raising of Lazarus. The sisters of Lazarus told Jesus that if He had come sooner to see Lazarus and heal him, then Lazarus would not have died. Jesus had already explained to the disciples the sickness of Lazarus would not end in death, but in the glory of God. Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb and he walked out alive, bound in the wrappings for death.

Peter had the ability to heal people so that they did not die of their diseases. If Peter had come earlier and healed Tabitha, perhaps she would not have died. Yet, people often overlook the power of God to raise people from the dead. They do not receive resurrected, glorified and incorruptible

bodies when they are brought back to life in their mortal bodies, but God does raise the dead to continue earthly ministry for Him.

Body

1. **Fell**. What happened to Tabitha of Joppa? She fell ill and died.
2. **Sick**. Before Peter arrived in Joppa, Tabitha fell sick and died.
3. **Died**. Tabitha died as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. **Washed**. Her body was washed after she died.
5. **Body**. Her body was then laid in a room.
6. **Laid**. Living holy in the family of God means that when Tabitha of Joppa died, her illness would not end in death, but in the glory of God.
7. **Room**. We rejoice today because while the body of Tabitha of Joppa was lying in an upper room, Peter was on the way and God had great plans for Tabitha.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Tabitha of Joppa whose body was laid in the upper room.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He cares about every saint that dies.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving God for the marvelous things He does in our lives and the way He takes care of us after our bodies die on earth.**

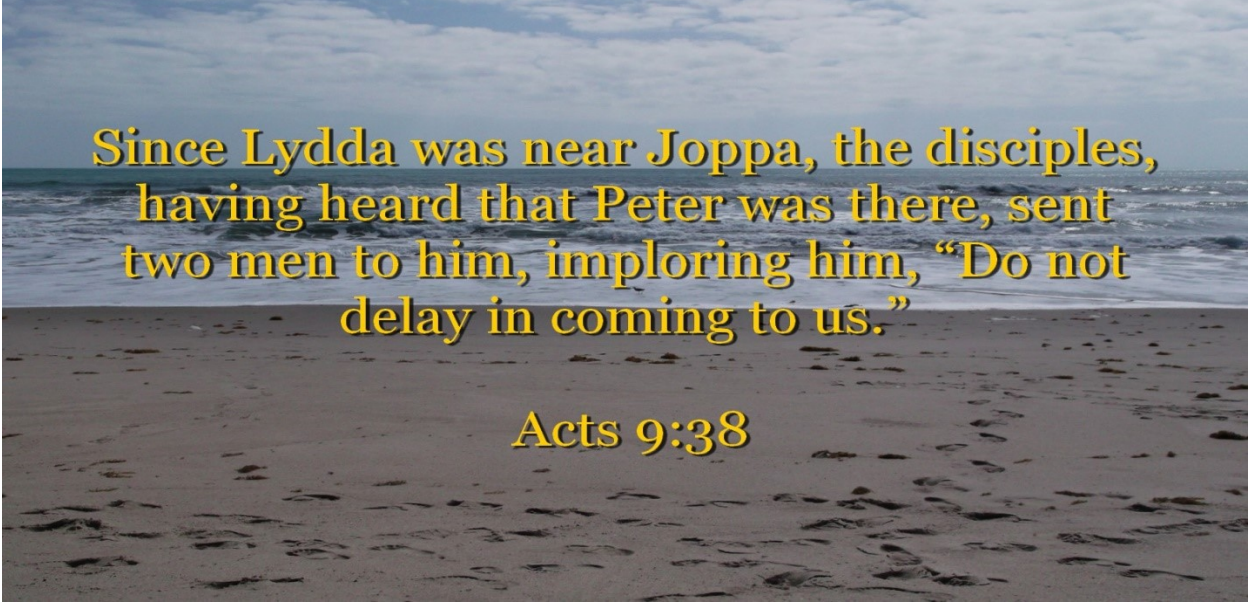
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Tabitha of Joppa whose body was laid in the upper room. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking forward to being with Jesus after your body dies on earth?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 331

Disciples Today



Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, “Do not delay in coming to us.”

Acts 9:38

Why did Peter go to Joppa? Two disciples urged him to come to Joppa because Tabitha of Joppa had died.

Tabitha of Joppa was known for her deeds of kindness and alms. When she died, her body was washed and put in an upper room.

When the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two disciples to him. They obviously had a plan that perhaps Peter could do something to help Tabitha of Joppa. When the disciples found Peter in Lydda, they implored him not to delay in going to Joppa and seeing the disciples.

Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, sent messengers to Jesus urging Him to come and see them at Bethany because Lazarus was sick. Lazarus died before Jesus got there. When He arrived several days later, Martha and Mary both said that if He had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Jesus had a plan to raise Lazarus from the dead to glorify God. Days before Jesus had told His disciples that the sickness of Lazarus would not end in death, but in the glory of God.

Imploring

1. **Lydda**. Why did the disciples at Joppa send for Peter? The disciples heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda.
2. **Joppa**. Peter had gone down to Lydda and healed a paralytic there.
3. **Disciples**. Joppa had disciples there before Peter came to the place.
4. **Peter**. When they heard Peter was at Lydda, they wanted him to come and see what he could do for Tabitha of Joppa.
5. **Sent**. They sent to disciples to Peter.
6. **Imploring**. Living holy in the family of God means that disciples sent two men to Peter, imploring him to come to Joppa to help Tabitha.
7. **Coming**. We rejoice today because Peter did not delay in coming to Joppa.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by calling upon other saints to help us in times of need.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by coming without delay when people need our help urgently.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He sends people to help us at just the right time.**

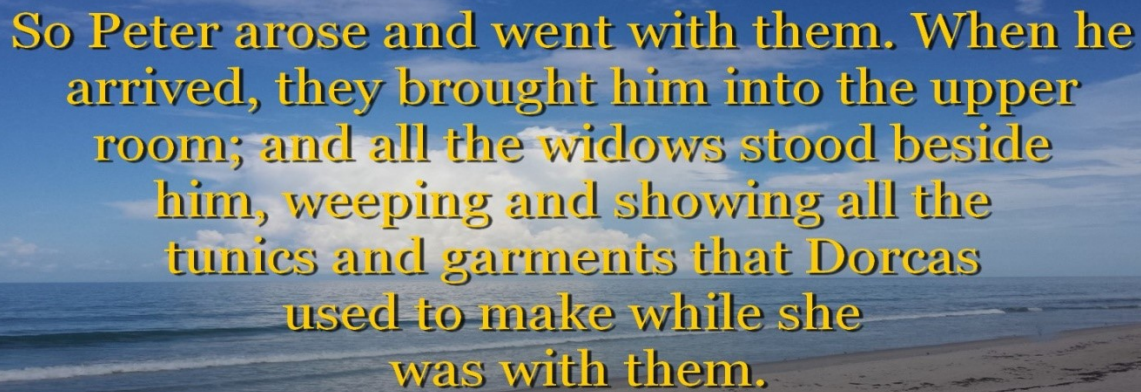
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by not delaying when people need your help urgently. Will you live holy in the family of God today by asking other saints for help when you need it?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 332

Arrived Today



So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.

Acts 9:39

What did Peter do when he heard from the two messengers from Joppa? Peter arose and went with them.

When Peter arrived in Joppa at the house where the body of Tabitha of Joppa lay, they brought Peter into that room. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing him all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.

Dorcas not only had a very fine reputation for her deeds of kindness and alms, but she also worked hard at producing tunics and garments. Her widow friends loved to show them off in praise of Dorcas.

Peter had come quickly to find the body of Dorcas and the widows weeping. You may recall the funeral procession coming out of the city of Nain where the people were weeping. Likewise, people were weeping when Jesus got to Bethany and found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days.

In contrast to Mary and Martha who did not understand that Jesus had the immediate power to raise their brother from the dead, the disciples at Joppa had more faith in the power of Jesus Christ.

Tunics and Garments

1. **Peter**. Where did Peter go? They went to the upper room where they had laid the body of Dorcas

2. **Arose**. . When the two disciples reached Peter, he arose and went with them to Joppa.

3. **Room**. They brought him to the upper room where they had laid the body of Dorcas.

4. **Widows**. The widows were standing beside him.

5. **Weeping**. They were weeping.

6. **Dorcas**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the widows who showed Peter the tunics and garments that Dorcas had made while she was alive.

7. **Made**. We rejoice today because Dorcas not only was known for her deeds of kindness and alms, but she also made tunics and garments for other people.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the good things that the saints did while they lived among us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by coming to other saints who have had a loved one die.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by caring for one another during times of grief.**

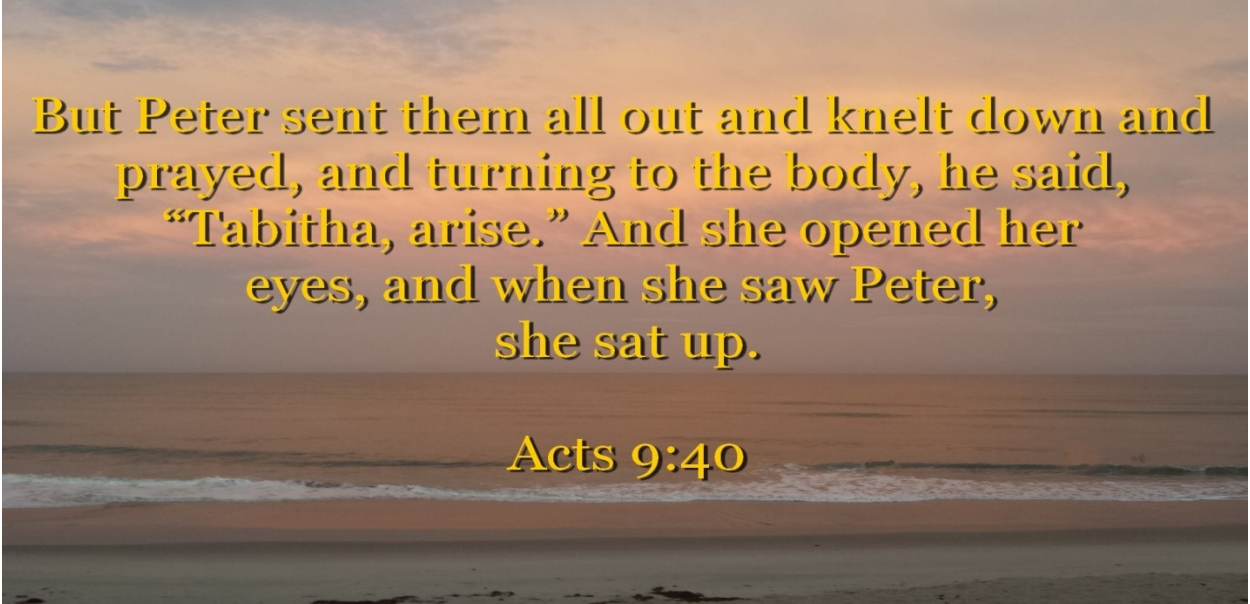
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting God to always take care of our loved ones who died in Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by spending some time with loved ones suffering from grief?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 333

Peter Today



But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Acts 9:40

What did Peter do with the people in the room? Peter put them all out of the room.

The disciples at Joppa had sent for Peter to come from Lydda. Tabitha of Joppa, also known as Dorcas, had died. When the disciples at Joppa heard that Peter was nearby in Lydda, they sent two men to summon him, imploring him to come quickly. Peter came and they led him to the upper room where the body of Dorcas was laid.

When Peter entered the room, he found widows weeping. They told Peter about Dorcas making tunics and garments and showed him her work. Dorcas not only had a great reputation for deeds of kindness and alms, but she also made clothing for people. The widows thought highly of Dorcas as they stood by Peter looking at her body in the upper room.

Peter put the people out of the room. Then he knelt down and prayed. Having turned towards the body of Dorcas, Peter said: “Tabitha, arise.” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Please keep in mind

that her body had not been resurrected in the sense that it was glorified and incorruptible. Her physical body had been raised back to mortal life.

Tabitha

1. **Peter**. How did Peter raise Tabitha? Peter prayed and Jesus raised Tabitha.

2. **Out**. First, Peter put everybody else out of the room.

3. **Knelt**. Then Peter knelt down.

4. **Prayed**. While kneeling down, Peter prayed.

5. **Turned**. Peter then turned to Tabitha.

6. **Tabitha**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter said, “Tabitha, arise!”

7. **Arise**. We rejoice today because Tabitha opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praying that God would do great things for people we love.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Peter kneeling down and praying beside the body of Tabitha.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by glorifying God who raised Tabitha of Joppa.**

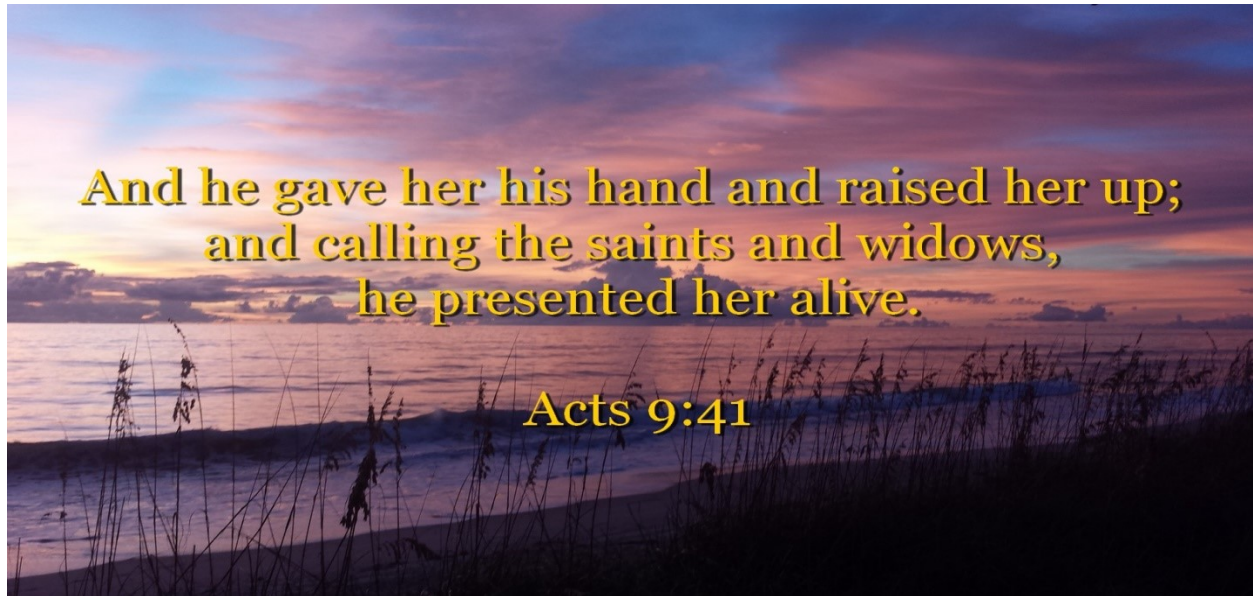
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the many miracles He does to glorify His name. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for the powerful things He does in the lives of the saints today?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 334

Raised Today



What did Peter do with Dorcas? Peter gave her his hand and raised her up.

Peter had been summoned to Joppa by the friends of Dorcas, a devout woman who made tunics and garments. When he arrived, he found her body lying in a room with widows nearby. As Peter stood there by the body of Dorcas, the weeping widows showed her tunics and garments that she had made.

Peter then put them all out of the room. He knelt down and prayed and then commanded Dorcas saying: "Tabitha, arise." She opened her eyes and looking at Peter, she sat up. Peter gave her his hand and raised her up. Jesus had raised up a child in like manner using His hand to lift her up. Jesus said: "Talitha, kum!" (Which translated meant, "Little girl, I say to you, arise.") Calling the saints and widows, Peter presented Dorcas alive. The saints would surely be rejoicing that Dorcas was now awake and standing up. Jesus had raised up Dorcas for further service for Him.

Alive

1. **He**. Why did Peter call the widows and saints? So that Peter could present Dorcas alive to them.
2. **Gave**. Peter gave his hand to Dorcas.
3. **Hand**. Peter used his hand to raise up Dorcas.
4. **Raised**. Having raised Dorcas with his hand, Peter wanted everybody to know what Jesus had done for Dorcas.
5. **Calling**. Peter previously removed everyone from the room and now was calling the saints and widows.
6. **Presented**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter presented Dorcas to the saints and widows.
7. **Alive**. We rejoice today because Jesus Christ raised Dorcas up and everyone saw her alive again.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Tabitha of Joppa being raised.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His kindness and mercy by restoring Tabitha to the people who loved her.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His loving power over death.**

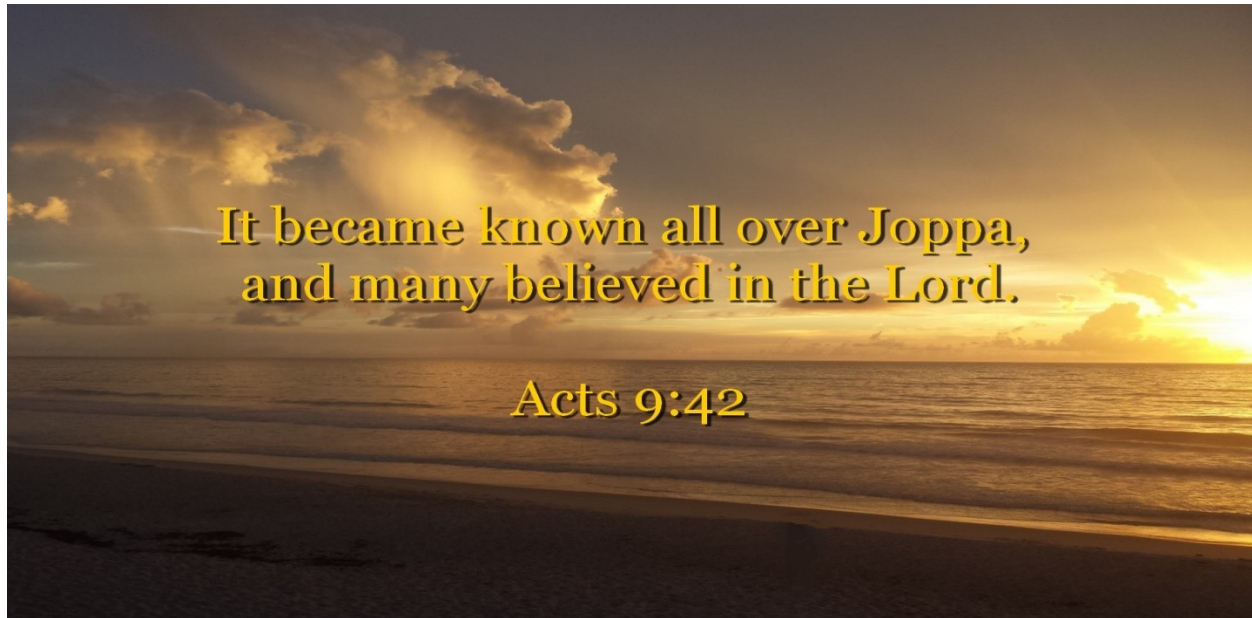
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God always has the power over death so that all the saints live to Him forever. Will you live holy in the family of God today by enjoying the eternal life God has given to you by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 335

Known Today



Who learned of the news about Dorcas? Everyone all over Joppa heard the news about Dorcas.

Peter had traveled to Lydda to encourage the saints there. He found there Aeneas the Paralytic. Aeneas had been paralyzed for eight years and Peter healed him on the spot, saying “Jesus Christ heals you. Arise!”

The disciples in Joppa heard that Peter was nearby in Lydda. They sent two men to get him and he came quickly. They wanted him to help Tabitha of Joppa. She had fallen ill then died.

Peter arrived in found the body of Tabitha of Joppa. Peter cleared the room, knelt down and prayed. Then he turned towards the body and said, “Tabitha, arise!” She saw Peter and sat up. Then Peter took her by the hand and raised her up.

Everyone in Joppa and heard about Dorcas being raised back to life in her body. Jesus said healed Dorcas through the hands of Peter. God performed a series of miracles as part of His program to evangelize large

areas through one person and one miracle. Jesus had reached out to the people of Joppa by raising Dorcas from the dead.

Believed

1. **Became**. What became known all over Joppa? Everyone knew that Jesus Christ had raised Dorcas from the dead.

2. **Known**. The news about Dorcas became known all over the area of Joppa.

3. **All**. God intended for all the people of Joppa to see His power over death.

4. **Joppa**. Peter came to Joppa to raise a woman from death.

5. **Many**. God used Dorcas and her testimony about being raised from the dead to reach many people in Joppa.

6. **Believed**. Living holy in the family of God means that God often uses one miracle in the life of one well-known local person to reach many people with the good news of Jesus Christ.

7. **Lord**. We rejoice today because the miracle of raising Tabitha of Joppa caused many people to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the miracle of Tabitha of Joppa being raised from the dead as a witness to the people all over Joppa.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that many people from Joppa turned to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation because Tabitha of Joppa had been raised from the dead.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in God's plan to reach all over Joppa by doing one miracle for Tabitha of Joppa and the saints who loved her and the many people who turned to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.**

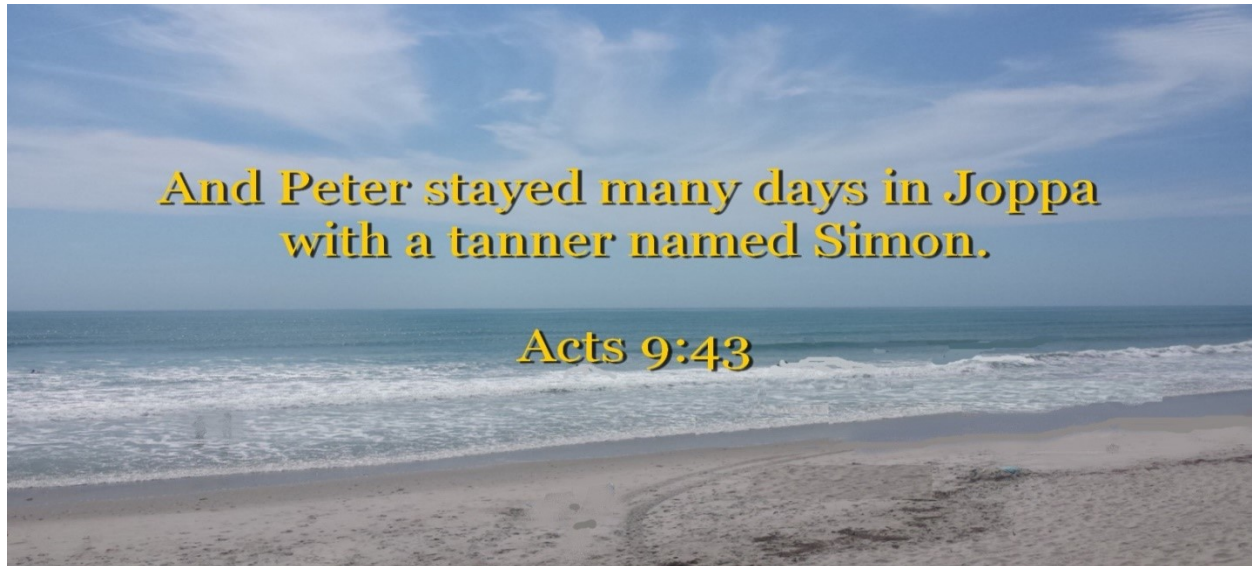
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering how God reached many people in Joppa for salvation through the miracle of raising Tabitha of Joppa from the dead. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the miracle of Tabitha of Joppa?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 336

Stayed Today



What did Peter do after the healing of Tabitha of Joppa? Peter stayed in Joppa a many more days.

The Lord Jesus used Peter to heal Aeneas of Lydda. Having heard that Peter was in Lydda, some saints sent to bring Peter to Joppa because Tabitha of Joppa had fallen sick and died. Peter came to Joppa and knelt down and prayed for Tabitha of Joppa. She opened her eyes and then sat up. Peter offered his hand and she stood up.

News of Jesus raising Tabitha of Joppa from the dead went all over the area. Many people from Joppa turned to the Lord. Peter stayed for many days in Joppa. He stayed in the house of Simon the Tanner.

When a person turns to the Lord for salvation and receives the free gift of eternal life by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, they are born again, but are only infants in Christ.

New believers in Christ were baptized immediately in the New Testament. They require teaching from the Bible, fellowship in the family of

God, encouragement to walk with Christ, and training in righteousness. As they become involved in the local assembly, saints help them grow up.

Many Days

1. **Peter**. Who provided lodging in Joppa for Peter? Simon the Tanner provided lodging for Peter.

2. **Stayed**. Peter stayed with Simon the Tanner. Jesus had taught His disciples to stay in a home that receives the disciples and they would be a blessing to that home. Jesus further instructed His disciples not to go from home to home, but stay in the home that first to receive them.

3. **Many**. Peter stayed in the home of Simon the Tanner for many days. The new converts in Joppa were many and needed a lot of instruction and encouragement to walk with Jesus. Peter helped those people as God started the church at Joppa with their conversion.

4. **Days**. Peter's task required him to stay there for many days. Just as the disciples at Joppa had invited him to come, so also God would move Peter out of Joppa at just the right time.

5. **Joppa**. Many of the people turned to the Lord Jesus for salvation because of the miracle of raising Tabitha of Joppa, but they were all newborn babies in Christ needing the pure milk of the word.

6. **Tanner**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Simon the Tanner of Joppa providing lodging for Peter in his home for many days.

7. **Simon**. We rejoice today because Simon showed great hospitality to Peter by opening his home and taking care of him for many days as they both served the Lord Jesus Christ and Joppa.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He sends people to us for many days to help us grow up in Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by opening our homes to workers serving God in our area.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by enjoying the fellowship of different saints enjoying our hospitality.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the hospitality of Simon the Tanner. Will you live holy in the family of God today by showing hospitality to the workers who need a place to stay while they do the work of God?

HALLELUJAH !

13

Cornelius

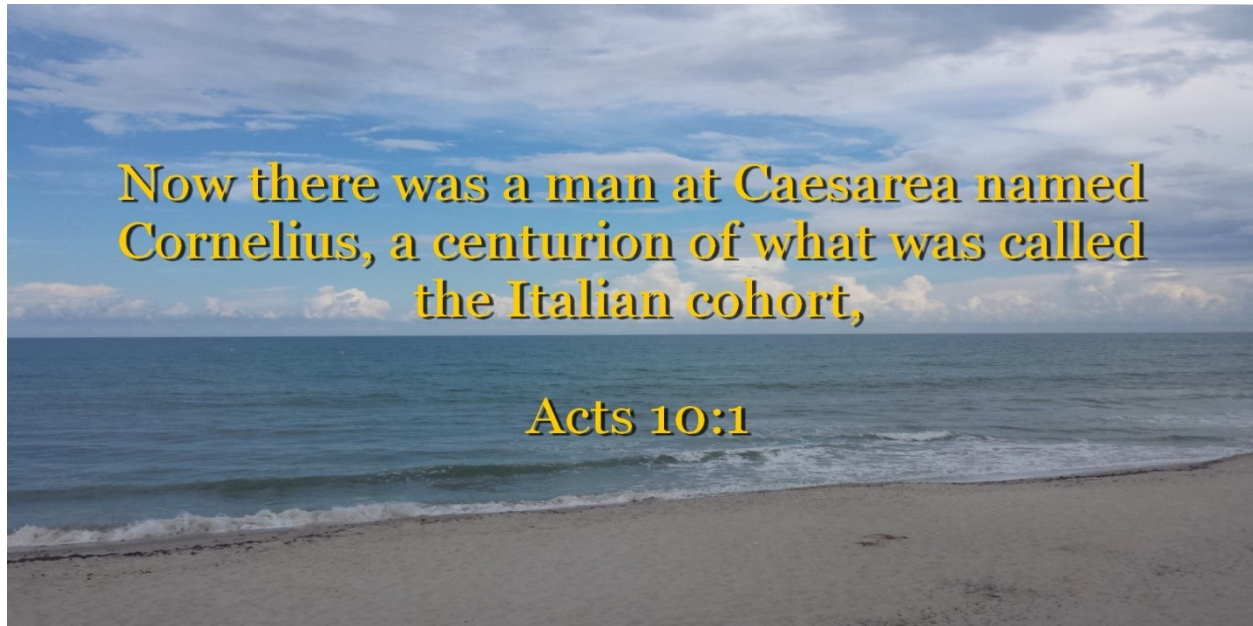
Sees Today

Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian cohort, lived at Caesarea. He was a devout man, fearing God with all his household, and giving many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. About the ninth hour of the day, Cornelius saw an angel of God in a vision. The angel of God announced to Cornelius that his prayers and alms have ascended to God as a memorial. The angel directed him to send some men to Joppa and find Peter, staying at the house of Simon the Tanner. Cornelius summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier and explained everything to them. He then sent them to Joppa to find Peter at the house of Simon the Tanner, near the sea.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 337

Cornelius Today



Who was Cornelius of Caesarea? Cornelius was a centurion in the Roman army.

Many different kinds of people appear in the pages of the New Testament. Jesus loves all kinds of people, but not many wise, intelligent or noble come to faith in Christ. Many poor people turn to the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the Book of Acts reveals, the gospel went first to the Jews and then to the Samaritans and Gentiles. Jesus followed a geographical and religious expansion of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Persecution also drove saints away from Jerusalem and they spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in new areas. Although the apostles stayed in Jerusalem during the persecution, they also went into the surrounding areas when the church experienced a time of peace.

Discipleship should always follow evangelism and they should work hand-in-hand. Once saved, all believers should become disciples who do the work of an evangelist. Not everyone has The Spiritual Gift of Evangelist, but

as Paul told Timothy, all believers should do the work of an evangelist. All the saints should learn how to share their faith in Christ and then disciple new converts so that they share their faith in Christ. Jesus described a pattern of entrusting what we have learned to faithful men who will teach others also.

Centurion

1. **Man**. What is a centurion? A centurion commanded a hundred Roman soldiers.
2. **Caesarea**. Caesarea was a maritime center in northern Israel.
3. **Named**. Names in the Bible often carried special significance. The Name of God holds special significance even today.
4. **Cornelius**. Cornelius was a centurion who lived in Caesarea.
5. **Centurion**. As a centurion, he commanded a hundred Roman soldiers and exercised great power locally.
6. **Italian**. Living holy in the family of God means that Cornelius was part of a group of soldiers mustered from Italy to serve in the Roman army.
7. **Cohort**. We rejoice today because Cornelius, part of the Italian Cohort consisting of about four hundred eighty soldiers, was chosen by God to start the welcome of Gentiles into the church.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Cornelius of Caesarea of the Italian Cohort.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God He included soldiers in His plans to evangelize the world and welcome Gentiles into the church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that Jesus has only one church, composed of Jews, Gentiles, Samaritans, Tanners, Garment Makers, and Soldiers, among others.**

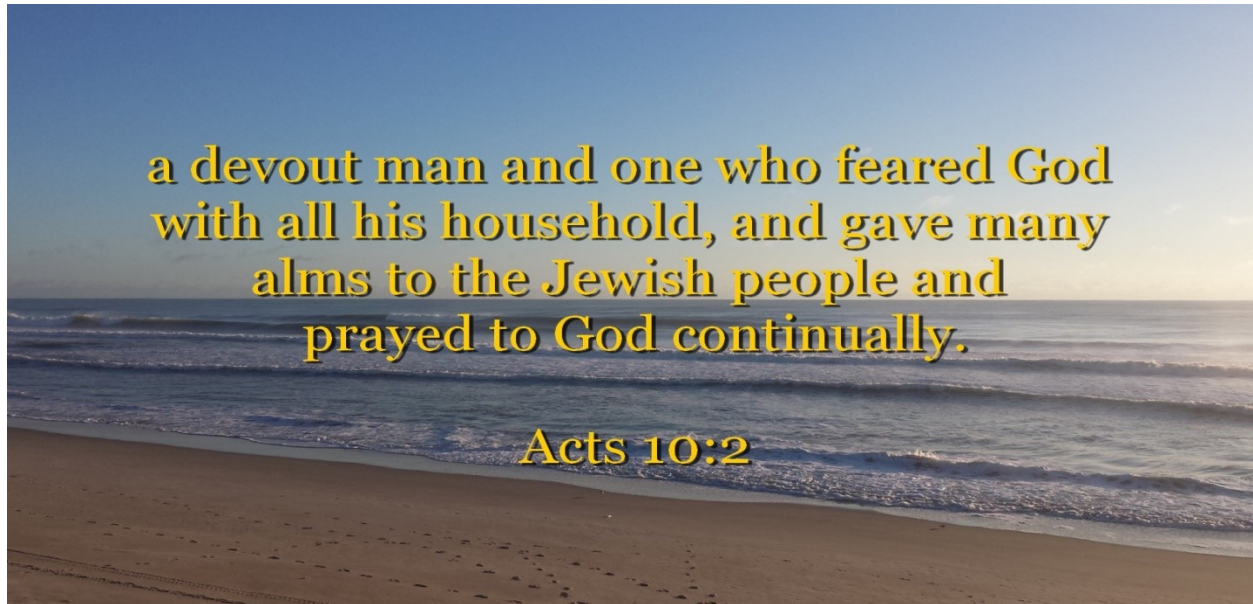
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the diversity of saints in the church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by welcoming new believers into your local assembly no matter what background they came out of?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 338

Devout Today



Who was Cornelius of Caesarea? He was a devout man who feared God.

After Christ raised Tabitha using Peter, Peter stayed in Joppa at the home of Simon the Tanner. Many people had turned to the Lord and they needed strengthening in the Lord Jesus Christ. As an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, Peter carried on a strong evangelistic and discipleship ministry.

At the right time, Peter moved on to Caesarea, a major Roman seaport up the coast from Joppa. God used Cornelius to move Peter to Caesarea, in a similar way to how God moved Peter from Lydda to Joppa.

Cornelius was a centurion in the Roman army, but he was also a devout man who feared God with all his household. He used his wealth to give many alms to the people and prayed to God continually. Because the whole household of Cornelius feared God, it spoke well of the leadership qualities of Cornelius. God said that before a man should be an elder in the church, he should manage his own household well. If a man could not manage his own household well, then how could he manage the church? Therefore, we know that Cornelius was an excellent leader both at home and with his soldiers. He

also was a chosen instrument of God to bring Peter to Caesarea where great things were about to happen.

Continually

1. **Devout**. What kind of man was Cornelius? Cornelius feared God with all his household.

2. **Feared**. As a soldier, Cornelius knew about fear and overcoming it. As a man of God, he feared God and never lost His fear of God.

3. **God**. Cornelius served God.

4. **Household**. All the household of Cornelius joined him in serving God.

5. **Alms**. Cornelius gave many alms to the people.

6. **Prayed**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Cornelius of Caesarea prayed to God and managed his own household well.

7. **Continually**. We rejoice today because Cornelius prayed continually.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Cornelius of Caesarea was a devout man who feared God with all his household.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praying continually, even if we are soldiers with one hundred men under our control.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in so many people from so many different professions called to faith in the only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

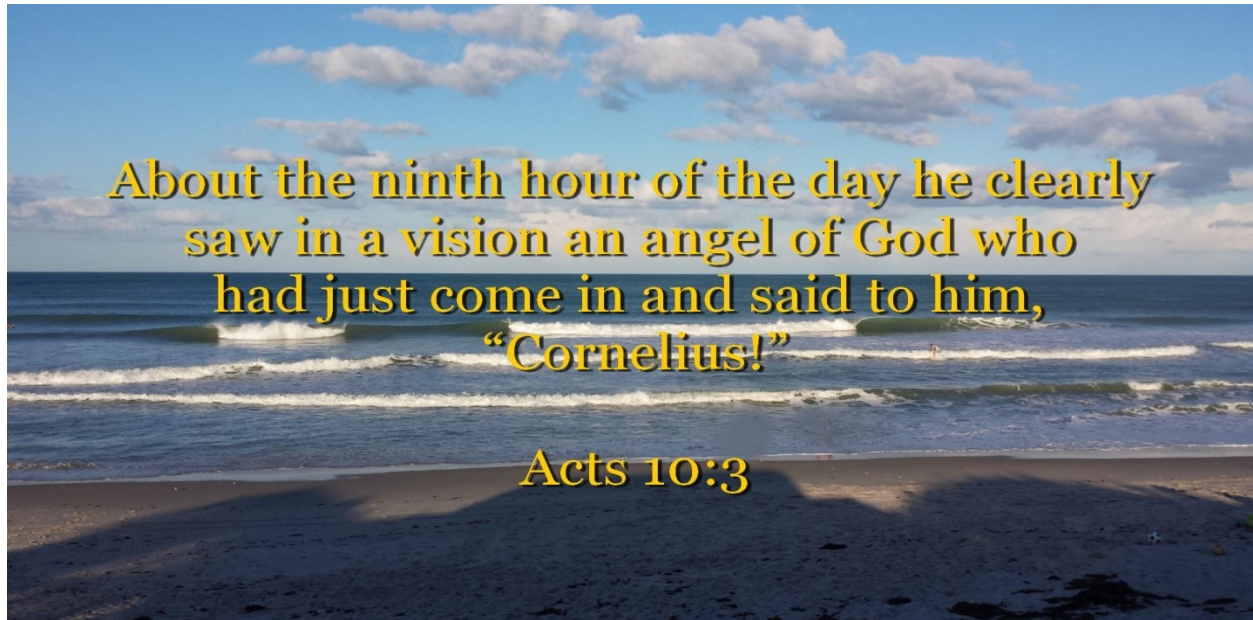
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving God for calling soldiers to fear him with all their household. Will you live holy in the family of God today by fearing God with all your household?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 339

Vision Today



Who met Cornelius? An angel of God met Cornelius in a vision.

About the ninth hour, the Jewish hour of prayer, Cornelius clearly saw an angel in a vision. The angel had just come in and said to him, “Cornelius.” God was preparing the way to move Peter from Joppa to Caesarea.

God moves some people who serve Him to various places to meet various people. God does not make random moves. He moves His children according to His will which follows His plans.

At the city of Samaria, Peter had seen firsthand the conversion of the Samaritans, half-breeds generally disliked by the Jews. Philip the Evangelist had gone there first, and proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to them. Many of the Samaritans came to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter and John then came down from Jerusalem and laid hands upon the Samaritan believers. They received the Holy Spirit. Peter and John now had unmistakable proof that the Samaritans had joined the church of Jesus Christ as fellow members of the body of Christ, fellow heirs, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. Peter was

ideally situated to be an eyewitness of the Gentiles coming into the body of Christ.

Angel

1. **Ninth**. What happened about the ninth hour, the hour of prayer? Cornelius received a messenger from God.

2. **Vision**. Cornelius had a vision and saw an angel of God.

3. **Angel**. The angel of God had a special message for Cornelius.

4. **Come**. The angel had just come in to where Cornelius was at the time.

5. **Said**. The angel said to Cornelius the words God had given as a special message to Cornelius

6. **Him**. Living holy in the family of God means that God used angels to deliver special messages because they are ministering spirits for the saints.

7. **Cornelius**. We rejoice today because the angel of God called out Cornelius by name.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the angel of God speaking to Cornelius.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God sends angels with special messages to His saints.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the many different ways He communicates with us.**

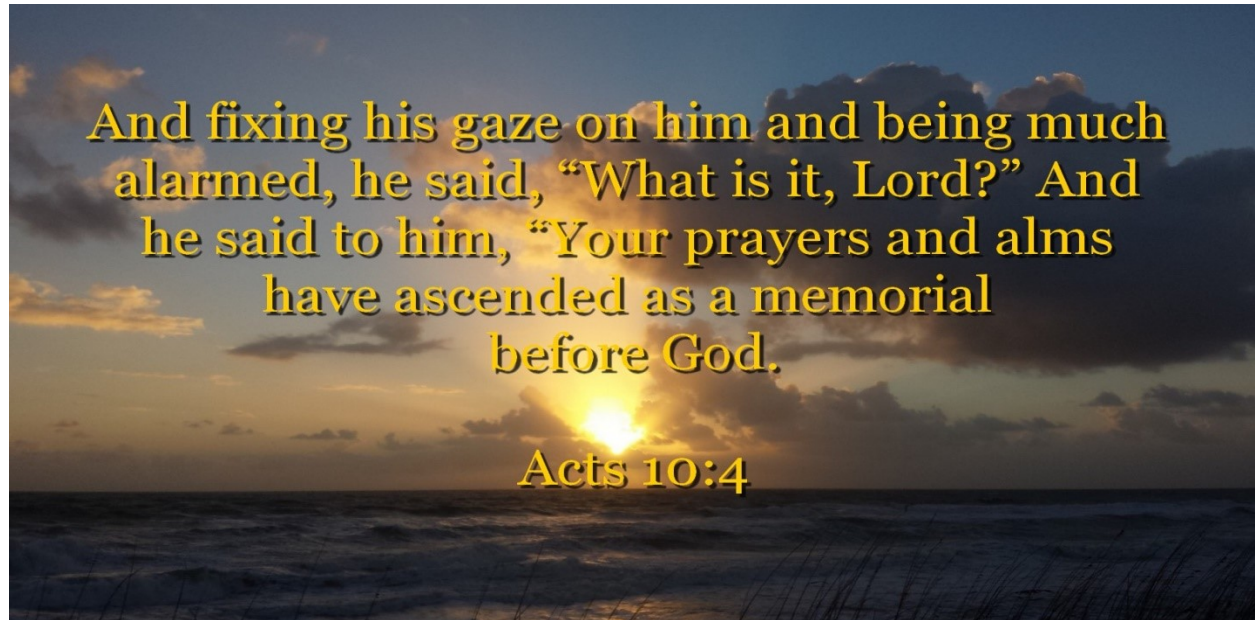
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving God more for sending an angel to Cornelius with a special message that greatly benefited Gentiles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that both Jews and Gentiles, males and females, slaves and free all compose the church of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 340

Alarmed Today



And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

Acts 10:4

How did Cornelius react to seeing the angel? Cornelius was much alarmed, even though he was a centurion and a battle-trained officer in the Roman army.

When the angel came in and appeared to Cornelius in the vision, Cornelius was very alarmed. He said, "What is it, Lord?" The angel replied to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God."

Cornelius asked a great, simple question. He wanted to know why the angel had appeared to him and what he wanted. The angel pointed out that God had heard the prayers of Cornelius, and taken note of the alms given by Cornelius. The angel described them as a memorial to God. God chooses all kinds of people from all walks of life to serve Him in a wide variety of ways.

Of all the great things that Cornelius had done as a soldier, causing him to rise to be in charge of one hundred other soldiers, none of those things were mentioned by the angel. God focused upon the continual prayers of Cornelius and his charitable giving. Those things build eternal rewards with God that cannot be corrupted because they are in heaven.

Memorial

1. **Gaze**. What was Cornelius gazing at? He fixed his gaze upon the angel.
2. **Alarmed**. Cornelius was much alarmed at the sight of the angel.
3. **What**. Cornelius asked the angel of God, “What is it, Lord?”
4. **Lord**. Cornelius used the title Lord to show his respect for the angel.
5. **Prayers**. The angel said that the prayers of Cornelius and his alms have ascended as a memorial before God.
6. **Alms**. Living holy in the family of God means that Cornelius gave alms to the people because of his faith in God.
7. **Ascended**. We rejoice today because Cornelius was a man of prayer and alms. His work ascended to God as a memorial.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the angel delivering a message to Cornelius.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that our prayers and alms ascend before God as a memorial.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the messengers He sends into our lives.**

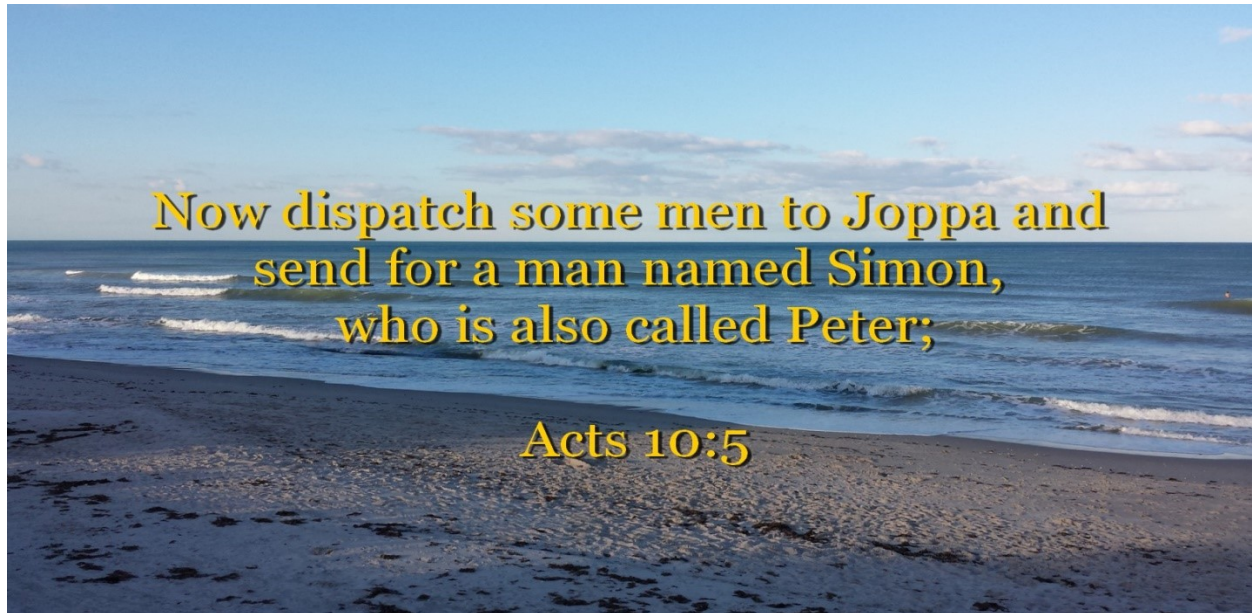
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the angel coming to see Cornelius. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He notices our prayers and alms which ascend before Him as a memorial?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 341

Dispatch Today



What did the angel command Cornelius to do? The angel commanded Cornelius to send some men to Joppa.

Peter had been working down in Joppa with the saints there after God raised Tabitha of Joppa from the dead. Many people turned to the Lord because of that event. Peter stayed in Joppa with Simon the Tanner and helped them for many days.

Cornelius of Caesarea had a vision and an angel appeared to him. The angel commanded Cornelius to send some men to Joppa and find Simon Peter. The Lord moves people around at His pleasure, sending them to new places where they are needed at the moment. God moved Phillip the Evangelist from Jerusalem to the city of Samaria to the desert road to the city of Ashdod. God moved Peter from Jerusalem to the city of Samaria to the villages of Samaria to Jerusalem to Lydda to Joppa and then to Caesarea.

The angel of God knew that Cornelius was a man of prayer and alms. His prayers had ascended to God as a memorial. God had great plans in store

for Cornelius. The Gentiles were about to join the church and Peter would see a vision too.

Peter

1. **Now**. When was Cornelius supposed to act? The angel told him to act now.

2. **Dispatch**. The angel specified that Cornelius was to dispatch men immediately.

3. **Men**. The men were going on a very important mission to Joppa looking for a particular man.

4. **Send**. Cornelius would send them to Joppa with the precise instructions from the angel of God.

5. **Simon**. The men were looking for Simon, the apostle of God.

6. **Called**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus changed the name of Simon to Cephas. Simon was called Peter.

7. **Peter**. We rejoice today because the angel the Lord sent men to collect Peter at Joppa and bring him to do God's work at Caesarea.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by obeying God when He gives us specific directions.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by acting immediately when God tells us to act now.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon God to bring us the right people at the right time.**

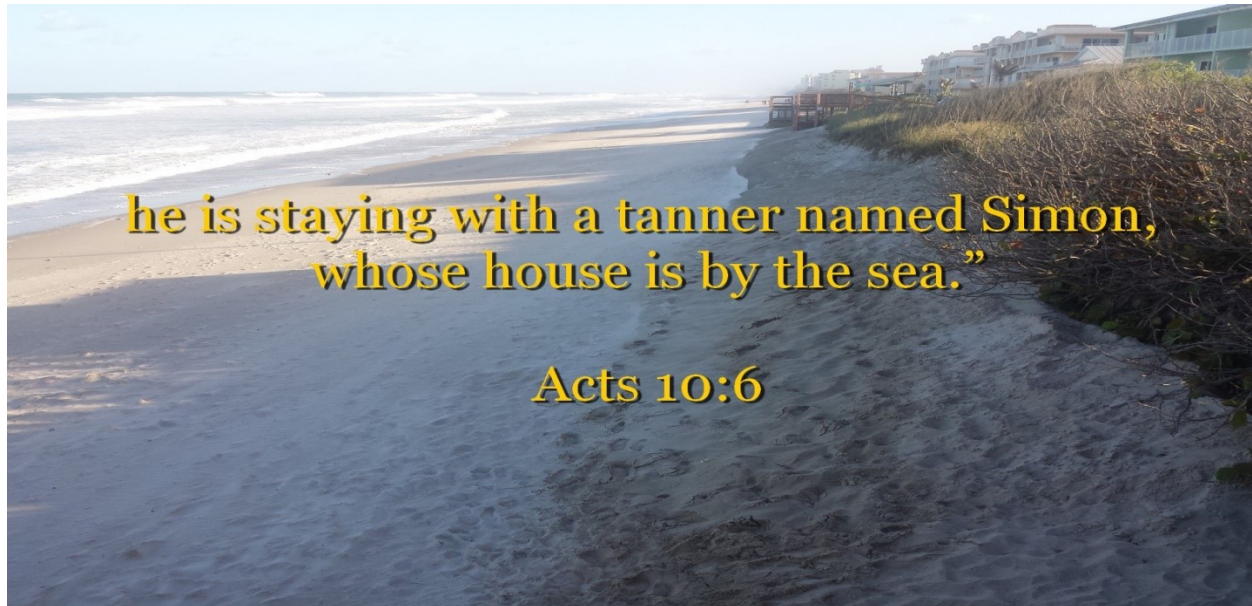
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Cornelius acted immediately in sending men to collect Peter from Joppa and bring him to Caesarea. Will you live holy in the family of God today by acting quickly when God tells you to move?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 342

Tanner Today



What directions did the angel of God give to Cornelius? The angel told Cornelius that Peter was staying with Simon the Tanner, whose house was near the sea.

The angel of God commanded Cornelius to send some men to go pick up Peter in Joppa. Cornelius was used to commanding men to do his bidding because he was a centurion over one hundred men in the Roman army. Sending men to pick up Peter and bring him to Caesarea would be a natural thing to do for Cornelius. Saul was also a citizen of the Roman Empire, with special privileges afforded to him by that citizenship.

Peter was staying with Simon the Tanner. The angel mentioned that Simon lived in a house by the seashore. While the location may have been beautiful, Peter was called there to help the saints. New Christians are like babies who need the pure milk of the word. Many people turned to the Lord after Jesus Christ raised Tabitha from the dead. They all needed a lot of care and feeding and Peter could train them to read the Scriptures and feed themselves, but it would take time. Peter understood that God would move

them from place to place, but God told him to stay in Joppa for many days with all those new believers.

By the Sea

1. **He**. What directions did the angel give Cornelius about finding Simon in Joppa? He said Simon was staying at the house of Simon the Tanner.

2. **Staying**. Peter stayed over in Joppa for many days after Jesus Christ raised Tabitha of Joppa from the dead.

3. **Tanner**. A certain tanner in Joppa had provided lodging for Peter while he stayed there.

4. **Simon**. The tanner's name was Simon.

5. **Whose**. Peter was with Simon the Tanner, whose house was on the Mediterranean Sea.

6. **House**. Living holy in the family of God means that Simon the Tanner opened his seaside house for Peter to lodge there while he worked in Joppa.

7. **Sea**. We rejoice today because while Peter stayed at Simon the Tanner's house on the sea, great things were in store for Peter and the Gentiles.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by opening our homes to provide lodging for saints like Peter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following the directions God provides.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for speaking to the right people at the right time.**

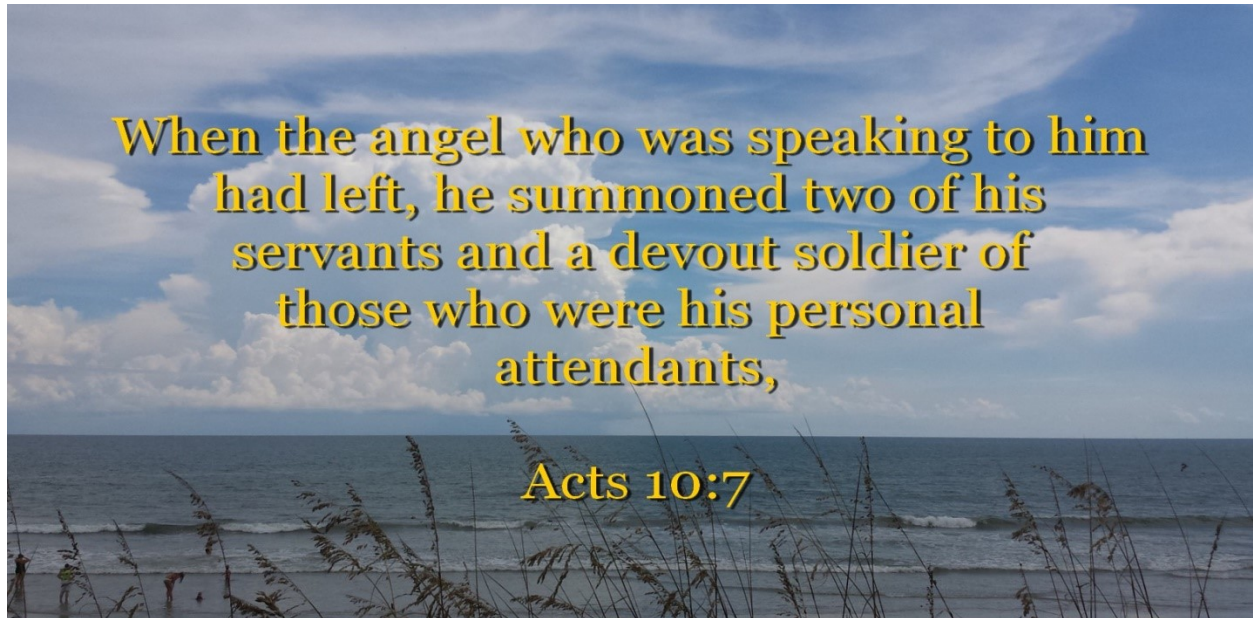
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by enjoying the way God works to bring different people in different places together. Will you live holy in the family of God today by going where God sends you and sending people where God directs you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 343

Summoned Today



What did Cornelius do when the angel left? Cornelius obeyed the angel's commands.

First, Cornelius summoned two of his servants. Second, he also summoned a devout soldier from his personal attendants. The angel had commanded him to dispatch people to Joppa to find Peter. The angel specified that they would find Peter at the house of Simon the Tanner by the seashore. Therefore, having seen the vision from God by the angel and his directions, Cornelius immediately summoned the devout men to send them to Joppa to find Peter.

Cornelius was a trustworthy slave of God. Not only was he a man of prayers and alms, but he also had a willing heart to obey God. He believed the angel of God and acted quickly and appropriately. He did not delay in sending out the men to Caesarea. Today the distance between Joppa and Caesarea is about thirty-three miles. If the men traveled by horseback, they could easily make that distance in a day. Even walking, they could make the journey in about a day or so.

Devout Soldier

1. **Angel**. What did Cornelius do after the angel left? Cornelius took action to follow the command of God.
2. **Left**. After the angel left, Cornelius turned to men he relied upon and could trust to follow his orders.
3. **Summoned**. Pursuant to the order of the angel, Cornelius assembled the men he would send to Joppa. Cornelius had two of his servants and a soldier.
4. **Devout**. Cornelius chose a devout soldier who was one of his personal attendants.
5. **Soldier**. By choosing a soldier, Cornelius knew that the man would follow orders and added a degree of protection to the party.
6. **Personal**. Living holy in the family of God means that we thank God for men like Cornelius, soldiers who serve God.
7. **Attendants**. We rejoice today because Cornelius had personal attendants that he could trust to do the will of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by following the directions God gives us to go places and do things.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by building relationships with people, including subordinates, so that we can send them on important missions for God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by working with one another as a team of ministers to do the will of God.**

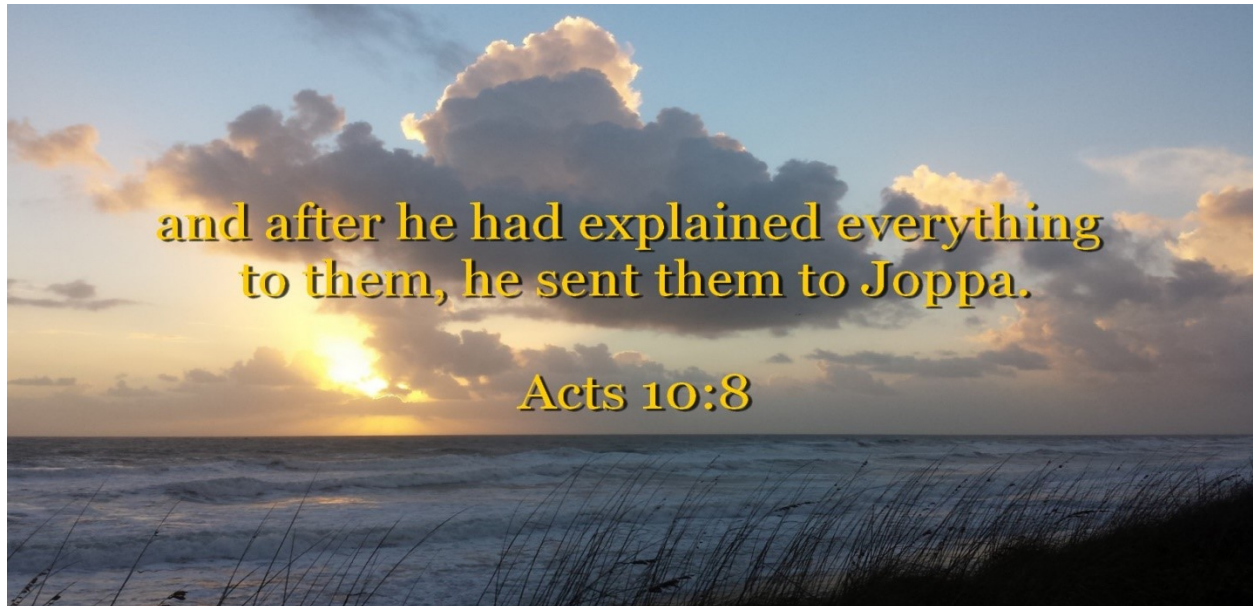
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by working together with trusted men to go where God sends us and do what He says without arguments or delays. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the two servants and the devout soldier heading to Joppa?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 344

Explained Today



What did Cornelius say to his men before he sent him to Joppa? He explained everything to them.

Can you imagine Cornelius explaining to you what happened? Well, you see I was at home in my house and I had a vision. An angel of God appeared to me told me that God had heard my alms and my prayers, which ascended to Him as a memorial. Then the angel told me to send you down to Joppa. There you would find Simon the Tanner in a house by the seashore. You could look inside the house of Simon the Tanner and you would find Peter. The angel of God said to bring Peter to Caesarea.

Having heard those directions from Cornelius, his men knew exactly what to do. Please keep in mind that Cornelius and his entire household feared God. Therefore, Cornelius knew he could trust the men to do as God directed him to do in going to Joppa and finding Peter and bringing him back to Caesarea.

God had fairly elaborate plans already at work in Caesarea. While Peter was in Joppa ministering to the saints, God provided the angel of the Lord to deliver a message to Cornelius about Peter coming to Caesarea.

Sent

1. **After**. Can you imagine what the servants and soldiers thought? Cornelius, the centurion, had a vision requiring them to go to Joppa to find a man there named Peter in the house of Simon the Tanner on the seashore.

2. **Explained**. Cornelius explained everything to the men he was sending, with precise details given to him by God in a vision.

3. **Everything**. Cornelius explained everything to them.

4. **Them**. Cornelius explained everything to them so that they would understand all the details that God had revealed to him in a vision and an angel.

5. **He**. Then, he sent the men to Joppa.

6. **Sent**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Cornelius took the time to explain everything to the men he was sending so that they would understand they were on a mission from God.

7. **Joppa**. We rejoice today because Cornelius obeyed God, said to the men to now collect Peter from Joppa, and bring him to Caesarea.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the faithful men and devout soldier sent by Cornelius to collect Peter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking the time to explain to people the plans of God He first explained us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the way that God provides information supernaturally to bring people together at the right place in the right time to build His church.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for teams of men following the directions of God to fulfill the plans of God from place to place. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following the directions of God and providing explanations of His plans and purposes?

HALLELUJAH !

14

Peter

Sees Today

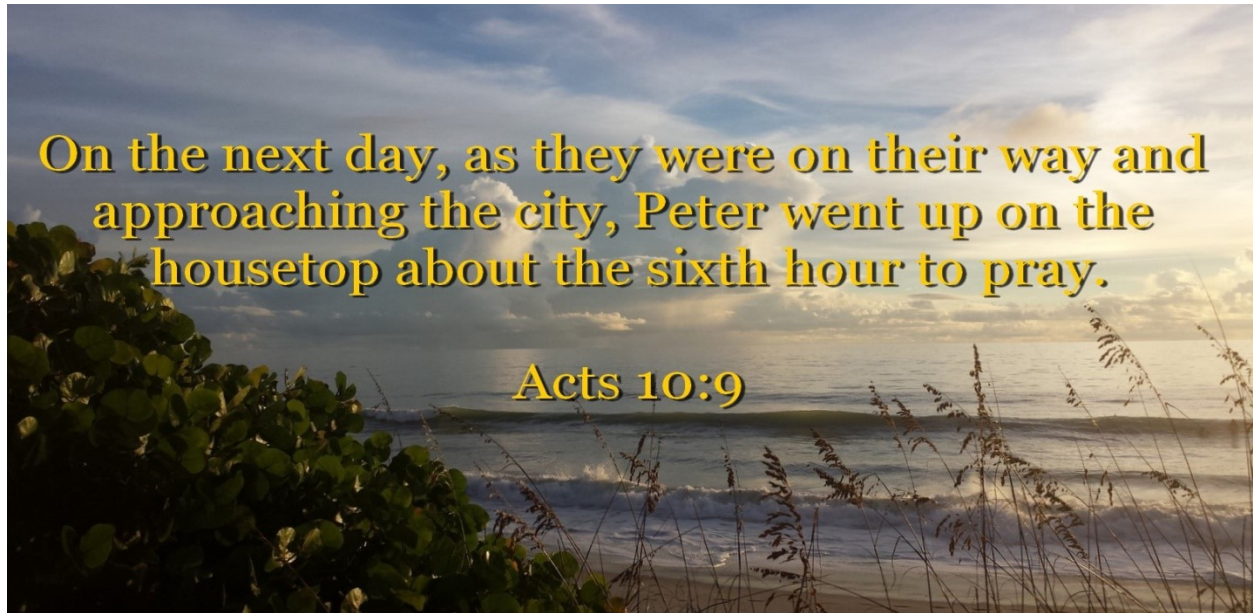
As the messengers from Corneilus headed towards Joppa, Peter had a vision on the housetop of the home of Simon the Tanner. He saw a great sheet coming down from the sky, lowered by four corners to the ground. Inside were four-footed animals in crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the year. A voice directed Peter to get up, and kill and eat. Peter replied that he had never eaten anything unclean or unholy. A voice replied, what God has cleansed no longer consider unholy. This happened three times, and then the sheet was taken back up to heaven.

Peter was greatly perplexed about the vision. About the same time, the messengers from Cornelius arrived. The Holy Spirit directed Peter to go with them without misgivings. Peter went with them to Caesarea and entered the home of Cornelius.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 345

Peter Today



As the men traveled to Joppa, what was Peter doing? Peter went up on the housetop to pray about the sixth hour.

Cornelius received in a vision a message from the angel of God. The angel told Cornelius to go get Peter down in Joppa. The angel gave Cornelius very precise directions on how to find Peter at Simon the Tanner's house on the seashore in Joppa.

Meanwhile, on the next day as the men were traveling to find Peter, Peter was on the housetop of Simon the Tanner in Joppa. In Jewish time the sixth hour would have been about noon. Because the house was on the Mediterranean Sea, it must have had beautiful views of the water. Peter took advantage of the scenery and went up on the roof.

The normal hour of prayer would have been the ninth hour. You may recall that Peter and John went into the Temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. They met the Beautiful Beggar on their way to the Temple. Peter also prayed at noon on a roof overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. What a

beautiful place to pray. Something more beautiful than the ocean would soon appear to Peter. God was about to speak to Peter.

Housetop

1. **Next**. What happened the next day? The men sent by Cornelius approached the city of Joppa.

2. **Day**. The men traveled about thirty-three miles from Caesarea to Joppa.

3. **Way**. They were making their way to Joppa to find Peter, just as the angel of God had instructed Cornelius.

4. **Peter**. About the same time, Peter decided it was time to pray.

5. **Housetop**. He went up on the housetop of Simon the Tanner, whose house sat on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

6. **Sixth**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter prayed frequently, and, in this case, went up on the housetop about noon (the sixth hour) to pray.

7. **Pray**. We rejoice today because good things were going to happen to Peter at the house of Simon the Tanner in Joppa that would change many things among believers.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking time to pray every day and more than once per day.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by enjoying special places of prayer, such as a housetop overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by talking to God in different places at different times, knowing that wherever we go and whatever we do, God is there with us.**

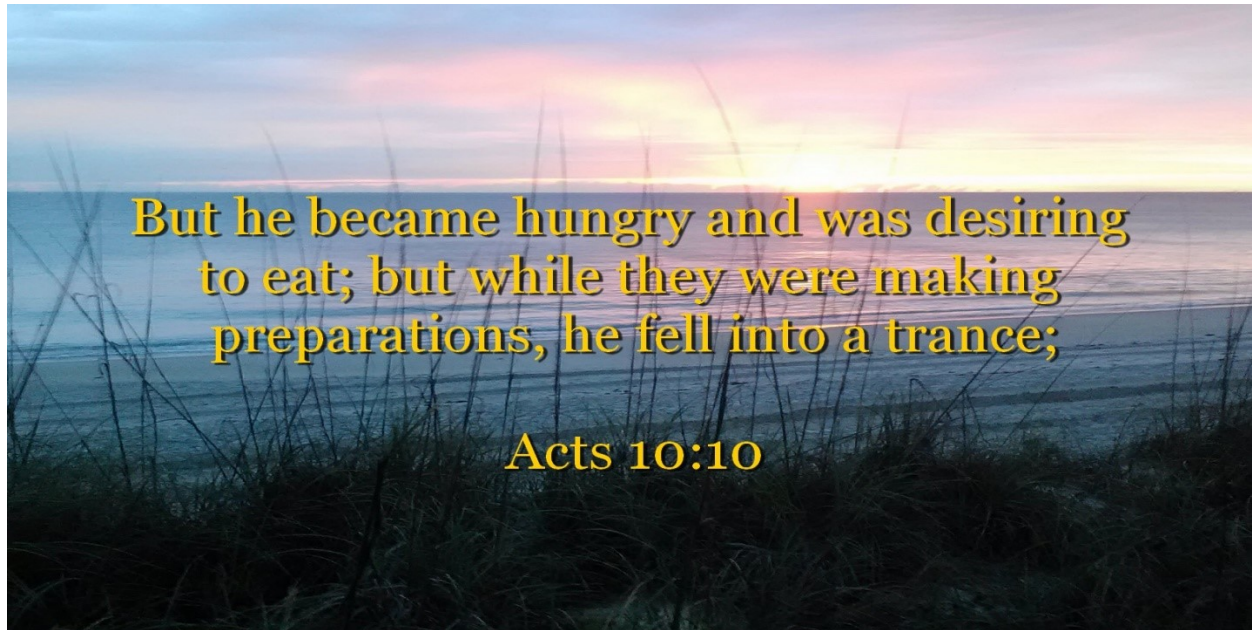
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking time to pray without ceasing. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Peter on the housetop praying in Joppa?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 346

Hungry Today



What happened to Peter? He fell into a trance.

Peter was staying at the house of Simon the Tanner, situated on the Mediterranean Sea. He went on the roof to pray about the sixth hour. But Peter became hungry and wanted to eat. As they were making preparations, Peter fell into a trance.

Peter was in Joppa because some disciples brought him there to Tabitha of Joppa. She had fallen sick and died, but Peter prayed for her and she came back to life. People from all over Joppa turned to the Lord. Peter stayed in Joppa many days and helped them grow up in their faith. Simon the Tanner provided a place for Peter.

The time for Peter to move to Caesarea had come. From Peter's perspective, how would he know when it was time to move? We know that Cornelius the centurion had already received the message to bring Peter to Caesarea. But that would only be half of the equation, because Peter had not

yet received word of the move to Caesarea. As Peter fell into the trance, God was about to show Peter the future of the church.

Trance

1. **But**. What was Peter feeling? Peter was feeling hungry and desired to eat.

2. **Desiring**. As Peter was desiring to eat, the Lord was about to present him with an unusual menu of choices.

3. **Eat**. Peter had always been very careful about what he ate. He did not eat just anything.

4. **Preparations**. The people in the house of Simon the Tanner had begun to make preparations for a meal.

5. **He**. As he was waiting for food, he felt something unusual.

6. **Fell**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter fell into a trance at Joppa at the home of Simon the Tanner and what he saw and heard changed his life forever.

7. **Trance**. We rejoice today because Peter fell into a trance and saw the future of the church revealed to him by God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God spoke to Peter in a trance.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God communicated with people throughout the Bible through dreams and visions, but Moses communicated with the Lord face-to-face.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that Peter fell into a trance and had a vision that changed everything.**

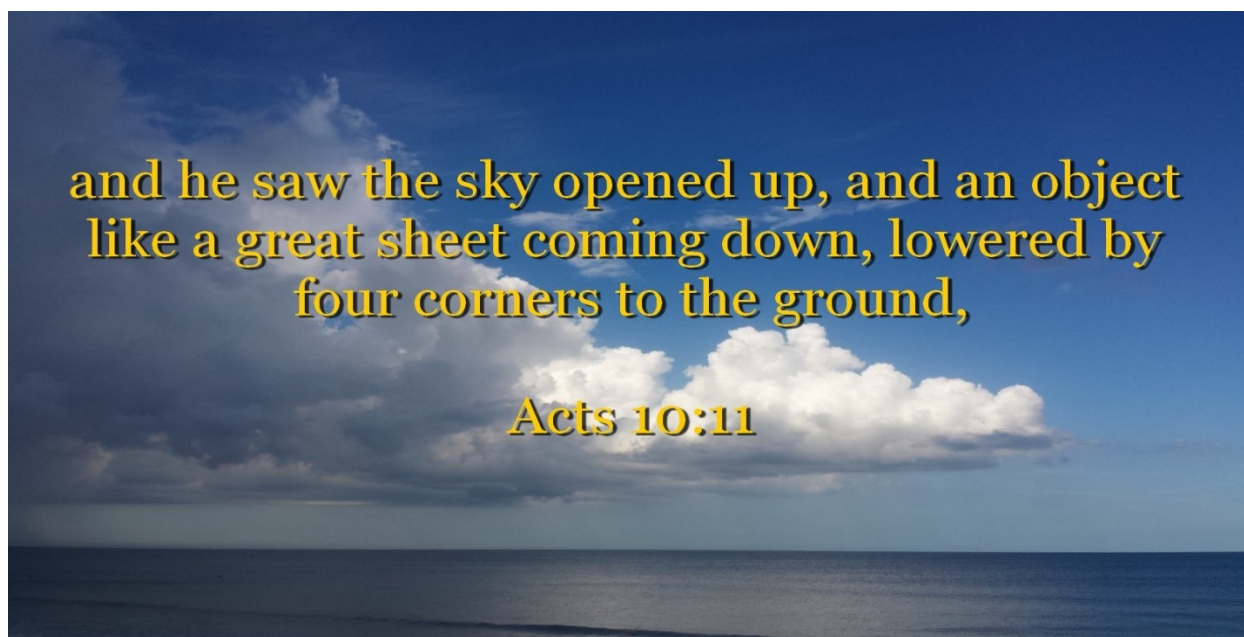
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding the plans of God were revealed in the New Testament to different saints at different times using different means. Will you live holy in the family of God today by learning about how God communicates truth in the Bible?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 347

Object Today



What did Peter see in the trance? He saw a great sheet coming down from heaven.

Peter was on a housetop in Joppa by the Mediterranean Sea. He was staying at the house of Simon the Tanner. As Peter was in a trance, God spoke to him. Peter saw the heaven opened and a large sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground.

Meanwhile, having seen the angel of the Lord in Caesarea, Cornelius had already sent three men to bring Peter to Caesarea. God wanted the people at Caesarea to meet Peter. Peter was not yet ready to meet them until he had seen the sheet lowered from heaven. God was about to tell Peter something truly momentous for the church.

In the New Testament, God spoke to the apostles in various ways. God would reveal the New Testament mysteries to the apostles and prophets. Peter was receiving one of those mysteries at Simon the Tanner's house in Joppa. A New Testament mystery was something that had been hidden in

ages past, but now revealed through the apostles and prophets of the New Testament, according to the will and wisdom of God.

Sheet

1. **He**. What did Peter see in the trance? Peter saw the sky open.
2. **Saw**. Peter saw something he had never seen before. He saw the sky open and something came down.
3. **Sky**. As Peter saw the sky opened before him, God was communicating to Peter new revelation about the nature of the church.
4. **Opened**. Because the sky opened, Peter knew that he was receiving a message of great importance from God.
5. **Object**. Peter saw an object coming down from the sky which opened.
6. **Sheet**. Living holy in the family of God means that God showed Peter a sheet with four corners being lowered by its four corners from the sky.
7. **Ground**. We rejoice today because saw this sheet, lowered by four corners, go all the way to the ground before Peter.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter in his vision at Joppa concerning the animals in the sheet.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for the very graphic means He used to reveal truth to Peter that he would never forget.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that His revelation can be very dramatic and sweeping.**

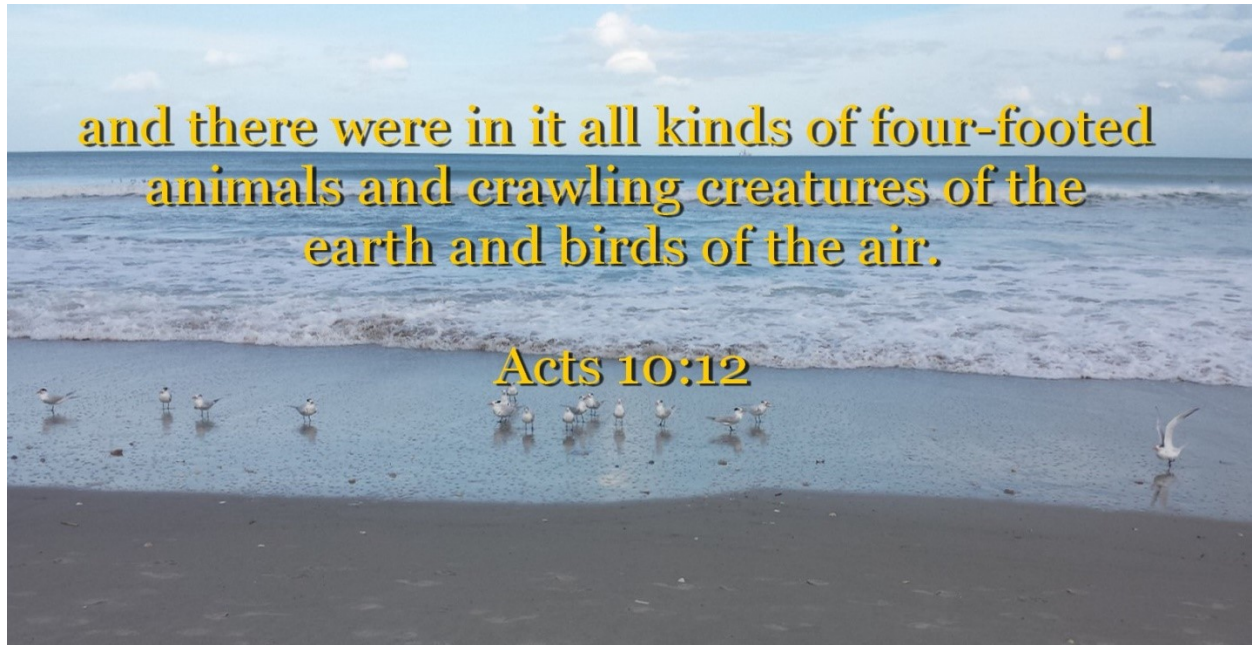
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter and the sky opening with a sheet coming down. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for lowering the sheet from heaven so that Peter could see what was in the sheet?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 348

Animals Today



What things were in the blanket? Peter saw all kinds of animals and creatures in the blanket.

As Peter fell into a trance on the housetop in Joppa, a sheet was lowered by its four corners to the ground. Peter then saw that the great sheet had in it many kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. Peter was a devout Jew and followed all kinds of dietary restrictions imposed by the Old Testament. Peter could not eat any animal at any time, but only those allowed by the Old Testament Law.

When Peter gazed upon all the animals in the blanket, he was not looking at dinner which was being prepared for him downstairs. Peter knew the difference between clean and unclean animals. If Peter ate any part of an unclean animal, he would have broken the Law of God and become unclean himself. He would have to go through a procedure for becoming clean again so that he could associate with others of like faith. Therefore, Peter assiduously avoided eating or handling unclean food and animals for concern over becoming unclean himself.

Creatures

1. **In**. What was in the sheet lowered earth? All kinds of unclean things.
2. **Four-Footed**. All kinds of four-footed animals were in the sheet, including unclean animals.
3. **Animals**. God had declared some animals unclean and, therefore, could not be eaten by Jews.
4. **Crawling**. God had also issued laws about crawling creatures, and some of them could not be eaten by Jews.
5. **Creatures**. God made all the creatures, but God said some of them were unclean.
6. **Birds**. Living holy in the family of God means that God imposed dietary restrictions under the covenant of Moses, declaring some birds unclean.
7. **Air**. We rejoice today because the birds of the air and the animals of the earth were all created by God, but He separated them into clean and unclean groups.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the animals and the sheet lowered from heaven.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that we no longer live under the Old Testament Law with its dietary restrictions.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by eating all things with thanksgiving because the Lord Jesus had declared all things clean through Him.**

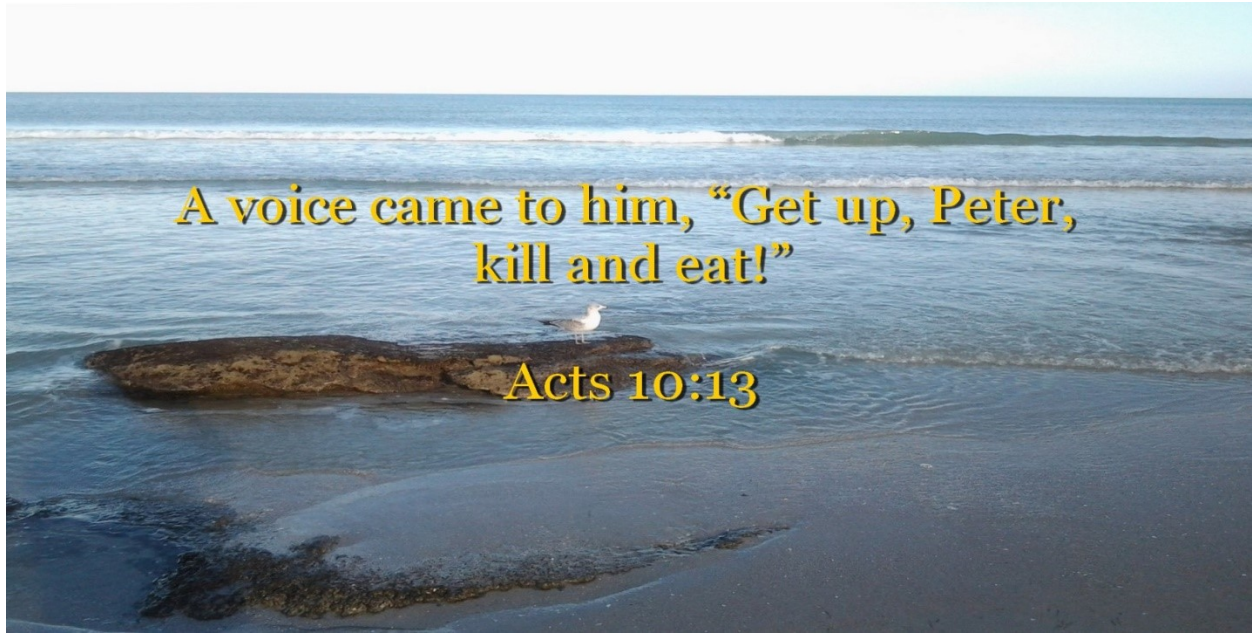
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that we no longer live with dietary restrictions imposed by the Law of Moses. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He has cleansed all food and taught Peter a lesson using animals and creatures and birds in a sheet lowered from heaven?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 349

Voice Today



What did the voice say to Peter? The voice system commanded Peter, “Get up, kill and eat!”

In his trance Peter saw all kinds of animals lowered in a sheet to earth. They came down out of heaven. When the voice out of heaven commanded him to kill and eat those animals, alarm bells went off in the head of Peter.

Peter had practiced strict dietary control as a Jew following the Old Testament Law. He did not want to violate God’s Law by eating unclean animals. Therefore, Peter was taken aback by the command kill and eat. He had never killed or eaten an unclean animal in his life, if he had been following the Old Testament law.

The voice from heaven, speaking to Peter in a trance, was changing Peter’s view about clean things. Peter not only considered animals unclean, but Gentiles were unclean as well, particularly because of their dietary practices of eating unclean things.

Kill and Eat

1. **Voice**. What did Peter hear? Peter heard a voice after the sheet reached the ground.
2. **Came**. The voice came to Peter in his vision.
3. **Him**. Having seen the sheet reach the ground, Peter heard the voice providing direction to him.
4. **Get**. The first command was “Get up!”
5. **Peter**. The voice called Peter by name and gave him personal commands related to the sheet and the animals.
6. **Kill**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter heard the voice tell him to kill the four-footed animals, and crawling creatures and birds of the sky. Remember, Peter was already hungry before the trance started.
7. **Eat**. We rejoice today because the voice commanded Peter to eat all the animals and creatures and birds in the sheet.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter looking at the animals and hearing the voice to get up and kill them and eat them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He showed clear pictures of things Peter already knew and understood to change Peter's mind forever.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He presents the coolest symbols and illustrations to communicate His truth.**

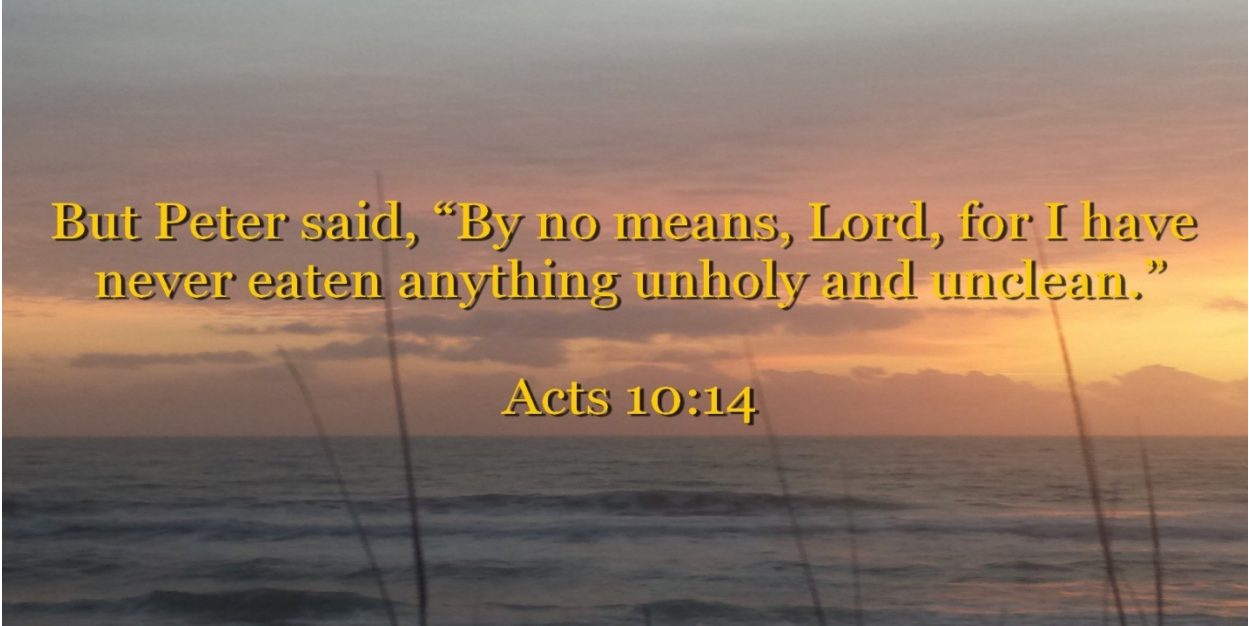
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He communicated to Peter that all things are clean. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God has cleansed all things by the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 350

No Today



But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.”

Acts 10:14

What concerns did Peter have about the animals? Peter was very concerned about eating anything unholy and unclean.

As a Jew following the Old Testament Law with its dietary practices, Peter had never eaten anything unholy and unclean and his entire life. He did not want to start now.

Notice that Peter had no problem objecting to the command of the Lord concerning the animals. Peter did not just say no; he said absolutely not, by no means. Peter always had a habit of questioning what Jesus commanded him to do and making bold assertions about his own piety and practices.

At times in our lives God intends for us to learn new things about Him and His ways. When we first hear what God is trying to tell us, we have an urge to cling to what we already know and not learn something new that God is trying to teach us. Peter knew that eating unclean animals was wrong, but

when God says get up and eat those animals, then you know God is trying to teach you something new. Remember Peter was still in a trance.

Unholy and Unclean

1. **Peter**. What did Peter reply to the Lord? Peter said absolutely not.
2. **No**. Peter gave an emphatic denial of 'by no means'.
3. **Lord**. Following a pattern, Peter told the Lord that he would not obey His command to kill and eat of the unclean things.
4. **Never**. Peter provided his reasoning to the Lord. Peter had never eaten anything unclean or unholy, because the Lord commanded them not to eat such unclean and unholy things.
5. **Eaten**. Peter had never eaten any unclean thing or any unholy thing in his life and was not about to start then.
6. **Unholy**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Peter disobeyed the voice that commanded him to eat the unclean and unholy things.
7. **Unclean**. We rejoice today because Jesus had the power to make all things clean to be enjoyed by those people who eat them and give thanks to God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter disobeying the direct command to get up, kill and eat.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that Jesus pronounced all things clean.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by not imposing upon the church today dietary restrictions based upon the Old Testament Law.**

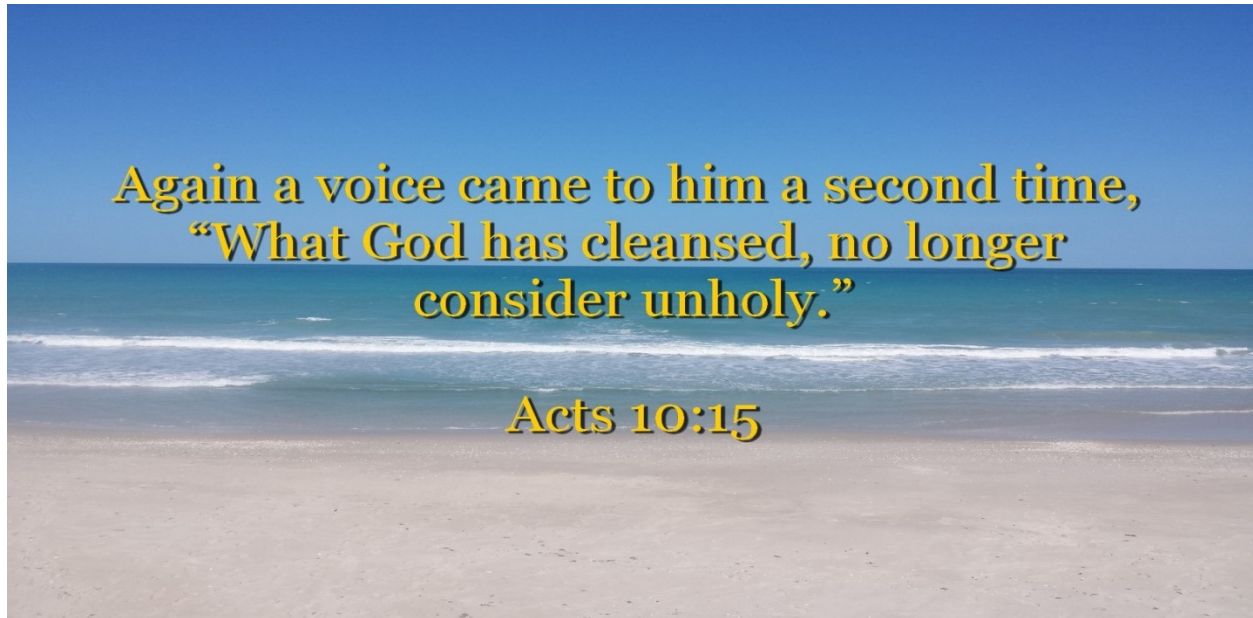
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter disobeying the direct command of the voice that commanded him to eat the things he considered unclean and unholy. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He has cleansed all things and that He also has cleansed all people who call upon His name?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 351

Cleansed Today



What did the voice say to Peter the second time? The voice said, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.”

Peter fell into a trance and saw a great sheet lowered from heaven to earth, filled with all kind of unclean animals. Peter heard a voice tell him to get up, kill and eat. Peter objected because he had never eaten anything unclean.

The voice then spoke to Peter a second time. The voice told Peter that God has cleansed all those unclean things. Therefore, Peter should no longer consider those things unholy. At this point Peter had not comprehended the meaning of the vision. He heard the voice and understood the words, but the full revelation God had delivered to him was not yet clear to him.

Peter had received a word of wisdom from God. The Spiritual Gift of The Word of Wisdom includes a revelation of a mystery according to the purpose and plans of God. Therefore, the mystery was that God had cleansed all unclean things and Peter should now eat them. Peter should no longer consider those things unholy that God has cleansed. That truth had been

hidden for a long time, but now that the church had been inaugurated at Pentecost, the time for the revelation of the truth previously hidden had arrived. Peter had received a great revelation, but he had yet to understand its full application.

Consider

1. **Again**. What was Peter to consider no longer unholy? All the things that God had cleansed.

2. **Voice**. Peter had heard a voice directing him to eat the things lowered in the sheet.

3. **God**. God emphasized that He had cleansed the animals in the sheet.

4. **Cleansed**. What God has cleansed was no longer unholy and unclean.

5. **No**. God used the voice to tell Peter that all the animals and the sheet were cleansed by God and no longer unholy.

6. **Consider**. Living holy in the family of God means that God wanted Peter to change his mind about what he considered holy and unholy.

7. **Unholy**. We rejoice today because God had declared all things holy and cleansed by him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God has cleansed all things.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by obeying God to no longer consider unholy the things He has cleansed.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by following God's directives on what to eat and drink.**

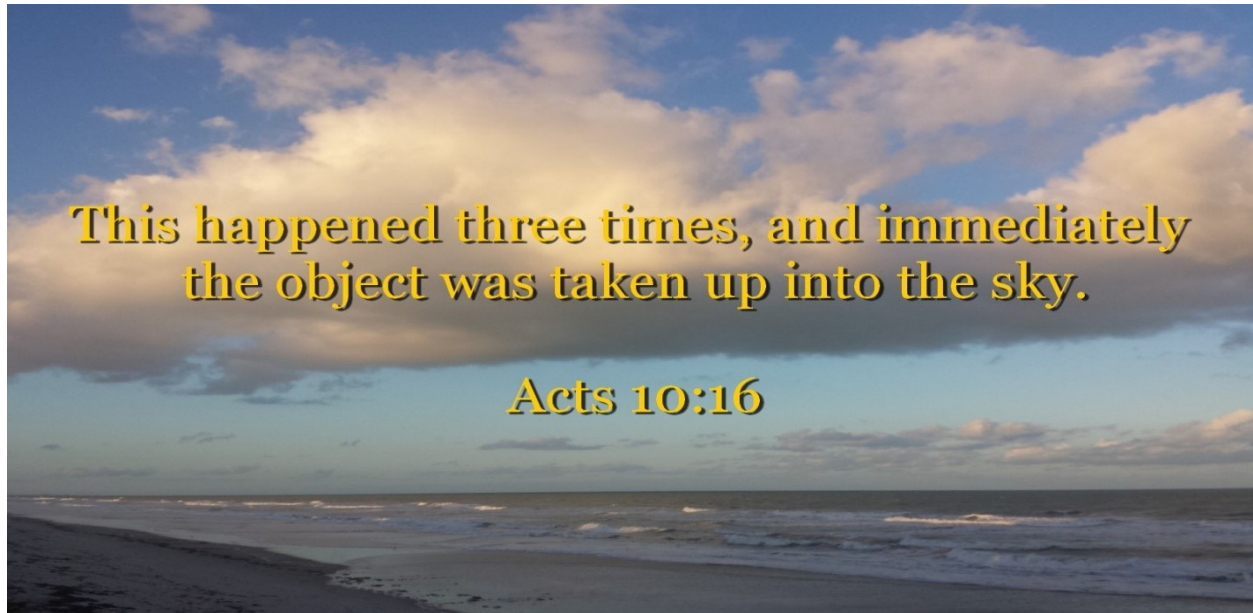
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by obeying God when He directs us to do things we have never done before. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following God's commands, even when they conflict with your past experience?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 352

Three Times Today



What happened three times with Peter? The object was lowered to earth three times.

God did not tell us why He repeated the thing three times. Often, however, when God wants to emphasize the importance of something, He repeats the revelation or instruction. In this case, God really wanted Peter to understand the gravity of the revelation given to him. When he understood the revelation more fully, Peter would open new doors for the entire church.

God chose Paul to be the apostle to the Gentiles. Of course, Paul was one of the most Jewish guys you could find. He was a Pharisee of the Pharisees born of the tribe of Benjamin, circumcised the eighth day. He was educated under Gamaliel and excelled beyond all of his contemporaries in the Jewish faith. As to zeal he was a persecutor of the church. Even so, Paul never held the office of apostle. God chose Paul, the devout Jew, to help with the transition of upbringing the Gentiles and of the church, originally populated with Jews to whom the covenants and promises of God applied first.

Peter held the office of apostle and was the apostle to the Jews. Peter ministered in Jerusalem and the surrounding area, plus he traveled abroad at times.

Taken Up

1. **This**. After this where did the sheet go? The sheet was taken up into the sky.

2. **Three**. Three times God commanded Peter to eat and consider the animals clean because God had cleansed them.

3. **Times**. Three times these things happened.

4. **Immediately**. After the third time, the sheet immediately was taken up to heaven.

5. **Sheet**. The sheet held all the animals that Peter saw and considered unholy and unclean.

6. **Taken**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Peter seeing the sheet being taken up to heaven.

7. **Sky**. We rejoice today because the sheet came down from the sky and went back to the sky, full of animals once considered unclean, but now cleansed by God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the sheet being lowered down to the ground, full of unclean animals now cleaned by God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that Peter understood that God was communicating very important truths to him that day in Joppa.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by studying the revelations that God makes to us through the Bible so that we may understand His will for our lives.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering what God has shown us in the Bible so that we can live pleasing to Him, even if we do not understand everything at first. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to help us understand the revelations He provided in the Bible?

HALLELUJAH !

15

Peter in Caesarea Today

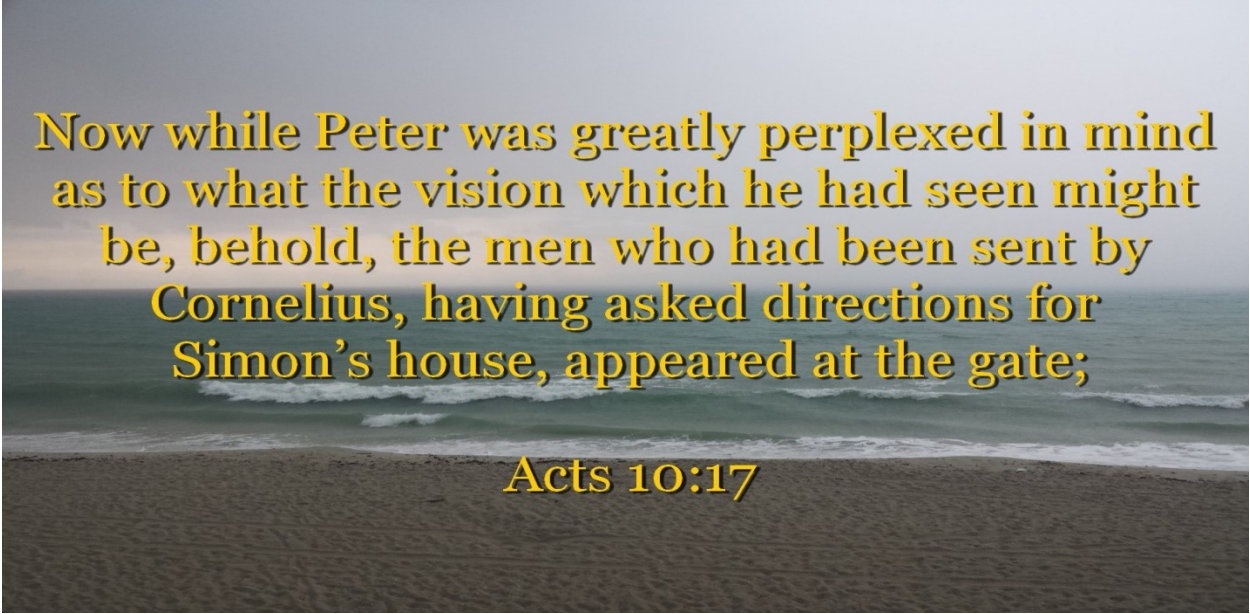
Peter left Joppa and arrived at Caesarea after a day's journey. Cornelius met him and fell at his feet, worshiping him. Peter directed Cornelius not to worship him and saying, "I too am just a man." Peter found many people assembled to hear him because Cornelius invited his friends and family to hear the message of salvation brought by Peter.

Cornelius related to Peter how he had seen the angel of God directing him to send messengers to Peter and Joppa. Cornelius told Peter that they were assembled to hear all that Peter had been commanded by the Lord to speak to them.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 353

Perplexed Today



Now 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;

Acts 10:17

How did Peter respond to the vision? Peter was perplexed by what he had seen.

While Peter was perplexed, the men sent by Cornelius arrived at the gate of the house of Simon the Tanner where Peter was staying. They had asked for directions to Simon's house and found it.

God always times things to perfection. Cornelius had a vision a few days earlier about sending to Joppa to find Peter. About the time that the messengers from Cornelius arrived in Joppa, Peter was finishing his trance and trying to figure out what it meant.

The Spiritual Gift of The Word of Wisdom means that the person has the spiritual gift of receiving and speaking the mysteries of God. A New Testament mystery was something that was hidden in the past but revealed in the New Testament through the apostles and prophets. Directly related to the Spiritual Gift of the Word of Wisdom is the Spiritual Gift of the Word of Knowledge. The word of knowledge represents a revelation from God about the authoritative application of the revelation received from the Spiritual Gift

of the Word of Wisdom or other revelation from God. Peter had received the word of wisdom through the vision of the sheet, but now needed the word of knowledge to know how to apply that previous revelation from God.

Appeared

1. **Now**. Who were the men who appeared at the gate of Simon the Tanner's house? They were the three men sent by Cornelius to find Peter.

2. **Peter**. When they arrived, Peter was perplexed about what he had seen in the vision.

3. **Perplexed**. Peter was perplexed because he did not understand the significance of what God was trying to tell him.

4. **Men**. The three men Cornelius sent to find Peter arrived while Peter was feeling perplexed. He still had no idea what he should do with the vision he had received.

5. **Directions**. The three men from Cornelius asked for directions about how to find the house of Simon the Tanner.

6. **Simon's**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the three men who obeyed Cornelius and tracked down Simon's house.

7. **Gate**. We rejoice today because God's plan for Cornelius and Peter to come together in Caesarea had reached a major milestone.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter being perplexed by the vision.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His plans to time the arrival of the men from Cornelius with Peter being perplexed about the vision.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that faithful men follow His plans, even if they do not fully comprehend all the movements at first.**

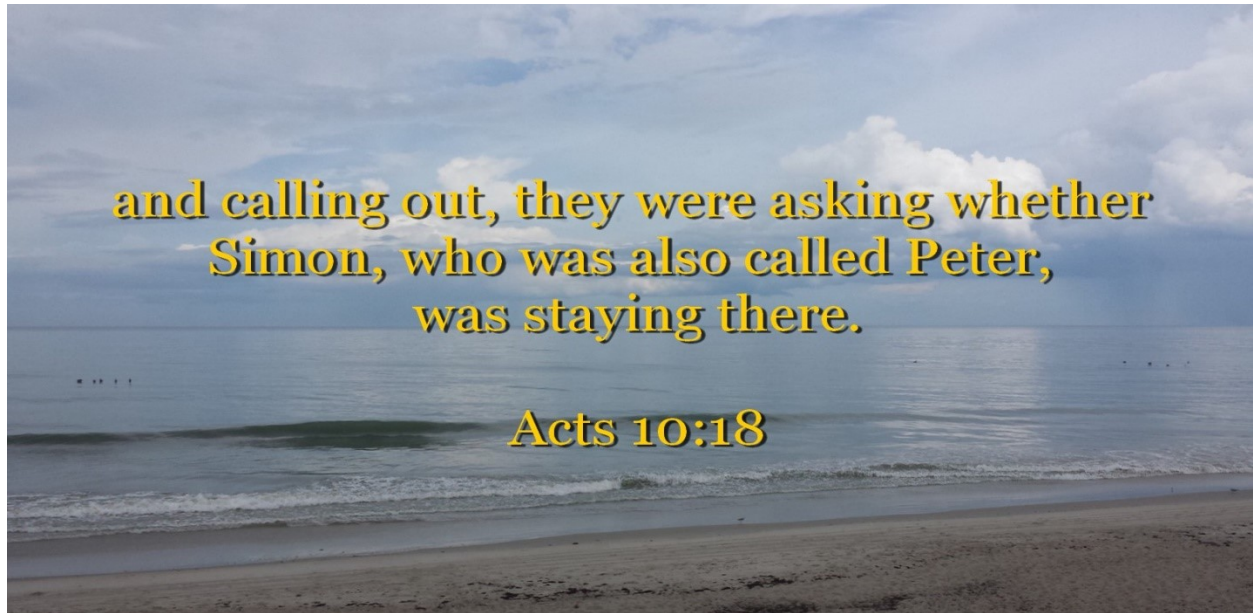
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for Peter pondering the plans of God related to the sheet. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for revealing His divine will to Peter through the sheet?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 354

Calling Today



What did the men do when they arrived at the house of Simon the Tanner, looking for Peter? They asked whether Simon, also called Peter, was staying there.

Cornelius commissioned faithful men to go to Joppa to find Peter. Cornelius chose two of his servants and a soldier because he deemed them faithful and trustworthy enough to go and find Peter and bring him to Caesarea. Cornelius was acting pursuant to the words of an angel of God directing him to find Peter in Joppa and bring him back. Cornelius did not know why Peter needed to come to Caesarea.

When the men arrived in Joppa, they knew they were looking for the house of Simon the Tanner. The revelation from the angel to Cornelius was very precise. Having asked directions about the location of Simon the Tanner's house, they went there and were at the gate, asking about Peter.

God had perfect coordination between Cornelius and the men he sent coming from Caesarea and Peter finishing his trance in Joppa when the men

arrived. Once Peter heard why they were there, he would be off to Caesarea, but none of them knew precisely why Peter needed to go to Caesarea.

Asking

1. **Calling**. What were the men calling out about? They were calling to see if Peter was staying there.

2. **Out**. The men were outside at the gate, but they were calling out trying to locate Peter to bring him to Caesarea.

3. **Asking**. The men at the gate hoped to find out by asking if Peter was there.

4. **Whether**. They wanted to know if Peter was staying there, because they had information from Cornelius.

5. **Peter**. Cornelius had been charged by the angel of the Lord to find Peter and bring him to Caesarea.

6. **Staying**. Living holy in the family of God means that men wanted to know if Peter was staying there in the house of Simon the Tanner.

7. **There**. We rejoice today because Peter was staying there and would soon meet the men from Cornelius.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the three men looking for Peter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God provided very specific leading for the men to find Peter, but they still needed to confirm they had found Peter.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by following the leading that God provides for our lives so that we meet just the right people at just the right time and place.**

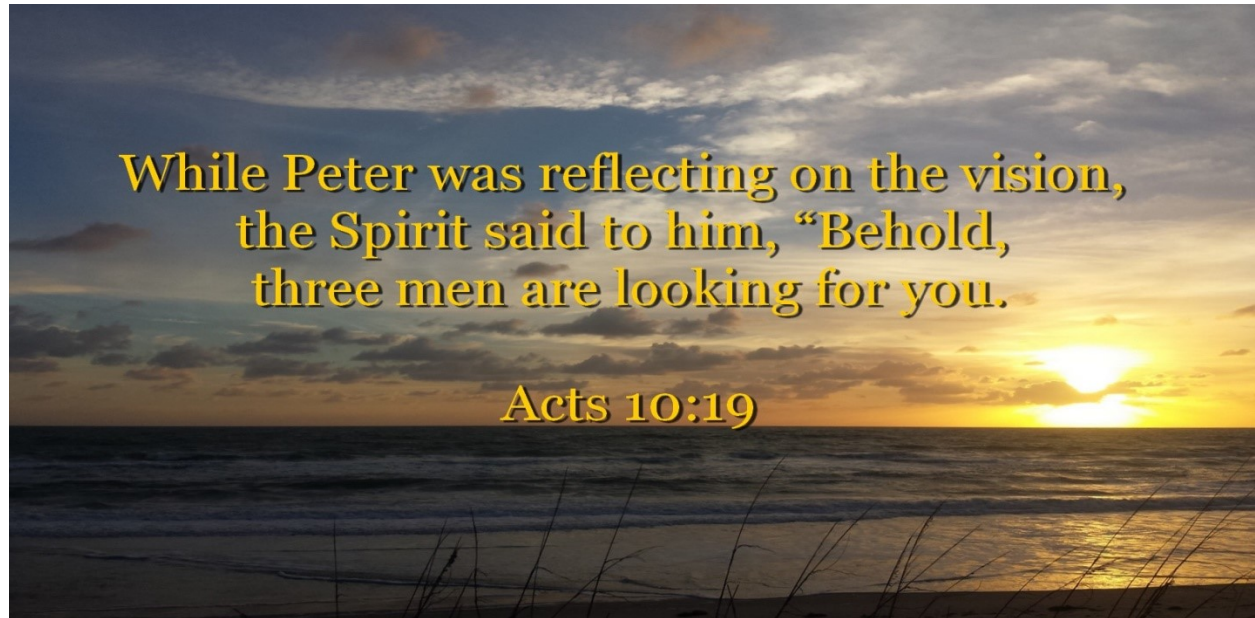
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter and the three men looking for him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by finding the people that God sent to meet you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 355

Reflecting Today



How did Peter learn of the three men who were looking for him? The Holy Spirit told Peter that the men were looking for him.

Peter was still reflecting on the vision that he had. He did not understand the sheet and the unclean animals and what God was telling him. He knew it had something to do with God cleansing things, but the exact application eluded Peter. Therefore, he was reflecting upon it trying to discern what God was telling him.

Having received the word of wisdom from God, Peter did not know what to do with that revelation from God about the mystery of the Gentiles. God, however, was going to clear all of that up for Peter with a word of knowledge which would help him understand how the word of wisdom was to be authoritatively applied to the Gentiles in Caesarea and elsewhere.

Just because Peter received the word of wisdom, he did not understand what it meant. Old Testament prophets went through the same thing where they received a revelation from God, but they did not understand what it meant because in many cases it pertained to the future. Many prophets

longed to look into the things that they prophesied about because they were fascinating and intriguing.

The Spirit Said

1. **Peter**. Did Peter understand the revelation about the sheet right away? No, he had to ponder for a while.

2. **Reflecting**. While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Holy Spirit talked with Peter.

3. **Vision**. While Peter continued to think about the vision and its meaning, the Holy Spirit gave Peter an important message.

4. **Spirit**. The Holy Spirit wanted Peter to know more about what Peter should do with the revelation he received from God.

5. **Behold**. The Holy Spirit told Peter to behold that the three men from Caesarea had arrived.

6. **Men**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit provides many accounts of Him leading men to follow Him.

7. **Looking**. We rejoice today because Peter received a direct communication about the three men arriving below, even before Peter understood the significance of the vision.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Holy Spirit informed Peter that the three men had arrived.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting and obeying the words of the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon the Holy Spirit providing guidance in our lives.**

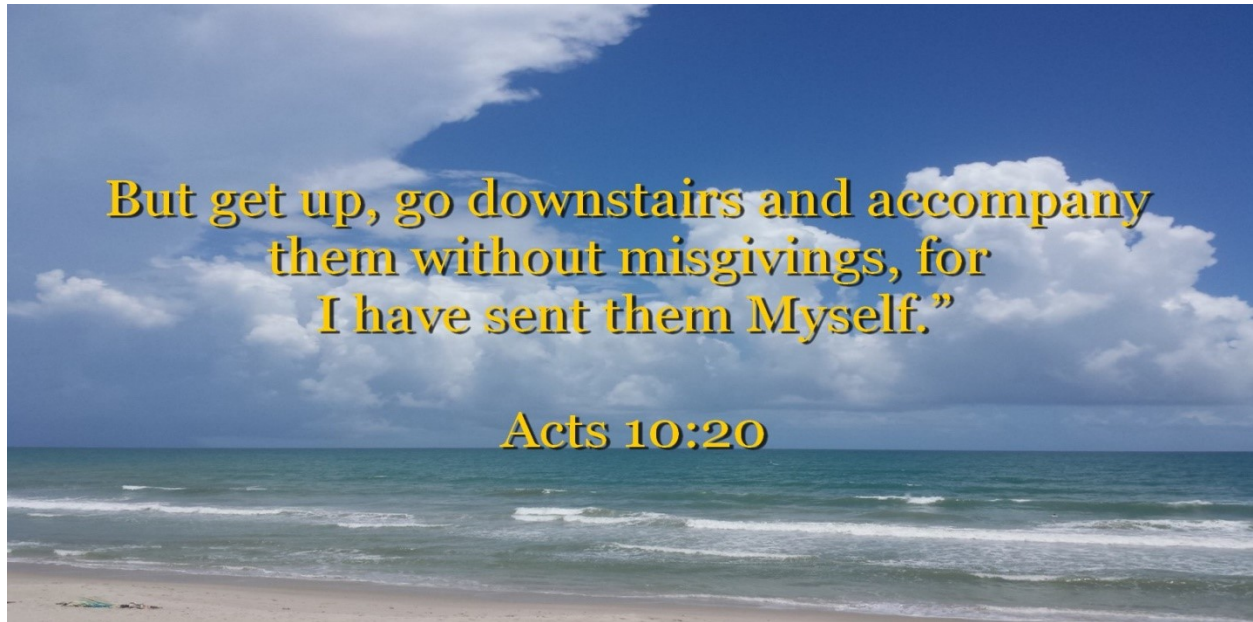
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the men from Cornelius. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the directions He provides through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 356

Downstairs Today



Who sent the men to Peter? The Holy Spirit sent the men to Peter.

As Peter came out of his trance, the men from Caesarea appeared at the gate below and were asking for him. At that time the Holy Spirit told Peter that three men were downstairs looking for him. The Holy Spirit also told him to get up and go downstairs and go with them without misgivings because the Holy Spirit had sent them to Peter.

The Holy Spirit had moved Peter from Lydda to Joppa and now He was moving him from Joppa to Caesarea. While in Joppa, Peter had seen a great sheet let down from heaven filled with many unclean animals. God told Peter that what He had cleansed, Peter should no longer consider unholy or unclean. Peter was deeply perplexed about what God was telling him. Peter did not understand how the men from Caesarea would open the door to understanding the vision regarding the sheet and the animals.

The Holy Spirit had a close relationship with Peter. Beginning at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit had filled Peter and empowered him to be a

witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He performed signs and wonders and spread the gospel to Israel and beyond.

Sent

1. **Get**. What did the Holy Spirit direct Peter to do? The Holy Spirit directed Peter to get up and go.

2. **Go**. Peter had been on the housetop when he fell into the trance.

3. **Accompany**. The men arrived from Cornelius and were standing at the gate to Simon the Tanner's home.

4. **Misgivings**. While Peter may have had misgivings about going with strangers, the Holy Spirit told Peter that he should have no misgivings about these men because the Holy Spirit had sent them.

5. **I**. The Holy Spirit communicated directly with Peter, using "I sent them."

6. **Sent**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit sent men to bring Peter to Caesarea.

7. **Them**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit sent them to Peter, and the Holy Spirit was moving Peter forward for greater ministry.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Holy Spirit talking with Peter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to provide guidance for our lives so that we act without misgivings.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the Holy Spirit indwelling us and leading us to do the will of God.**

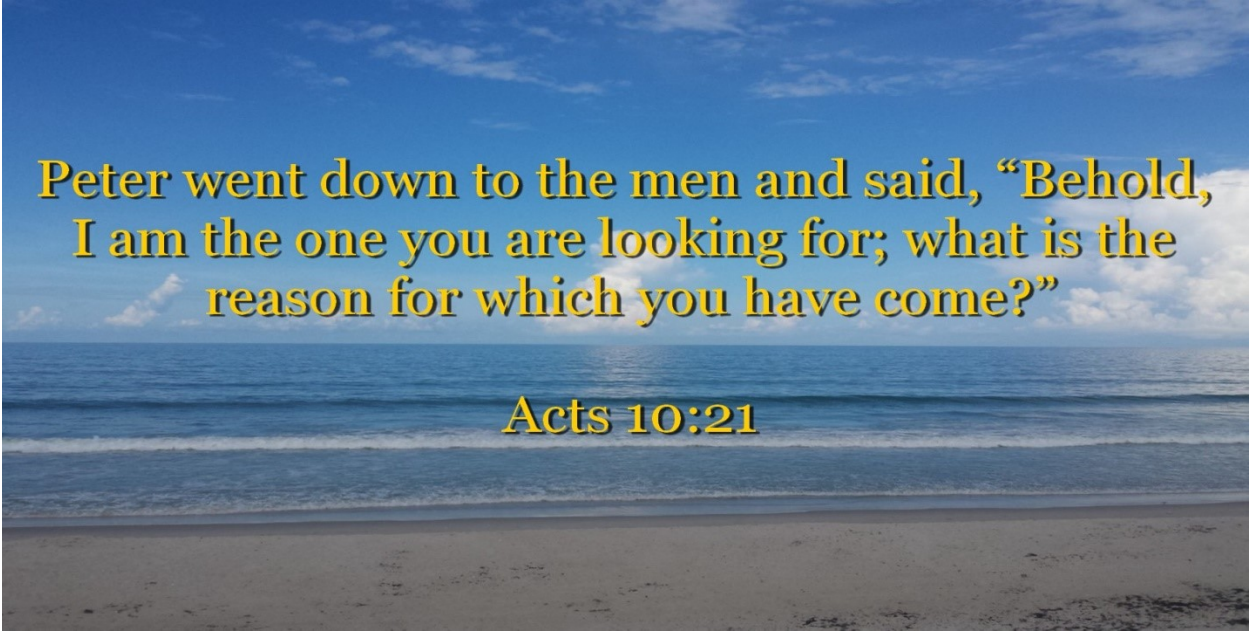
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting the Holy Spirit to lead us to do God's will without misgivings. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the Holy Spirit to lead you to do God's will?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 357

Peter Today



Peter went down to the men and said, “Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?”

Acts 10:21

What did Peter ask the men from Caesarea? Peter asked them why they had come to Joppa.

Peter knew that the Holy Spirit had sent them and that he should go with them without misgivings. Yet, Peter did not know why they had come. Peter had not yet put together why those men had come with the vision of the sheet. God was going to use Peter, the apostle to the Jews, to witness the conversion of Gentiles. Peter had already seen the conversion of the Samaritans having witnessed them being filled with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands.

When the men arrived from Caesarea, Peter knew he should go with them without misgivings. The Holy Spirit laid to rest the fears of Peter with more special revelation to Peter. Even so, the Holy Spirit did not tell Peter everything, but kept him in suspense to some degree.

Peter was coming down from the rooftop and now was heading off to Caesarea. The men and traveled a long way, over thirty miles, to get to Joppa

and that return journey would take at least a day, depending on how they traveled.

Reason

1. **Peter**. What did Peter want to know? Peter wanted to know why the men had come to see Him. Peter already knew he should join them, but he did not yet know why. The Holy Spirit had only revealed so much to Peter, but no more.

2. **Went**. Peter then obeyed the Holy Spirit and went down to see the men from Caesarea.

3. **Down**. Peter had been on the housetop when he fell into the trance, and then went down to meet the men at the gate.

4. **Said**. When Peter saw them, he said that he was the one they were looking for.

5. **I**. Peter said, “I am to the one.” He trusted the Holy Spirit’s leading him downstairs to these men.

6. **What**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter obeyed the leading of the Holy Spirit without misgivings, but he was curious.

7. **Come**. We rejoice today because Peter was curious about the men who had come from Caesarea. His curiosity would soon be satisfied.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by obeying the Holy Spirit and His leading in our lives, even when it means just going downstairs to meet people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following God's plans for us to meet new people and accompany them to minister in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit working together to bring people to salvation.**

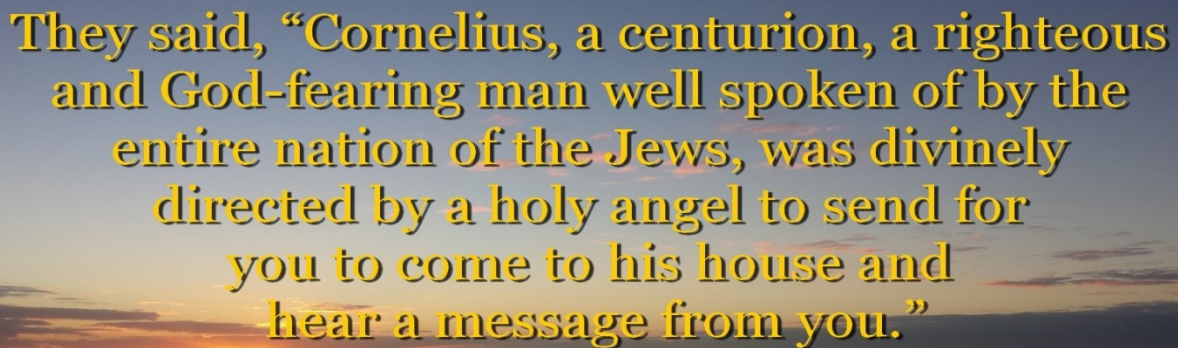
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by following the directions of the Holy Spirit to meet new people and go to different places. Will you live holy in the family of God today by welcoming the people that the Holy Spirit sends your way?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 358

Cornelius Today



They said, “Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you.”

Acts 10:22

What did the men tell Peter about why they came to Joppa? They told Peter that a holy angel told Cornelius, their master, to go to Joppa and bring Peter back to Caesarea.

The men told Peter about Cornelius. They said Cornelius was a centurion and a righteous and God-fearing man before God. He had a great reputation in the community and by the entire nation of Jews. Cornelius was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for Peter and bring him back to Caesarea so that they could hear a message from Peter.

Peter had a lot of information to take in in a hurry. The Holy Spirit had already prepared him to talk to the men from Caesarea. Peter now knew that the Holy Spirit wanted him to deliver a message in Caesarea. The Holy Spirit was setting the itinerary of Peter moving him from Lydda to Joppa and now Caesarea. The Holy Spirit was going to use Peter to do important work in all of those places with eternal consequences.

Peter traveled proclaiming the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God did great signs and wonders through Peter and many people turn to the Lord. Peter had more great ministry in front of him.

Message

1. **They**. What did the men say about the reason they were there? They were sent by Cornelius of Caesarea.

2. **Said**. The men were quick to provide an explanation to Peter about their reason for coming, but their answer raised some new issues.

3. **Cornelius**. They spoke highly of Cornelius.

4. **Centurion**. He was a centurion in the Roman army, of the Italian cohort.

5. **Righteous**. He was a righteous and God-fearing man, well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews.

6. **Angel**. Living holy in the family of God means that an angel directed Cornelius to send men to find Peter and have those men relate the vision of the angel to Peter to persuade him to come to Caesarea.

7. **Message**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit was arranging for Peter to go to Caesarea to preach a message to the Gentiles there that would have great implications for the entire church.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by listening to people explain to us why the Holy Spirit sent them to us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the Holy Spirit moves in the hearts of people to bring them together at just the right time and place.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the way His plans come together to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by obeying God as He provides opportunities to present the whole message of this Life to new people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following God's plans for you to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to new people in new places, all according to the plan of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 359

Invited Today



What did Peter do with the men from Cornelius? He invited them in and gave them lodging for the night.

On the next day, Peter got up and left Joppa for Caesarea with them. Some men from Joppa accompanied him to Caesarea. The Holy Spirit had moved Peter from Jerusalem to Lydda to Joppa and to Caesarea.

The Holy Spirit told Peter to go with the men from Cornelius without misgivings. You may recall that the Jews persecuted Peter and John and the religious Council had very hard feelings against them. Traveling also posed its own risk and dangers.

The group heading to Caesarea included two servants of Cornelius and a soldier who served under Cornelius. Some men from Caesarea also accompanied them. The trip to Caesarea would take a little more than a day, depending upon how fast people walk the thirty-three miles or so.

Peter had seen the Lord do great things in both Lydda and Joppa. Aeneas the paralytic had been healed and Tabitha was raised from the dead.

Peter had already seen marvelous things happen in the places he had already visited.

Lodging

1. **So**. What did Peter do for the men? Peter invited the men into the house of Simon the Tanner.

2. **He**. He invited them in because he intended to go with them to Caesarea, but the journey would take more than a day.

3. **Invited**. Peter invited the men into the house, because they needed a place to stay for the night.

4. **Them**. Peter invited all three of them to stay overnight.

5. **In**. The house apparently had enough room for three more men to stay there so Peter invited them in.

6. **Gave**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter welcomed the three men from Caesarea.

7. **Lodging**. We rejoice today because the three men needed lodging, and Peter found a place for them to stay the night in the house of Simon the Tanner. On the next day, Peter left with them for Caesarea, accompanied by some of the men from Joppa.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Peter invited strangers into the home.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by providing hospitality to people who travel in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by sharing our homes and lodging with people doing God's will.**

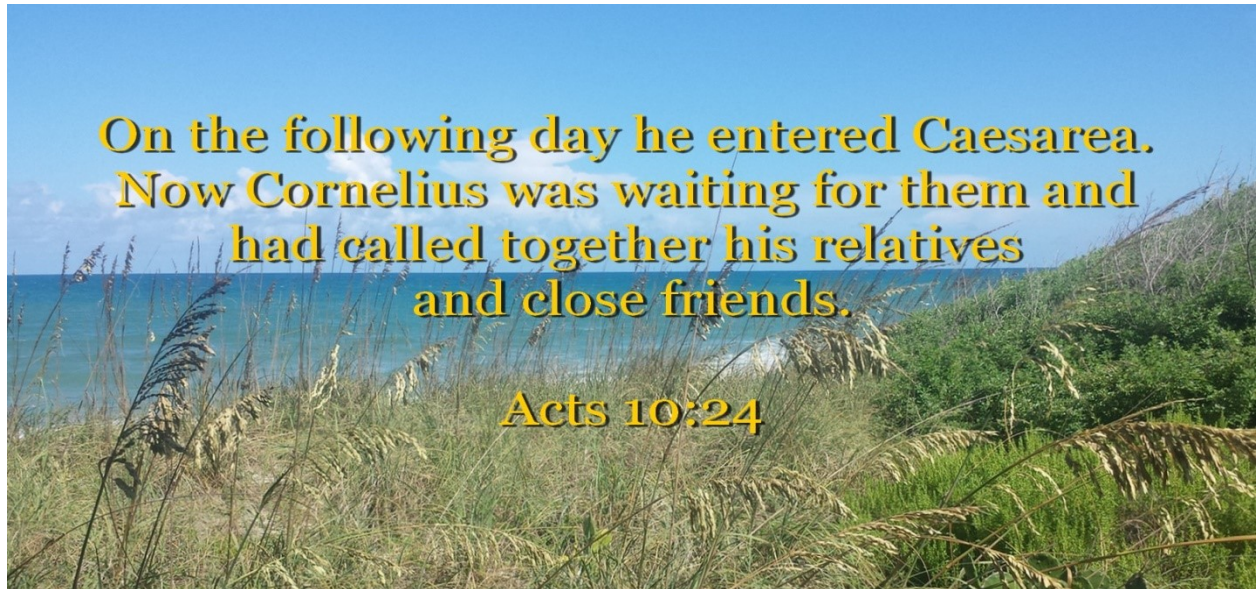
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking men into our homes that God has sent to us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by showing hospitality to strangers God sends to you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 360

Caesarea Today



On the following day, what happened? The group entered Caesarea.

When the group arrived in Caesarea, Cornelius was waiting for them. He had called together his relatives and close friends. You may recall that Cornelius had received a message from the Holy Spirit that Peter would deliver a message to them.

Cornelius was a God-fearing man who prayed constantly. He was known for his goodness and kindness to the Jewish people. As a Roman centurion, he had a position of rank and authority, yet he was a God-fearing man. The angel had told Cornelius that his prayers and alms ascended to God as a memorial.

Cornelius was looking forward to hearing from Peter, especially after the visit from the angel. The angel had told Cornelius that Peter would deliver a message to them. Cornelius thought that message was so important that Peter was bringing that Cornelius gathered together his relatives and friends. God had a special place in his heart for Cornelius and wanted to be sure he heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Cornelius, the Gentile, would hear

the message from Peter and God would help Peter understand the message with the animals and the sheet that God had cleansed so that they were no longer unholy or unclean.

Waiting

1. **Day**. What did Cornelius do? Cornelius gathered his relatives and friends to hear Peter.
2. **Caesarea**. The day after the men left Joppa, they entered Caesarea.
3. **Cornelius**. Cornelius was waiting for them.
4. **Waiting**. While he was waiting for the men to arrive from Joppa, then called together people to hear the message from Peter.
5. **Called**. Cornelius called people to him because the Holy Spirit had told him that Peter would bring a message to them.
6. **Relatives**. Living holy in the family of God means that we care about our relatives and we want to share the message from God with them.
7. **Friends**. We rejoice today because Cornelius not only called his relatives to him, but he also called his close friends to hear the message from Peter.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that Cornelius was waiting with friends and family to greet Peter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by calling upon friends and family to gather together to hear the word from God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by listening to God speak to us with our friends and family.**

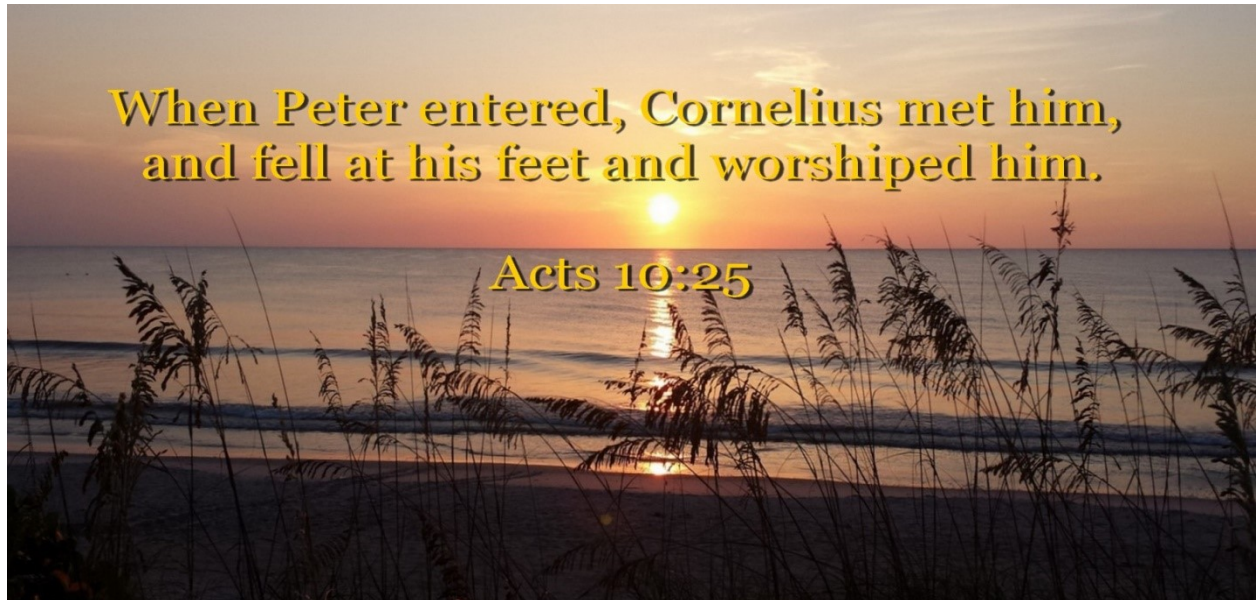
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by calling together our friends and family to hear the word of God spoken to us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God drawing people like us to Himself?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 361

Peter Today



What did Cornelius do when he met Peter? He fell at his feet and worshiped him.

Cornelius had a vision in Caesarea a few days before he met Peter face-to-face. An angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him to bring Peter from Joppa to Caesarea. Cornelius sent three men and they picked up Peter and brought him back to Caesarea.

About the time the men from Caesarea arrived in Joppa, Peter fell into a trance and saw a sheet come down from heaven filled with all kinds of unclean animals. The Lord told him to kill and eat but Peter objected and said he had never done that in his life. Three times that happened and each time the Lord told him that what God had cleansed Peter should not consider unholy or unclean.

Now that Peter had arrived in Caesarea, God showed him the work and gave him the words. Cornelius bowed down before him and worshiped him. We know that God alone should be worshiped. Peter had not performed the

miracles. God had worked through Peter to perform the miracles. Peter made it plain always that he was a spokesman for God and God did the miracles.

Cornelius

1. **Peter**. Was Cornelius impressed with Peter? Cornelius fell at the feet of Peter and worshiped him.

2. **Entered**. Peter arrived in Caesarea and entered the house of Cornelius.

3. **Cornelius**. Cornelius had gathered friends and family to hear the message from Peter.

4. **Fell**. Cornelius fell down before Peter, showing great respect for Peter.

5. **Feet**. Cornelius fell down at the feet of Peter, just like many people had fallen down at the feet of Jesus. Peter, however, was not Jesus and did not pretend to be Jesus.

6. **Worshiped**. Living holy in the family of God means that we worship only God, and not men. While Cornelius fell down at the feet of Peter, Peter could not accept his worship.

7. **Him**. We rejoice today because Peter had come to the house of Cornelius and met Cornelius who had seen a vision concerning Peter. Cornelius met him and showed great respect for the man he heard about from the angel who appeared to him in a vision.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that only God receives and deserves worship.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by showing respect to our elders in Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing together in God bringing people together for ministry.**

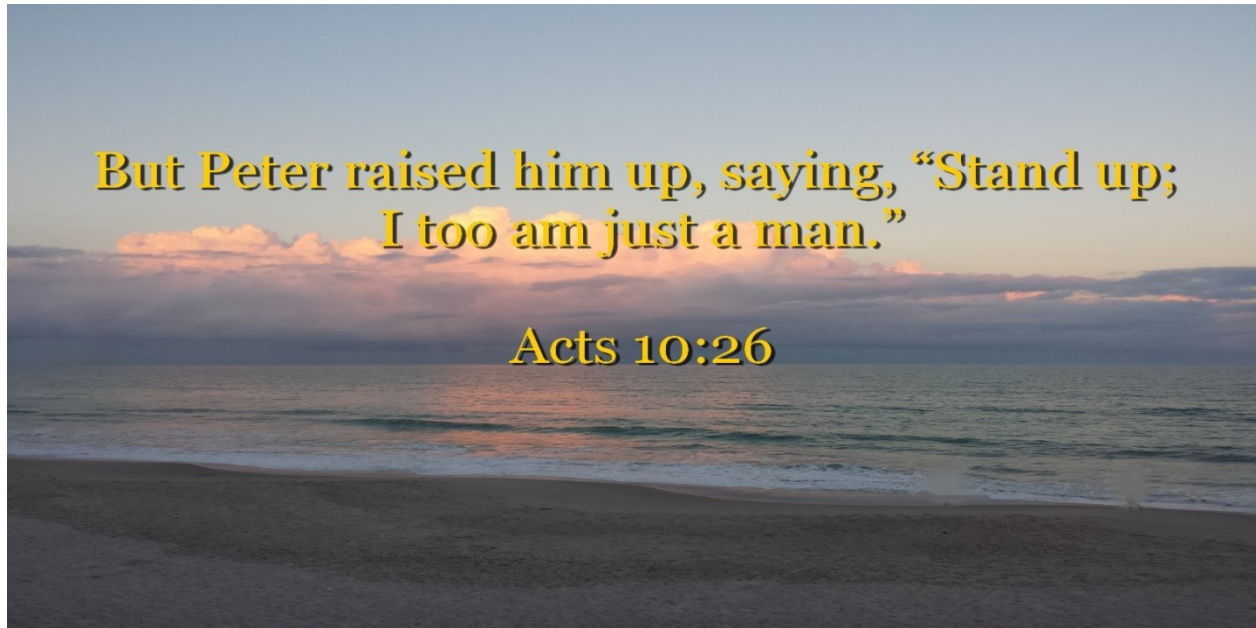
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by reserving our worship only for God, but showing respect for people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the difference between worship and respect?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 362

Stand Today



How did Peter respond to Cornelius? Peter told Cornelius to stand up. Peter then said, "I too am just a man."

Peter did not want to draw the glory to himself in any way. He told Cornelius that he was just a man like Cornelius. Peter understood that all the glory belonged to God because God did all the work and deserved all the credit. God sent Peter to be His messenger as His slave.

Cornelius had gathered together his relatives and friends to hear the message Peter would bring to them. Peter always preached the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Cornelius was already a God-fearing man with a good reputation among the Jews. Cornelius, however, was a Gentile.

God had a plan to reach the Gentiles too. God only has one Son and one Gospel and they go together to produce one salvation for both Jews and Gentiles by the same way. Jesus will always be the Savior of both Jews and Gentiles. Jesus only has one faith, one baptism, and one church. God was preparing to join the Gentiles and Jews together as fellow partakers of

salvation in Christ and Peter would lead the way. The time had come for the Gentiles to join the church and Peter had already received the revelation from God, but he did not yet understand what had happened.

Man

1. **But**. Why did Peter correct Cornelius? Peter did not want to accept worship from anyone, because God alone should be worshiped.

2. **Peter**. Peter denied that his piety had done any miracle. He always gave all credit to God for the miracles he performed in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Raised**. Peter immediately raised Cornelius up.

4. **Saying**. Peter wanted Cornelius and everyone gathered there to know that he was not God and did not claim to be God. Peter had already started to deliver the message from God by raising Cornelius and denying his worship.

5. **I**. Peter spoke in the first person, “I.” Peter used the most common and informal way of speaking about himself.

6. **Too**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter declared he too was just like Cornelius and the other people gathered there. Peter was not God, but rather the chosen messenger of God.

7. **Man**. We rejoice today because although Peter was just a man, he came with a very important message from God for all the Gentiles and Jews gathered there.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by never accepting worship, but gently correcting people who try to worship us instead of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Peter lifting Cornelius up by the hand and telling him that Peter was only a man just like Cornelius.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by identifying ourselves with the people we talk to, and not elevating ourselves to the position of God.**

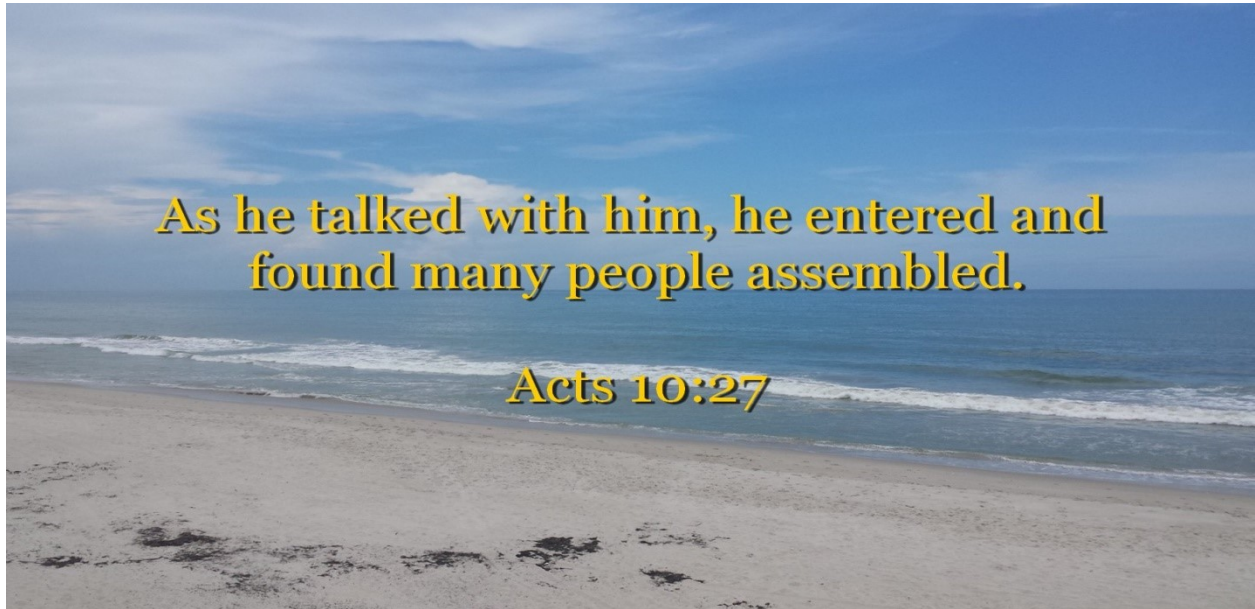
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by denying titles and worship from men, but declaring that we are men just like everyone else. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering we are all men just like Peter, whether are male or female, bond or free, Jew or Gentile, rich or poor?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 363

Talked Today



What did Peter find in Caesarea? Peter found many people assembled to hear his message.

When the messengers reached Peter in Joppa, they told him that they came to bring him to Caesarea so that Cornelius could hear his message. Cornelius had received word from the angel in a vision to bring Peter to Caesarea and listen to his message. While Peter was coming, Cornelius gathered his friends and family to hear the message.

When Peter arrived in Caesarea with the men from Joppa and the people from Caesarea, he entered the house of Cornelius. There he found many people assembled. Apparently Cornelius had many friends and family all gathered together to hear the message of Peter.

At Pentecost in Jerusalem Peter had preached to a great crowd of people and thousands were saved. Since that time Peter had continued to preach the word and do works of powers. Jesus worked miracles through the

hands of Peter and the Holy Spirit led him and filled him. Peter had truly become a witness to the resurrection of Christ and His great love for all men as Savior of the world.

Entered

1. **As**. What were many people waiting for? They were waiting for Peter to arrive from Joppa and deliver a message to them.

2. **Talked**. As Peter talked with Cornelius, he was already setting the stage for addressing the crowd by demonstrating his humility and kindness to Cornelius.

3. **Entered**. As Peter talked with Cornelius, Peter entered the room.

4. **Found**. Peter found people waiting for him and Cornelius.

5. **Many**. Cornelius had been busy gathering friends and family to hear an important message from Peter when he arrived from Joppa.

6. **People**. Living holy in the family of God means that God draws friends and family to hear the messengers that God sends to proclaim salvation to them in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Assembled**. We rejoice today because God had assembled many people in Caesarea to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing with the arrival of people bringing the message of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by gathering our friends and family to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Peter coming to Caesarea to speak to a group of family and friends waiting to hear the word of God.**

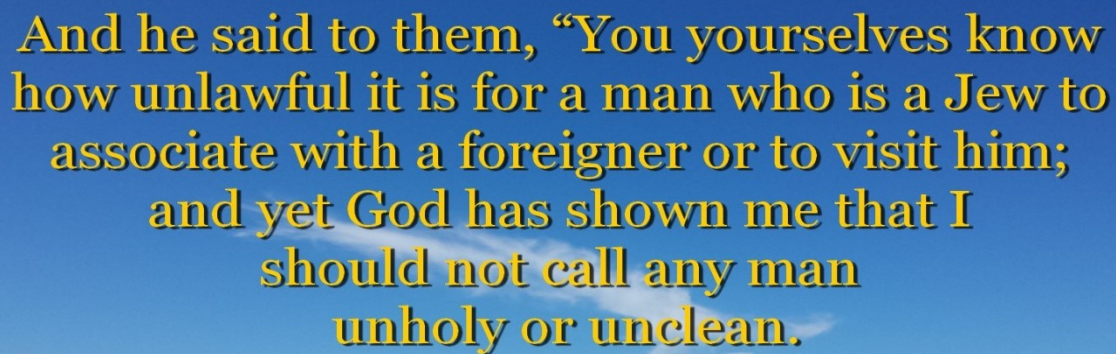
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by listening to messengers deliver the message they have received from God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reading the Bible and enjoying the life of Peter as he spread the word to both Jews and Gentiles?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 364

Jew Today



And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.

Acts 10:28

What did Peter tell the group gathered to hear his message? Peter relayed to them the message he received from God that he should call no man unholy or unclean.

Peter received a vision in Joppa. Peter, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, now understood the meaning of that vision. In the vision a great sheet was lowered to the earth and in the sheet were all kinds of unclean animals. God commanded Peter to get up and eat from those animals but Peter objected saying that he had never eaten anything unholy or unclean in his entire life.

Peter now then put two and two together. Peter understood that God was not talking about animals, but about people--Gentiles to be specific. For the first time in his life, he was now associating with Gentiles and foreigners. Peter had received a message from God that anyone from anyplace could be accepted into the family of God by faith in Jesus Christ. When God cleanses a man by faith in Jesus Christ, no one should consider that person unholy or

unclean. Peter would be leading the way for the Gentiles to be received into the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Foreigner

1. **You**. What did Peter explain about Jews? Peter explained that Jews should not associate with foreigners.

2. **Know**. Peter said that his audience knew that it was unlawful for a Jew to associate with foreigners.

3. **Unlawful**. In fact, it was unlawful under their interpretation of the Law of Moses to associate with foreigners.

4. **Foreigner**. A Jew could not lawfully visit a foreigner.

5. **God**. God had shown Peter that he should change his mind about other men.

6. **Showed**. Living holy in the family of God means that God showed Peter that he should call no man unholy or unclean.

7. **Man**. We rejoice today because God had opened the heart of Peter to understand he should not call any man unholy or unclean.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter understanding that he should call no man unholy or unclean.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that in God's eyes, no man is unholy or unclean.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He loves all people.**

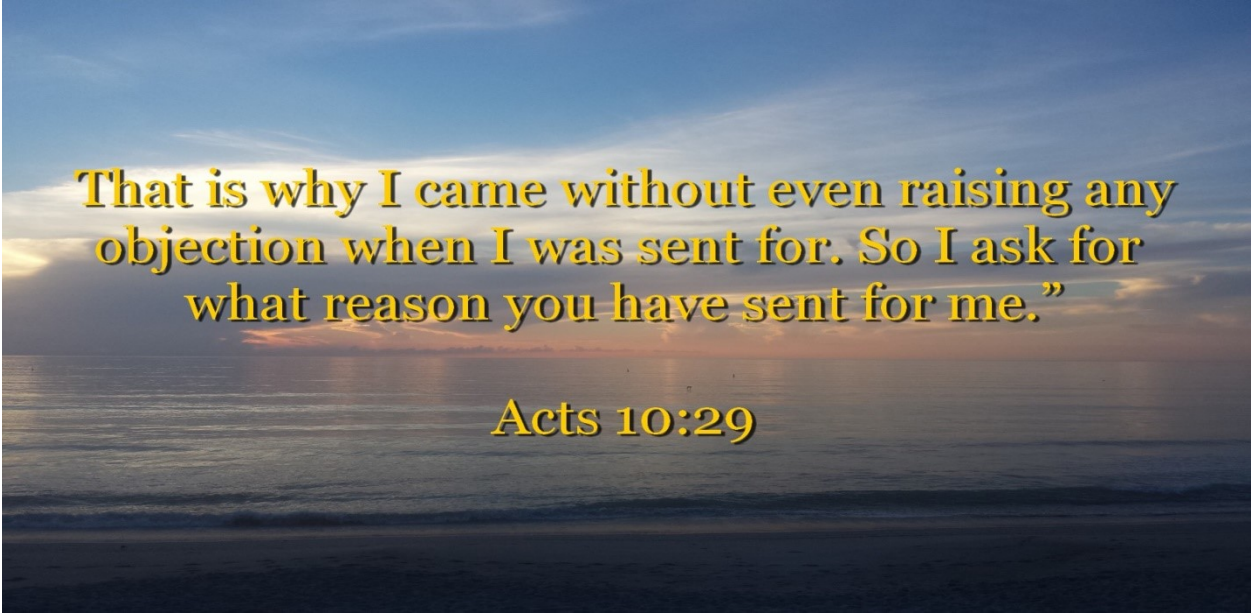
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God does not call any person unholy or unclean. Will you live holy in the family of God today by avoiding calling any person unholy or unclean?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 365

I Came Today



That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me.”

Acts 10:29

Why did Peter come with the Gentiles without raising an objection? Peter joined the Gentiles because God had already told him to call no man unholy or unclean.

Peter was in Joppa when he received the vision with the sheet. God told him to call no person unholy or unclean after God had cleansed them. Therefore, Peter, for the first time in his life, was ready to associate with Gentiles and foreigners. As Peter was relating those words, he was standing in front of many people who were Gentiles and foreigners.

God had moved Peter from Jerusalem to Lydda and then to Joppa and now to Caesarea. With each successive move, God was leading more and more people to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, using Peter as His evangelist. Peter had now begun the evangelization of the Gentiles under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Through the ministry of Peter, the door to the church was swinging open to the Gentiles and Peter would be instrumental in ushering them in and making them welcome among the Jews.

God had great plans for Peter. God also had great plans for Paul. Together they would bring many people from many places into the church by proclaiming the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reason

1. **That**. What did Peter want to know? Peter wanted to know why they sent for him to come to Caesarea.

2. **Why**. Peter still had a strong why question floating around in his mind.

3. **Sent**. Peter came to Caesarea without raising an objection because of the vision he had seen. Peter understood that he should no longer consider any man unholy or unclean.

4. **So**. Even so, Peter still wanted to know why he was there and why they had sent for him to come from Joppa to Caesarea.

5. **I**. Peter was not bashful about asking questions.

6. **Ask**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter came when summoned, but still had questions about why he was there and so asked the group why he was there.

7. **Why**. We rejoice today because Peter wanted to know why he had been summoned, but still came because the Holy Spirit told him in Joppa to go to Caesarea with the men who came to pick him up.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by asking respectful questions when we still seek answers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Peter obeyed the Holy Spirit in going to Caesarea, but he still had his ‘why’ question.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never putting our questions before our obedience to the commands of God.**

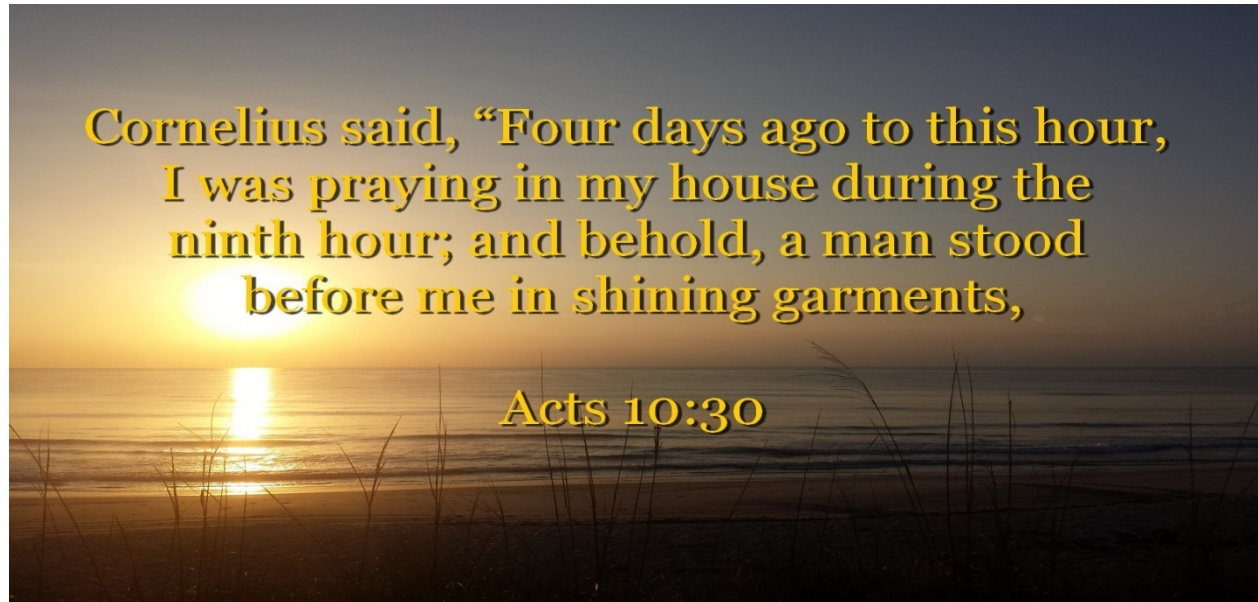
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God calls no person unholy or unclean. Will you live holy in the family of God today by not conditioning your obedience to God upon Him answering all your questions first?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 366

Cornelius Today



What did Cornelius tell Peter about his visit with the angel? He told him the exact hour he met the angel.

Cornelius had a very precise recollection of what happened when he met the angel. He said he met the angel four days previously. He was praying in his house at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. A man stood before him in shining garments.

Cornelius was a centurion in the Roman army and a devout man. His prayers and alms had ascended to God. Cornelius had a good reputation with the people of Israel. He had done many things to help the Jews.

When Cornelius received the vision, with directions to get Peter from Joppa, he immediately sent out three men. Neither Cornelius nor Peter knew exactly what God was telling the other man. Now that they came face-to-face, they each had a chance to understand what the Lord had told the other.

Cornelius relayed to Peter what he saw with the man standing in shining garments. Peter would have his chance to bring Cornelius up to date on his trance and what he had seen in it.

Praying

1. **Cornelius**. What did Cornelius tell Peter about his vision? Cornelius said that he met a man wearing shining garments.

2. **Four**. Four days previously to the very hour Peter arrived in Caesarea, Cornelius had seen the vision.

3. **Praying**. Cornelius was known by God for his prayers, and Cornelius was praying at the time of the vision.

4. **Ninth**. Cornelius prayed on the ninth hour, the Jewish hour of prayer.

5. **Man**. As Cornelius prayed, he saw a vision and in the vision he saw a man.

6. **Shining**. Living holy in the family of God means that God sent an angel wearing shining garments to Cornelius.

7. **Garments**. We rejoice today because those shining garments helped Cornelius recognize that God sent an angel to him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the vision Cornelius had regarding Peter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Cornelius was a man of prayer and a centurion in the Roman army.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by taking time to pray and to listen to God direct our lives.**

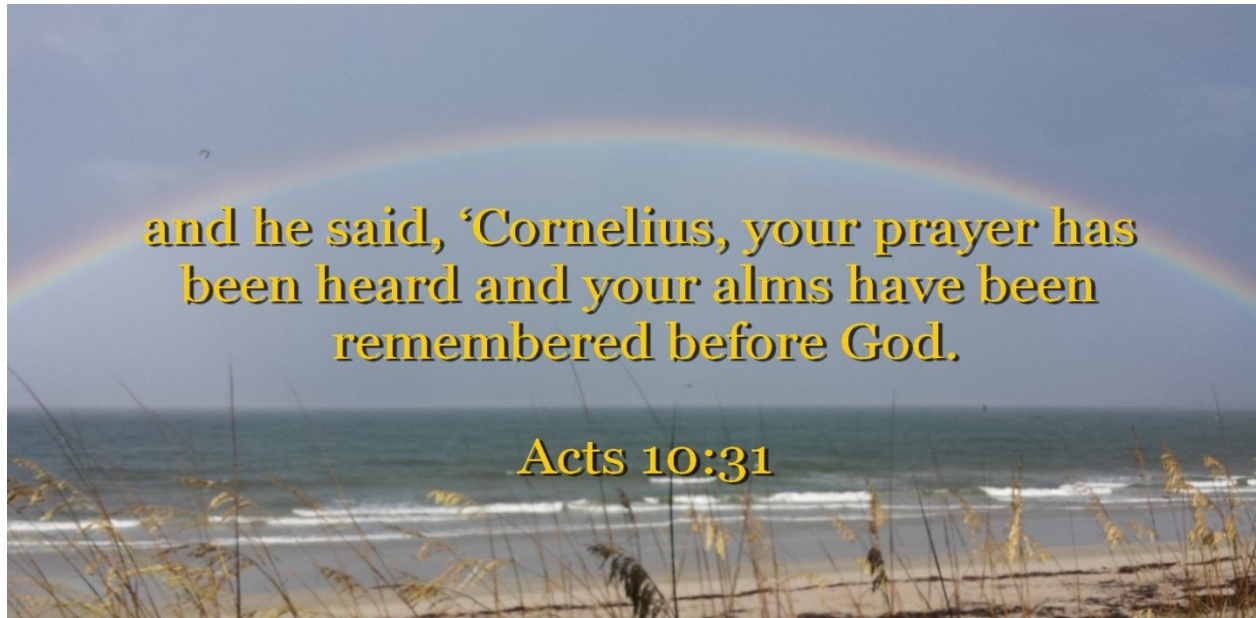
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking time to pray and listen carefully to God providing direction for our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing with others what God has done in your life to lead you forward in His will?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 367

Prayer Today



What did God hear from Cornelius? God heard the prayers of Cornelius.

When Peter arrived at Caesarea and met Cornelius face-to-face, Cornelius began relating to Peter what the angel had said to him. Cornelius was very precise in his recollection. Cornelius recalled that the angel had said that his prayers had been heard and his alms had been remembered before God.

Cornelius was filling Peter in on what God was doing in Caesarea while Peter was still in Joppa. God had great plans for Cornelius and Peter to meet in Caesarea. God had moved Peter from Jerusalem to Lydda to Joppa and now to Caesarea.

God did not move Peter around by chance or with random movements. God was following His own plans and purposes and using Peter for ministry. God does the same thing today by moving people who will serve Him from place to place and from person to person. Before Peter arrived in Caesarea, Peter received a word from God. God communicated to Peter that he should

not call any man unclean or unholy whom God had cleansed. Peter was about to apply that knowledge in Caesarea.

Remembered

1. **Cornelius**. What else did the angel say to Cornelius? The angel told Cornelius that God had heard him.

2. **Prayer**. The prayers of Cornelius ascended to God.

3. **Heard**. God wanted Cornelius to know that God heard his prayers. Likewise, Cornelius wanted Peter to know what the angel had said.

4. **Alms**. God also took notice of the alms of Cornelius.

5. **Remembered**. God remembers all things and has a perfect memory, except that God chooses not to remember some things in the sense that He will not hold our iniquities against us after we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ.

6. **Before**. Living holy in the family of God means that when we pray and give alms, God always hears us. Sometimes, He communicates directly through angels to people.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because God heard the prayers of Cornelius and Cornelius took action immediately to follow God's directions regarding Peter.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Cornelius relating the vision to Peter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by sharing what God has communicated to us with other people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He always hears the prayers of His children.**

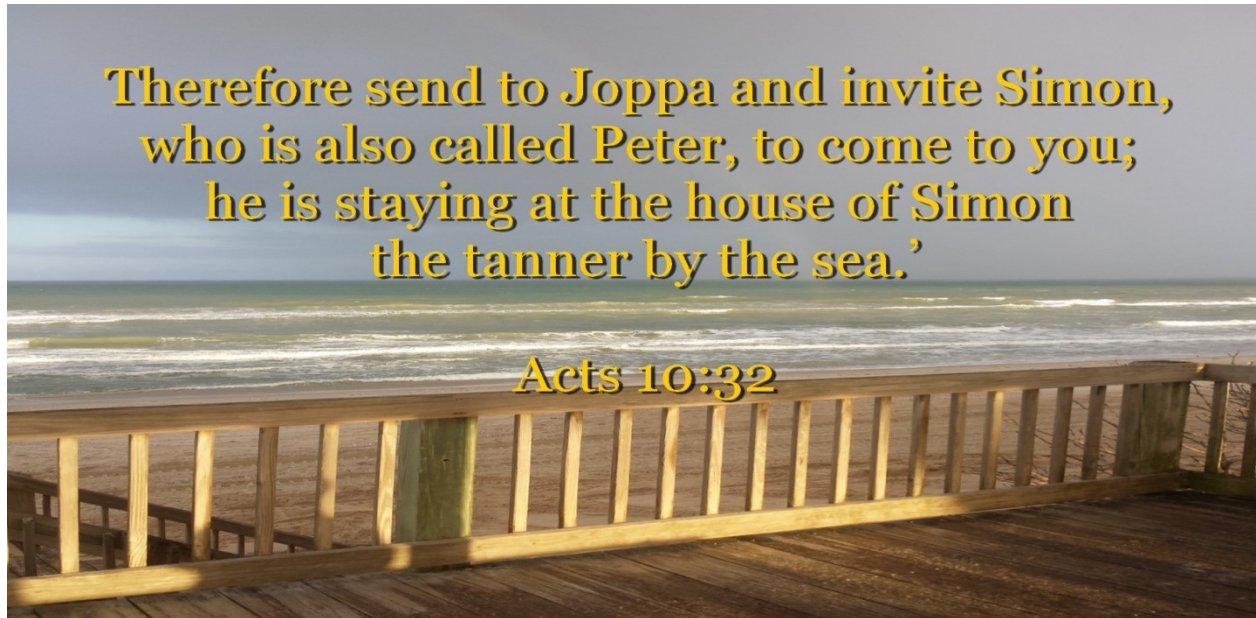
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praying with faith that God hears us as we pray in the Name of Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to pray and sharing with others the great things God has done in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 368

Send Today



What did Cornelius tell Peter about the men going to Joppa? Cornelius told Peter that he sent the men to Joppa, and told them that Peter was staying at the house of Simon the Tanner by the sea.

God provided very specific directions to Cornelius. He wanted Cornelius to find Peter and bring him to Caesarea. When Peter arrived, he would deliver a message to Cornelius and his family members and friends that he gathered together to hear the message from Peter. So, when Peter arrived he found many people waiting for him.

Peter also had time to work out the vision that he had seen of a great sheet lowered from heaven. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he should call no man unholy or unclean whom God had cleansed. God is not partial to anyone. The Lord Jesus Christ gave His life as a ransom for both Jews and Gentiles and Samaritans. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people all over the earth, without regard to their ethnic background or social status, or geographical location. Likewise, Jesus Christ only has one church,

comprised of people from all over the world who have faith in Him as the Risen Savior.

Invite

1. **Therefore**. How specific were the directions provided by the angel? They specified the home where Peter was staying in Joppa.

2. **Send**. Cornelius knew exactly where to send the men to find Peter.

3. **Joppa**. God knows everything and everyone in both Joppa and Caesarea.

4. **Invite**. Cornelius said that the angel told him to invite Peter to come to Caesarea.

5. **Simon**. The angel said to call Peter, also called Simon.

6. **Come**. Living holy in the family of God means that God has plans to bring people together from different places by moving them to the right place at the right time.

7. **Tanner**. We rejoice today because the angel told Cornelius to find Simon Peter at the house of Simon the Tanner in Joppa.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God knows everyone everywhere all the time.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following God's specific orders for our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by reaching out to people who may provide valuable ministry to us.**

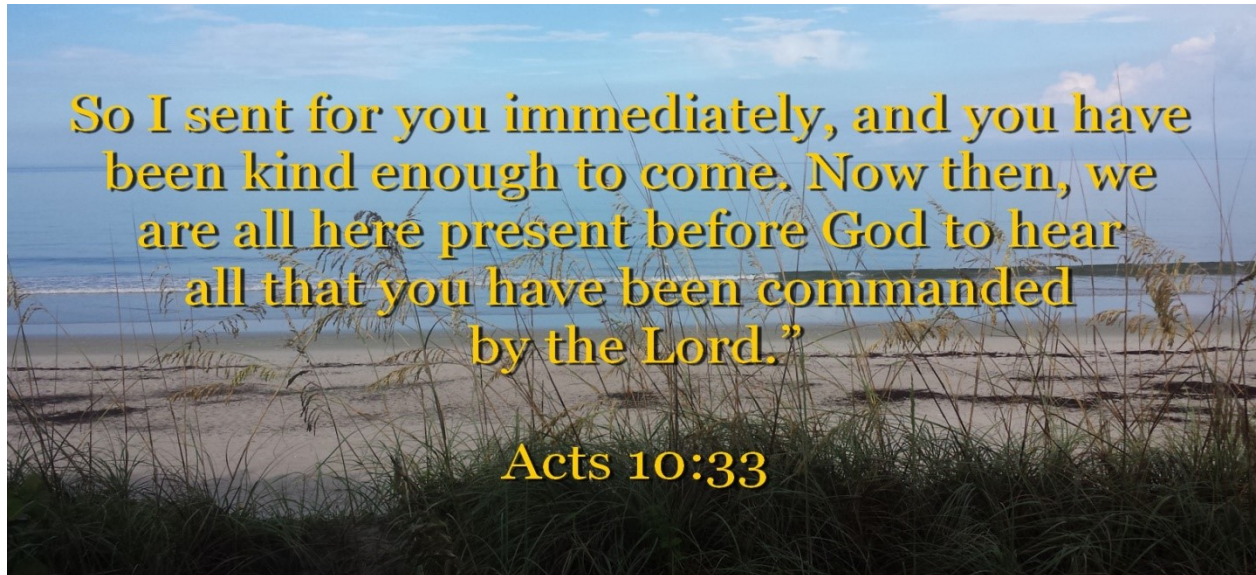
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by inviting people to minister to us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by inviting new people to minister to you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 369

Kind Today



What did Cornelius tell Peter about kindness? Cornelius told Peter that it was kind of him to come to Caesarea.

Cornelius related in detail the vision he had received from the Lord in Caesarea. He explained to Peter how he knew where he was and why he wanted to have him come to Caesarea. Cornelius gave Peter quite the introduction from God and filled in some blanks for Peter about why God had sent him to Caesarea.

Cornelius also said that his friends and family had gathered together to hear the message the Lord had commanded Peter to deliver to the group. You can see why God favored Cornelius to be the faithful recipient of the special message from the angel. Cornelius acted immediately upon what the angel said and sent men into Joppa. Cornelius also prepared his family believing that Peter would actually come and would bring a message which the Lord commanded him to speak. Cornelius was a very faithful man and God used him to bring Peter and gather people together to hear the message the Lord had given to Peter just for that group in the home of Cornelius.

Present

1. **So**. Why did Cornelius gather his friends and family? Because he knew that Peter would have a message for them from God.
2. **I**. Cornelius sent for Peter so that he would come and bring the message.
3. **Sent**. Cornelius did not go to Joppa himself, but he sent three men to see Peter in Joppa.
4. **Kind**. Cornelius told Peter that he was kind enough to come to Joppa.
5. **God**. By invitation to others, people came to the house of Cornelius in the presence of God to hear from Peter.
6. **Hear**. Living holy in the family of God means that we reach out and invite people to minister to us the word of God.
7. **Commanded**. We rejoice today because people wanted to hear all that the Lord commanded Peter to speak to them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering to invite people to minister to us, according to the Scriptures.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by assembling in the presence of God to hear all that God commanded someone to share with us, according to the Scriptures.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by assembling together for ministry of the word of God.**

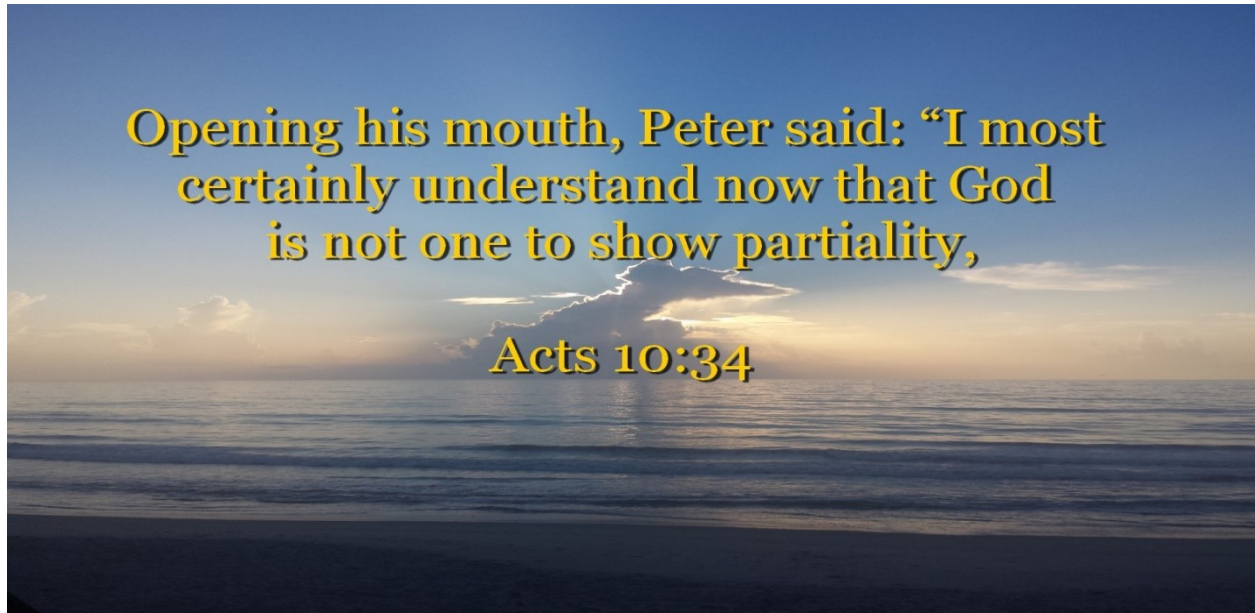
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by assembling together to hear the word of the Lord, according to the Scriptures. Will you live holy in the family of God today by giving your attention to people who speak the message of God, according to the Scriptures?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 370

Understand Today



How did Peter reply to Cornelius? Peter said that he understood now that God is not One to show partiality.

Peter had a vision in Joppa about a sheet lowered to the earth containing various unclean animals. A voice in heaven commanded him to eat, but he declined saying he had never eaten anything unholy or unclean in his entire life. The scene repeated three times. Peter then was perplexed about what God was telling him.

When Peter arrived at Caesarea, he saw many people awaiting his arrival at the home of Cornelius. Cornelius related to him how he received a vision from God with an angel directing him to get Peter. Cornelius also said that Peter would have a message that God commanded him to speak for the people at Caesarea. Peter put two and two together so that he understood that God was not partial to anyone.

As the apostles proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the whole world, to both Jews and Gentiles and Samaritans, God revealed to

Peter that they would all be joined together as one church. All groups would be fellow-partakers of the salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Partiality

1. **Opening**. Why did Peter open his mouth? He opened his mouth to tell them all that God commanded him to say.

2. **Understand**. Peter then explained the vision of the sheet lowered from heaven, because he understood what God was telling him.

3. **God**. God was not one to hold one man above another by showing partiality.

4. **Not**. Like Jesus said, He is not partial to any, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

5. **One**. By His very nature, God is not One to show partiality.

6. **Show**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter understood that God did not show partiality between the Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles when it comes to salvation.

7. **Partiality**. We rejoice today because God did not show partiality in saving us, but He extended His grace to sinners saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God does not show partiality.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He loves the world and gave His only Son, Jesus, to die for us so that we would not perish, but have eternal life.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God who does not show partiality in salvation.**

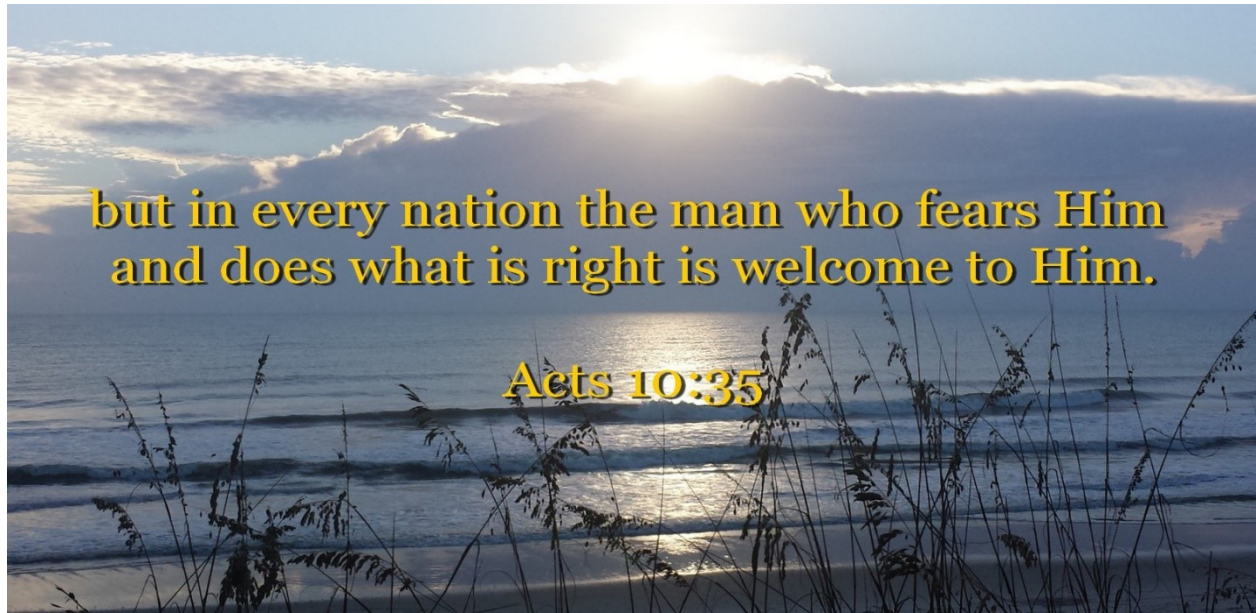
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He is not One to show partiality. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God more because He did not show partiality in saving you from your sins?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 371

Fears Today



What men does God welcome? God welcomes the man in every nation who fears Him and does what is right.

Cornelius sent for Peter to come from Joppa to his home in Caesarea because an angel told him to do so. So, Cornelius sent three men to Joppa and picked up Peter and brought him to Caesarea. When Peter arrived, Cornelius told him about the angel and all that had happened. Peter also found that there was a group of people waiting to hear him. The angel had told Cornelius that God commanded Peter to deliver a message to him.

So, Peter began to explain what he heard from God in a vision. Peter saw a sheet lowered from heaven full of unclean animals. A voice directed him to eat those animals and Peter objected saying that he never had done that in his life. The scene repeated three times. Peter was perplexed about what he had seen. About that time the men from Cornelius arrived and he left with them and came to Caesarea.

Now Peter explained that he understood that God is not partial to any man. In every nation the man who fears God and does what is right is welcome to God.

Welcome

1. **But**. What did Peter understand about all men? Peter understood that God welcomes people from every nation.

2. **Every**. People in every nation may go to heaven.

3. **Fears**. The man who fears God may go to heaven, even if they are not a Jew by birth or nationality.

4. **Him**. The man who fears God is acceptable to Him.

5. **Does**. The man who does what is right, regardless of nationality or birth, God welcomes.

6. **Right**. Living holy in the family of God means that what we do matters to God.

7. **Welcome**. We rejoice today because God welcomed us into the family of God the moment we were born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Risen Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God welcomes people who fear Him and do what is right.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God does not show partiality.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus for drawing all kinds of people from all kinds of places to Himself as the Risen Savior.**

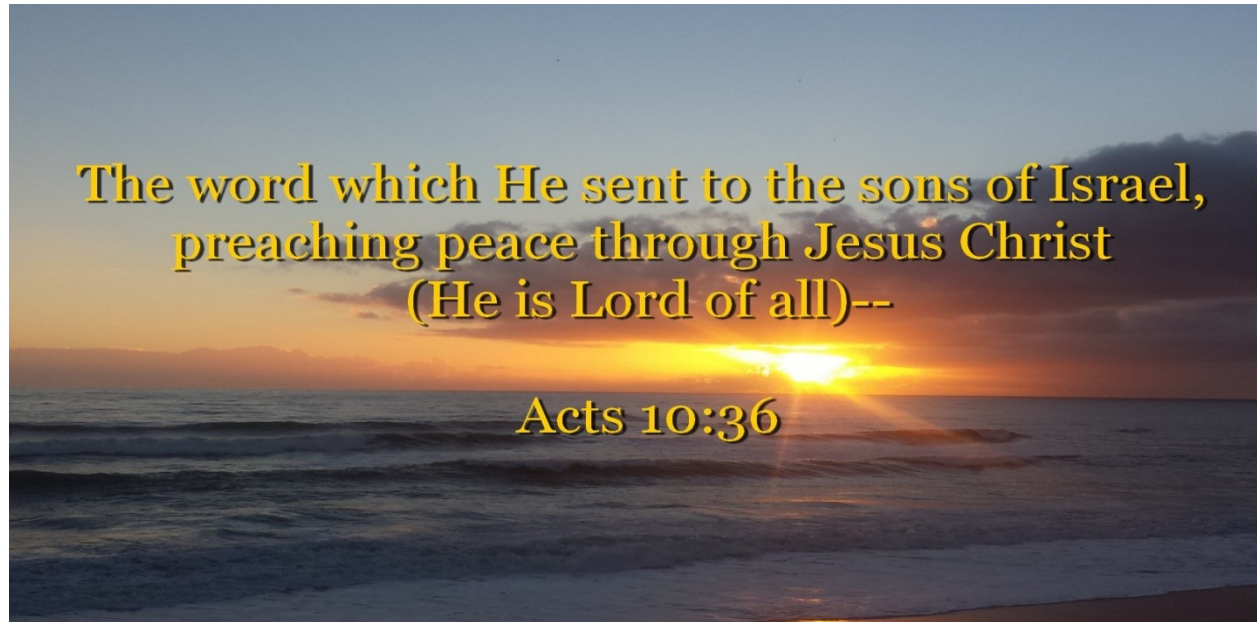
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for loving us and drawing us to Himself. Will you live holy in the family of God today by delighting in the goodness of God who loves people who fear Him and do what is right?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 372

Preaching Today



The word which He sent to the sons of Israel,
preaching peace through Jesus Christ
(He is Lord of all)--

Acts 10:36

What did Jesus Christ preach? Jesus Christ preached peace.

As Peter spoke to the friends and family of Cornelius gathered to hear him at Caesarea, Peter explained the content of the message he had received from God. Peter started by saying that God did not show partiality to anyone and the man in every nation who fears God and does what is right is welcome to God.

Peter then shifted to recounting the history of the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth in the flesh. Jesus came preaching peace to Israel. Jesus is Lord of all and He brought the message from God to the people of Israel. Peter wanted the people at Caesarea to know more about the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Salvation comes through the Jews and begins with the Jews. Jesus was the Jewish Messiah proclaimed throughout the Old Testament.

As Lord of All, Jesus proclaimed peace to every man in every nation. Only the people that receive Christ as Savior will experience that peace. The

men who fear God and do what is right in the sight of God are welcome to God, no matter where they live.

Peace

1. **Word**. What word did Jesus proclaim? As God in the flesh, Jesus proclaimed peace with God.

2. **Sent**. God shows no partiality and sent the word to the sons of Israel.

3. **Israel**. The people of Israel have always played an important part in the plans of God.

4. **Preaching**. Jesus came preaching to the sons of Israel.

5. **Peace**. Jesus proclaimed peace with God, because He is our peace.

6. **Lord**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus proclaimed peace to Israel, but as God Who shows no partiality, he also proclaimed peace to the world, because He is Lord of All.

7. **All**. We rejoice today because the Lord of All took flesh and preached peace to everyone through faith in Him as Savior of the World.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus proclaimed peace with God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus as the Lord of All.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the peace He has brought into our lives for His glory.**

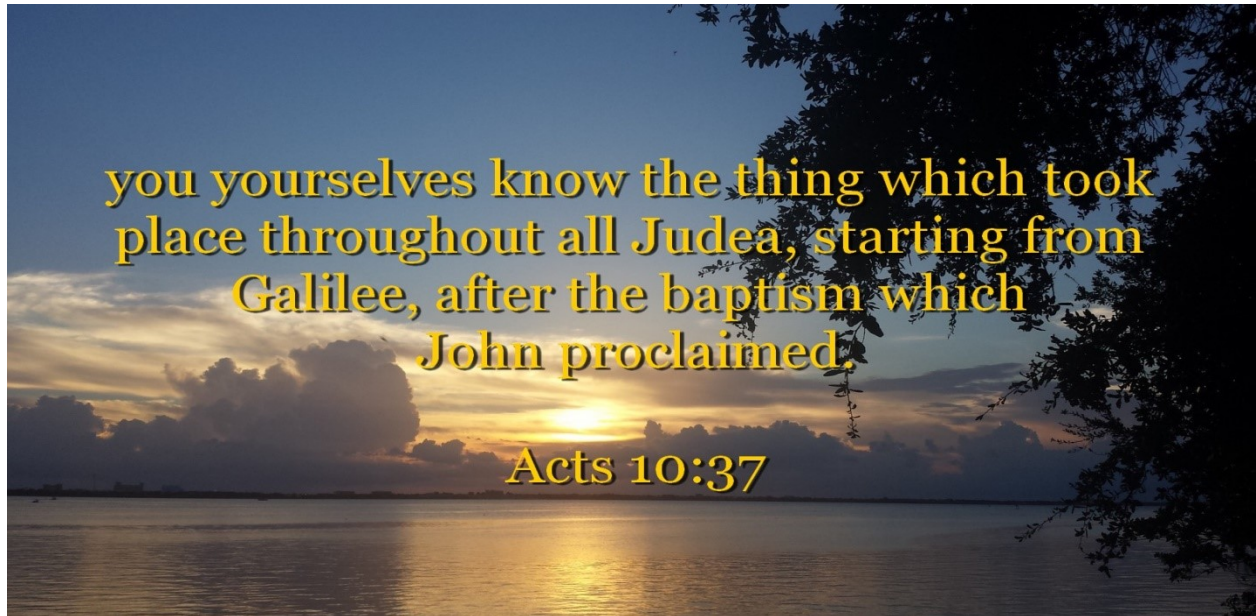
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus proclaimed peace with God as Lord of All. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming peace with God in the Name of Jesus, the Lord of All?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 373

Know Today



What took place throughout all Judea starting from Galilee? The ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ took place.

Peter continued his review of the history of the Lord Jesus Christ walking among men in human flesh. Peter focused upon the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, starting with the baptism which John proclaimed. Peter stated that the group before him well knew the thing which took place, meaning they knew about the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. Apparently, some or all of them had already placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

Peter emphasized that the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism that John proclaimed. Peter focused upon a particular time frame there. The historical Jesus was well known to Peter because Peter was with Jesus and the other apostles from the baptism of John through the ascension of the Lord Jesus to heaven. Peter was well-qualified to speak about what Jesus did and said, being an eyewitness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Proclaimed

1. **You**. What did the audience of Peter know? They knew what happened in all Judea.

2. **Know**. By using the phrase “You yourselves know,” Peter’s audience must have been familiar with the life of Jesus and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even so, Peter proclaimed peace through the Lord of All, Jesus Christ.

3. **Thing**. The thing which took place was about Jesus and His time on earth in the flesh proclaiming peace.

4. **Took**. The audience of Peter knew what took place in all Judea.

5. **Judea**. Judea included Jerusalem and the surrounding area, where Christ spent considerable time ministering to the people there.

6. **Galilee**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee, after He was baptized by John the Baptist, fulfilling all righteousness.

7. **Baptism**. We rejoice today because beginning with His baptism, Jesus went forth into Galilee and began His public ministry, proclaiming peace to the Jews, and training people to continue His ministry after He made atonement for sin and then ascended back to heaven.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus for the thing which took place in the land of Israel.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for providing a careful record of the historical Jesus in the Bible.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for all the great things He continues to do for us today as we live in peace because we have received the free gift of eternal life from the Lord of All.**

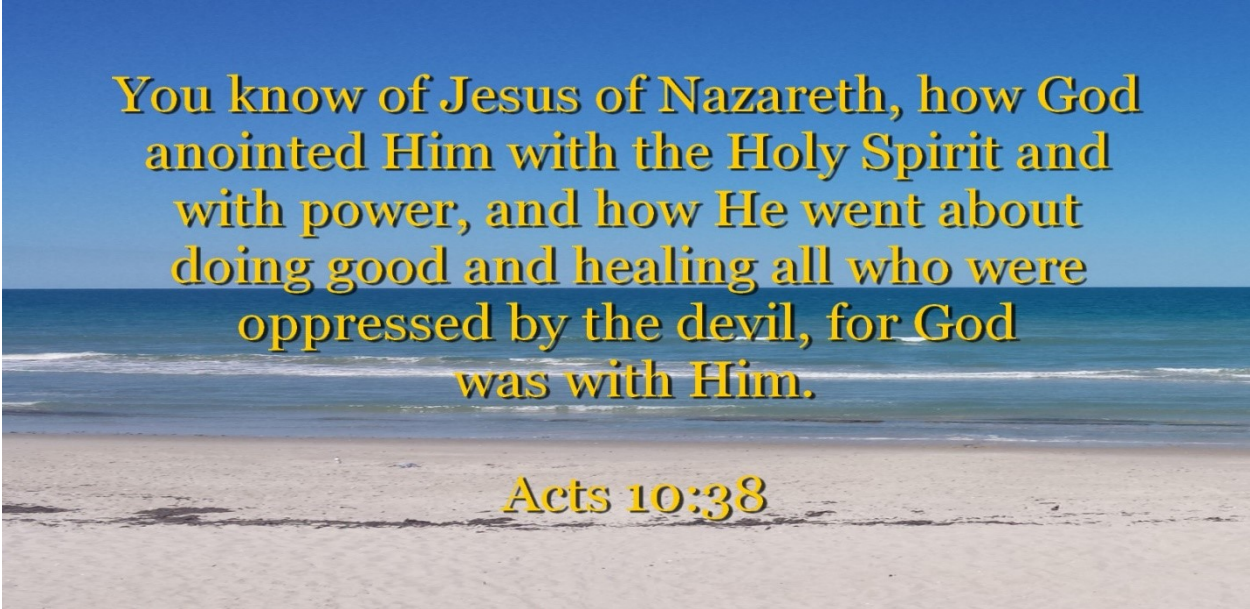
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the thing that took place in all the land of Judea through the ministry of the Lord of All, Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by delighting in Jesus and His wonderful works in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 374

Jesus Today



You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God
anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and
with power, and how He went about
doing good and healing all who were
oppressed by the devil, for God
was with Him.

Acts 10:38

What did the people know about Jesus of Nazareth? They knew that God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Peter explained what the audience before him already knew about Jesus. They knew that Jesus went to the sons of Israel preaching peace. Starting from Galilee and throughout all Judea, Jesus preached peace with God.

Peter also explained that God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power. Jesus went about doing good and healing all who are oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Because Peter used the phrase, “you yourselves know,” some or all of the people in the audience before Peter knew what happened with Jesus and trusted Him as Savior. By Peter proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the audience, any who had not heard previously could now be saved by faith in Jesus as Savior as they heard Peter preaching Christ.

Peter emphasized the wonderful ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and with power to accomplish the will of God. Jesus specifically ministered to all those who needed healing and were oppressed by the devil.

Anointed

1. **Jesus**. Who anointed Jesus? God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power.

2. **Nazareth**. Jesus was raised in Nazareth, the Las Vegas of Israel at the time.

3. **God**. God anointed Jesus and so He was the Anointed One, Messiah in Hebrew and Christ in Greek.

4. **Holy Spirit**. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came down like a dove and rested upon Him at His baptism in the Jordan River and He began His public ministry shortly thereafter.

5. **Power**. God also anointed Jesus with power so that Jesus did many works of powers in the New Testament.

6. **Healing**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus went about doing good and healing people by the power of God.

7. **Oppressed**. We rejoice today because Jesus healed all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Jesus as the One anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and with power.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by enjoying the power of Jesus at work in our lives daily.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that Jesus healed us from the oppression of the devil, because God was with Jesus.**

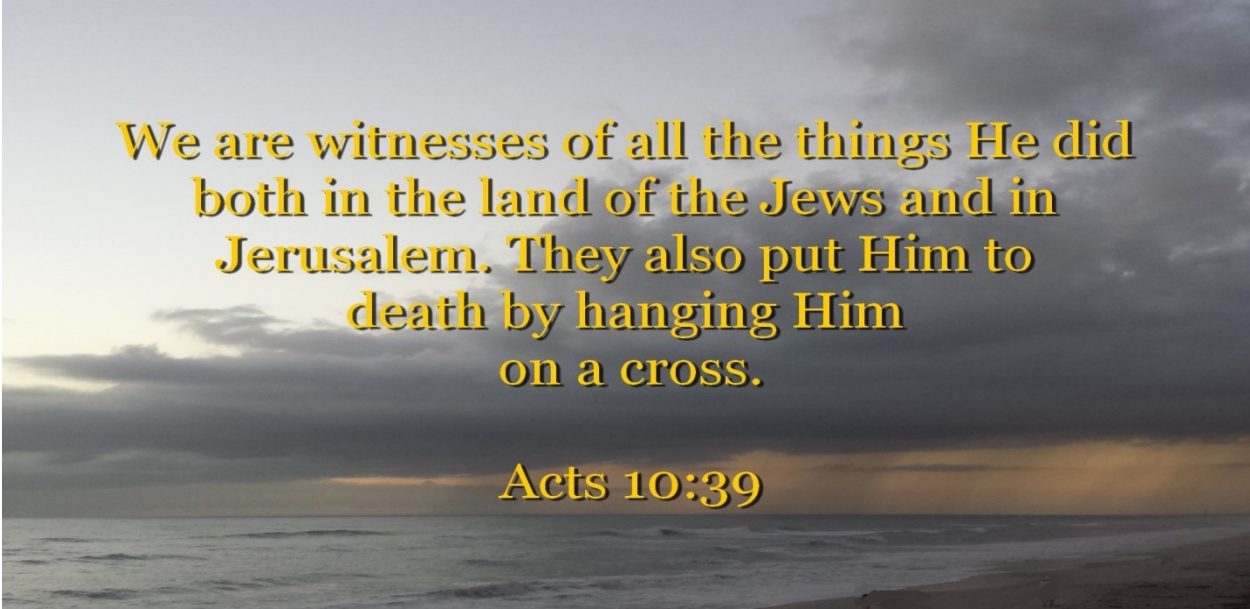
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of God at work in our lives so that we have been healed of the oppression of the devil. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ so that more people may be healed from the oppression of the devil?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 375

Witnesses Today



We are witnesses of all the things He did
both in the land of the Jews and in
Jerusalem. They also put Him to
death by hanging Him
on a cross.

Acts 10:39

Who were the witnesses of what Jesus had done? Peter said that we are all witnesses of the things that He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

Peter certainly included all the apostles in his statement that they were all witnesses of the things that Jesus did in the land of Israel and in Jerusalem. Peter, however, may have also included some or all of the people in the audience before him.

The Jews put Jesus to death by hanging Him on a cross. The gospel that Jesus proclaimed was the same Gospel that the twelve apostles, Stephen, Philip and Saul proclaimed. Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ by faith in Him as the Resurrected Savior Who gave His soul to redeem us from our sins through His blood.

Peter had been drawn to Caesarea for the purpose of delivering this message about the life of Jesus Christ, and His death, resurrection and ascension. God intended for Peter to proclaim the basics of the Gospel and the life of Christ to the Gentiles gathered before Peter at Caesarea, but God

had a much bigger purpose in mind for Peter related directly to the vision of the sheet.

Cross

1. **We**. What did the Jews do to Jesus? They hung Him on a cross.
2. **Witnesses**. Peter said they were all witnesses of things Jesus did.
3. **Jews**. Jesus lived in the land of the Jews and did His works there.
4. **Jerusalem**. Jesus also spent time in Jerusalem.
5. **Death**. The Jews put Jesus to death. Peter continued His indictment of the Jews, and spoke of the ministry of Jesus the Jew among them.
6. **Hanging**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews put Jesus to death by hanging Him on a cross.
7. **Cross**. We rejoice today because the cross has become the power of God for salvation for all who believe, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus is a Jew.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that many witnesses knew what Jesus did and how the Jews put Him to death on a cross.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus more because He willingly laid down His soul for us and become obedient to death, even death on a cross.**

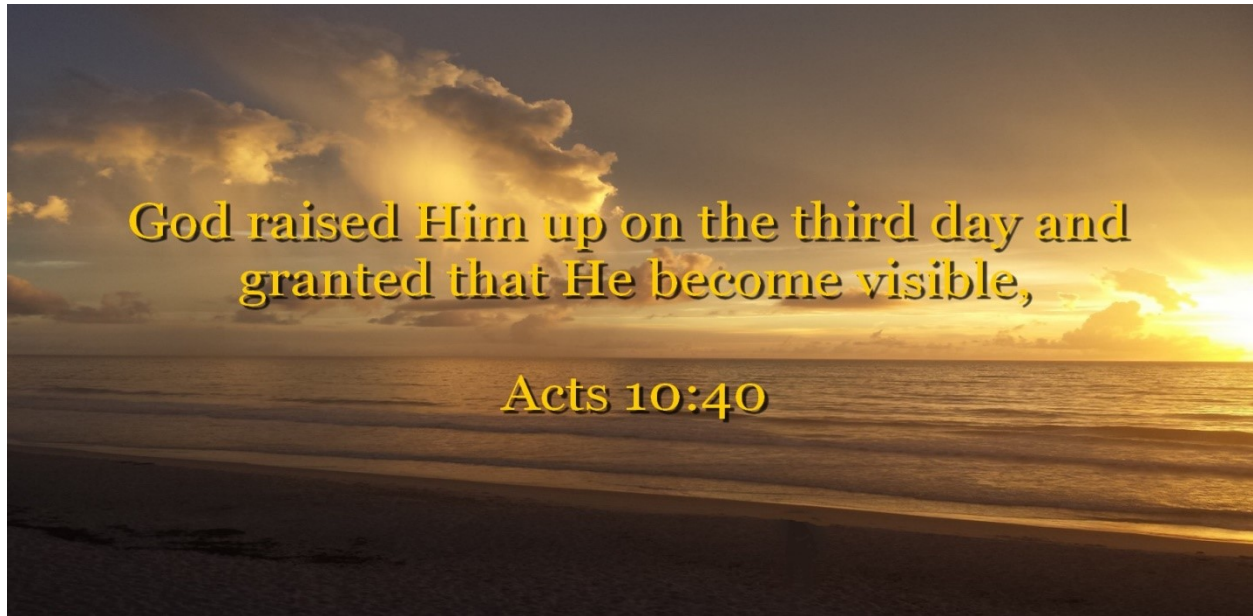
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the work of Jesus in the land of the Jews and Jerusalem. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving Jesus for submitting Himself to hanging on a cross to purchase our salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 376

Raised Today



What happened after Jesus died? God raised Him up on the third day.

Peter recounted the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter described to his audience the things that happened during the ministry of Christ. Peter described how God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power. Jesus then went about doing good and healing all who are oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him. The Jews then put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.

An absolutely vital part of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ includes the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Without the resurrection of Jesus, we are still in our sins and we are lost and without hope. In fact, however, God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus was raised as the first fruit from among the dead. When He was raised, He received an incorruptible and imperishable and glorified body.

God granted that Jesus appear to the disciples after His resurrection. Those twelve men became eyewitnesses of His resurrection and ascension. Jesus told them that they should remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit

came upon them and empowered them to carry on their ministry as eyewitnesses of Jesus.

Visible

1. **God**. What did God permit? God granted that Jesus would become visible to certain people after His resurrection.

2. **Raised**. God raised Jesus up from the grave on the third day after His crucifixion and death.

3. **Third**. The third day will always have special significance because Jesus was in the tomb for three days and three nights.

4. **Granted**. God then granted that Jesus would be seen by some people after His resurrection.

5. **He**. He was seen by both men and women over the time of about forty days.

6. **Become**. Living holy in the family of God means that God granted that Jesus would be become visible to certain people, but not all people.

7. **Visible**. We rejoice today because Jesus was raised with a new body, holy and imperishable and incorruptible. Jesus was raised with a glorified body.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that many people saw Jesus after He was raised from the dead.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God granted that Jesus would become visible to some people after His resurrection.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus for appearing to eyewitnesses after He was raised from the dead.**

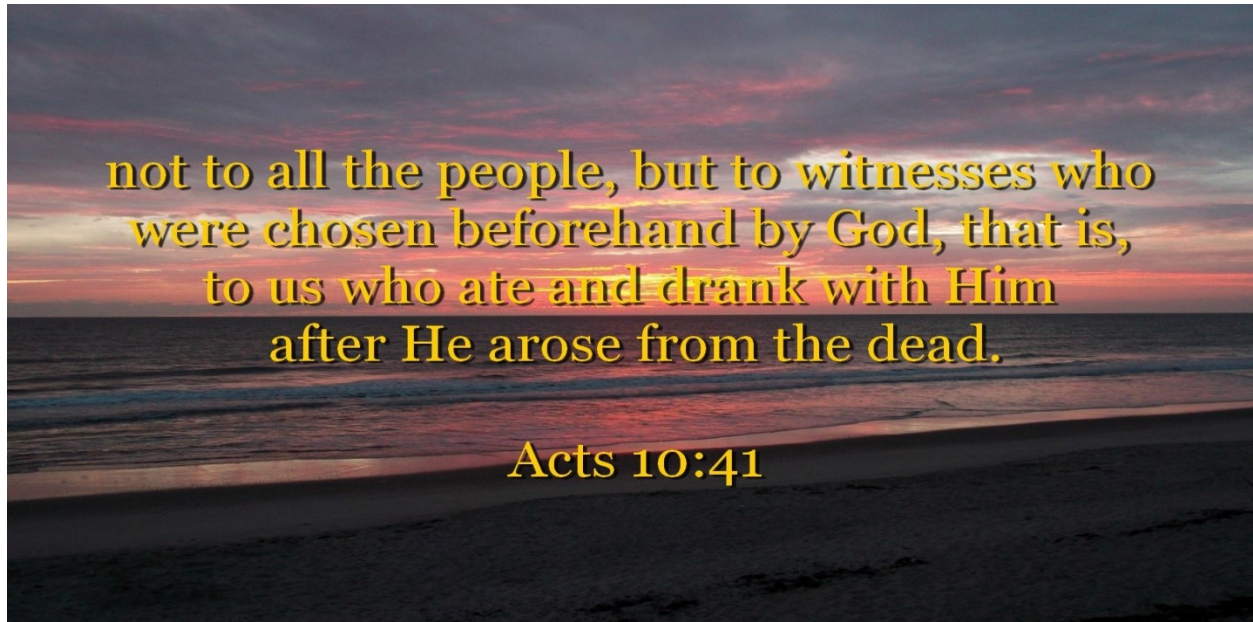
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that many witnesses saw Jesus after He became visible to them after His resurrection. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving Jesus as the Risen Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 377

Witnesses Today



Could everyone see Jesus after His resurrection? No, only to those whom God chose to see Jesus.

Peter explained to this audience that God did not grant all people to see Jesus after His resurrection. He only granted certain people the right to see Jesus after His resurrection. Particularly the twelve apostles became His eyewitnesses of His resurrection. Those apostles ate with Jesus and drank with Him after His resurrection. God chose very carefully who would see Jesus after His resurrection.

The resurrection remains essential to the Christian faith. Without the resurrection, we have no hope of salvation. If Jesus remains in the tomb, then our faith in eternal life cannot stand. The importance of the resurrection cannot be overstated.

God was very careful about the witnesses to the resurrection. Jesus did not appear to everybody, but over the course of forty days he appeared to many people. In fact, Jesus appeared to over five hundred people at one time.

God had a very special role for those apostles to play as eyewitnesses of Jesus and His resurrection and ascension.

He Arose

1. **Not**. Jesus did not become visible to all men, but only to some men.
2. **All**. All people did not see the resurrected Jesus, but only certain people.
3. **Witnesses**. Jesus appeared to certain people after His resurrection, according to God's specific plans for Jesus and those people.
4. **Chosen**. God had chosen certain people beforehand that they would become witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus.
5. **God**. God chose people who could truthfully testify that they had seen Jesus in person after His resurrection.
6. **Ate**. Living holy in the family of God means that God made specific decisions about the witnesses of Jesus's resurrection. God granted that Jesus would become visible to the people He ate with after His resurrection. Jesus ate food showing that He had a real glorified body, and He was not just a spirit.
7. **Drank**. We rejoice today because Jesus ate and drank after His resurrection with chosen witnesses selected by God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that certain witnesses ate and drank with Jesus after His resurrection.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God chose certain men to be witnesses of Jesus and His resurrection and granted that the resurrected Jesus would become visible to them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus more because He rose from the dead for our justification.**

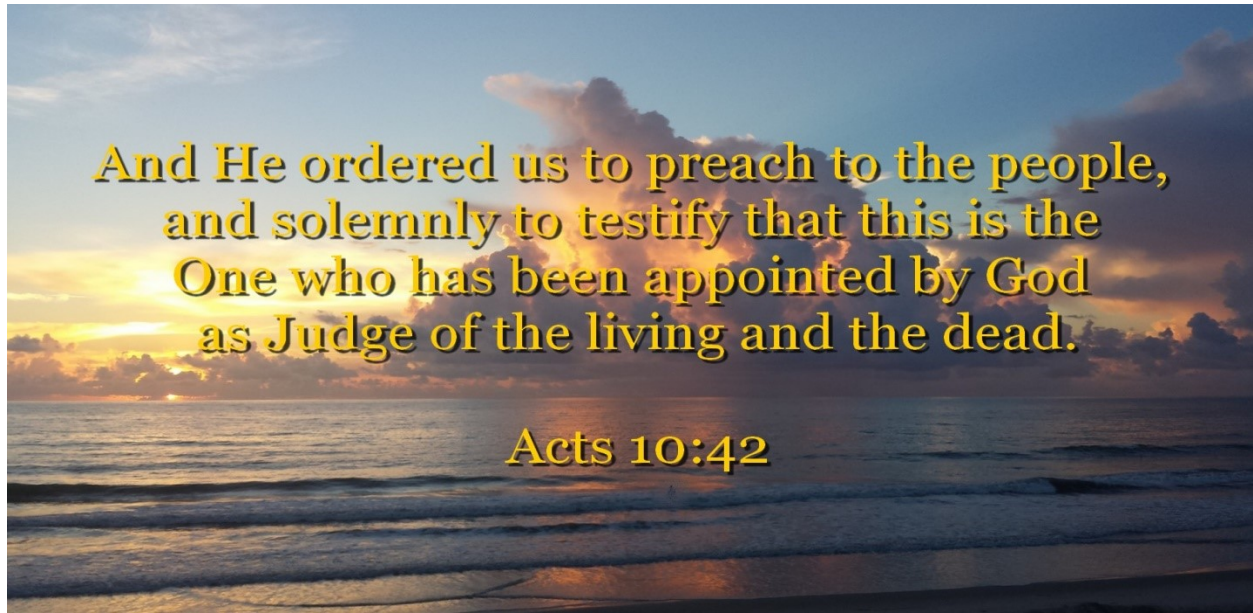
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the witnesses He prepared to see Jesus after His resurrection from the dead?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 378

Preach Today



What did God order the apostles to preach? God appointed the apostles to preach that Jesus was the One God appointed to judge the living and the dead.

God commissioned the apostles to preach to the people. God directed His message towards the masses and the many, not the few and the privileged. Jesus proclaimed the Gospel to the poor and spent considerable time helping the poor. He helped them understand the plan of salvation by faith in Christ as Savior.

Peter also declared that God ordered them to preach to the people. In other words, Peter was standing in front of his audience that day in Caesarea by order of the Most High God. God had drawn him to Caesarea for the explicit purpose of delivering a message about Christ to the Gentiles gathered there.

Peter also explained that Jesus was the Judge appointed by God. Judge Jesus would pass judgment upon the living and the dead. The standard of judgment He imposed rested upon the Gospel that He preached to the people

on Earth. The people who believed in Him as Savior passed out of judgment into life at the moment of saving faith.

Appointed by God

1. **He**. Why did Peter preach? He preached because God ordered him to preach to the people.

2. **Ordered**. God ordered the witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus and provide details of what they had seen and heard as they ate and drank with Jesus.

3. **Us**. God ordered us, Peter said, to speak up for Jesus, just as Peter continued to in Jerusalem, Samaria, Lydda, Joppa and Caesarea.

4. **Preach**. God commanded the witnesses to preach Jesus, the Risen Savior.

5. **Testify**. As they preached to people, God commanded them to proclaim solemnly that Jesus would be the Judge.

6. **Appointed**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand that Jesus will judge the living and the dead.

7. **Judge**. We rejoice today because Jesus will judge the living and the dead because God appointed Him to be the Judge over all people, living and dead. Jesus is Lord and Judge of all people.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in knowing that Jesus will be the Judge of the living and the dead.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that we passed out of judgment and into eternal life at the moment of salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for appointing Jesus as Judge of the living and the dead.**

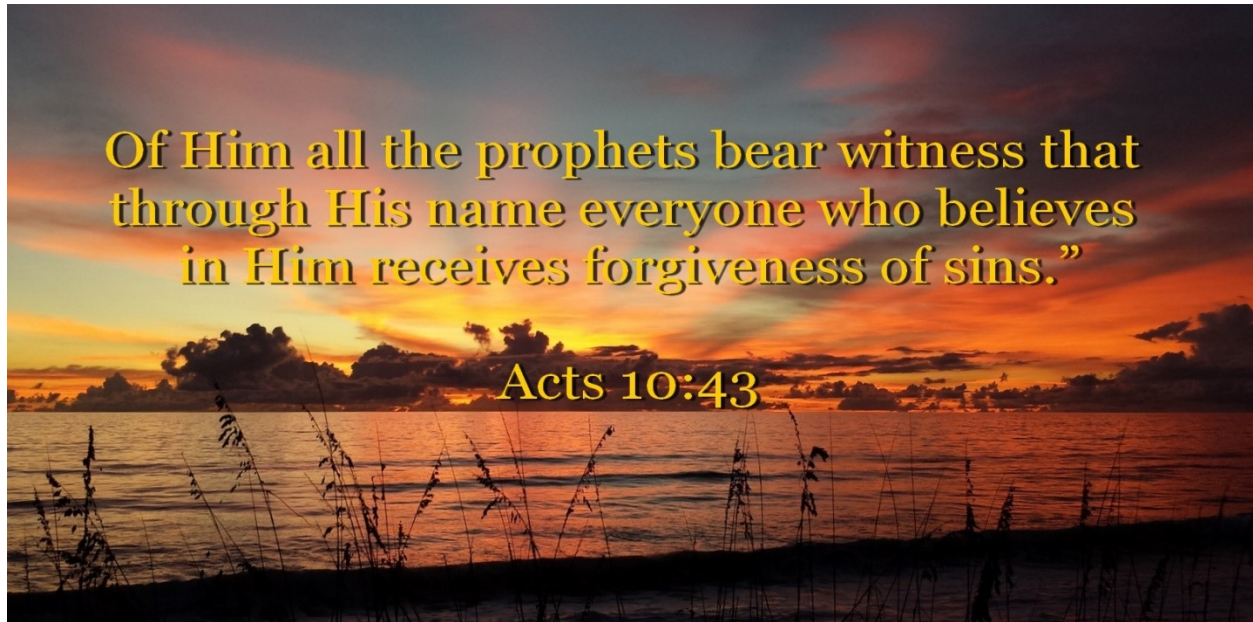
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that Jesus will judge both the living and the dead. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that the saints passed out of judgment regarding eternal life at the moment of salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 379

Believes Today



What did all the prophets testify to? All the prophets testified that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.

Peter connected the Scriptures of the Old Testament to the person of Jesus Christ and His ministry on earth. Peter proclaimed that all the prophets of the Old Testament testified about Jesus and the Lord Jesus Christ. Indirectly, Peter made the point that no one was saved by obeying the Old Testament Law. In both the Old Testament and the New Testament salvation only comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, not by works of the Law or any other works.

The Old Testament prophets also made another point about Jesus. They proclaimed that only through Jesus could people find salvation. In other words, without Jesus there is no salvation. The blood of bulls and goats could never take away sins. If they had taken away sins, there would be no weight on the conscience because of sin. Furthermore, if the Law provided forgiveness of sins, then Christ died needlessly.

Peter reminded his audience that Christ died and rose again. The Old Testament prophets described saving faith in Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth.

Receives Forgiveness

1. **Him**. What did all the prophets say about Jesus? They all proclaimed salvation in Him.

2. **All**. All the prophets spoke about Jesus and believing in Him.

3. **Prophets**. God gave revelations about Jesus to the prophets so that they would proclaim salvation that would be realized in Jesus Christ.

4. **Name**. The Name of Jesus is the only name under heaven given among men which brings salvation.

5. **Everyone**. Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved.

6. **Forgiveness**. Living holy in the family of God means that God promised salvation in Jesus for everyone who believes in Him as Savior.

7. **Sins**. We rejoice today because in the Name of Jesus sins are forgiven by faith in Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus, proclaimed by all the prophets.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that everyone who believes in the Name of Jesus as Savior has their sins forgiven at the moment of salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by delighting in Jesus our Savior.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for our Savior, Jesus Christ, who brought salvation by faith in Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for the great salvation and forgiveness of sins we have in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

16

Gentiles and the Holy Spirit Today

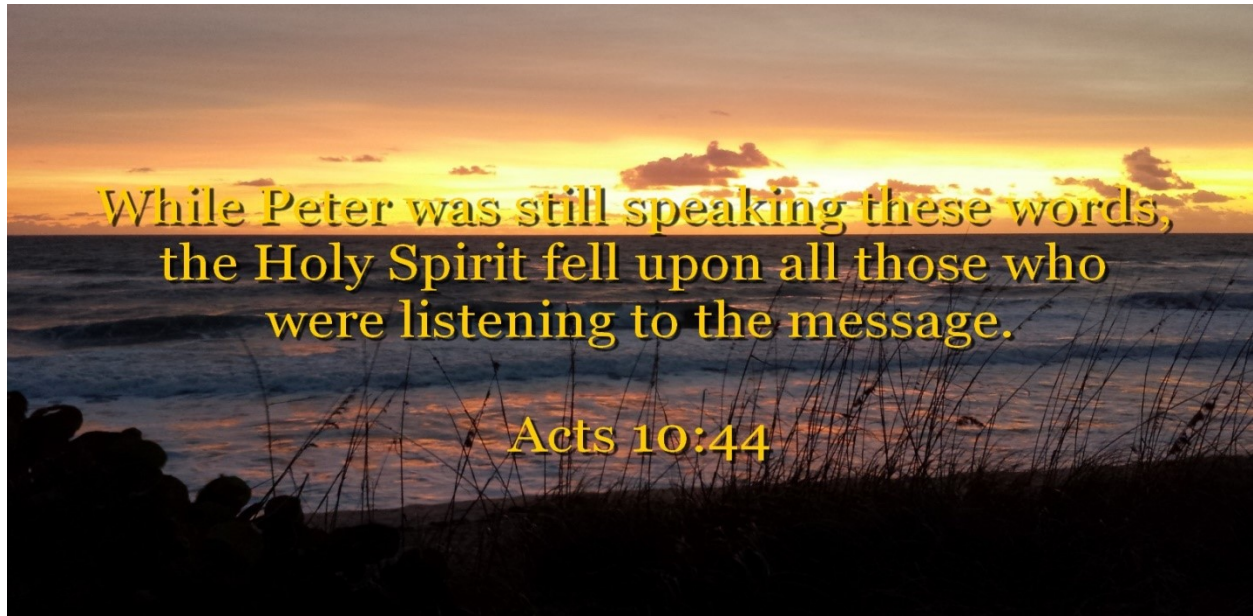
Peter began to preach to the Gentiles assembled in Caesarea. He explained that God does not show partiality to anyone. God welcomes in every nation the man who fears God and does what is right. Peter recounted how God anointed Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit and with power so that He went about doing good and healing all who are oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. Peter declared that the Jews put Jesus to death by hanging Him on a cross. God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, not to all people, but to the witnesses chosen beforehand by God. Those witnesses included Peter and the others who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. God ordered those witnesses to bear witness that Jesus was the One appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. All of the prophets bore witness to Him, so that through Jesus everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who are listening to the message. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon even the Gentiles. They heard them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Peter then asked if anyone could refuse water for them to be baptized who had received the Holy Spirit, just as we did. Peter then ordered them to be baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The people that asked Peter to stay on for a few days.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 380

Speaking Today



What happened while Peter was preaching these words? The Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

At Pentecost the prophecy of Jesus concerning the Holy Spirit was fulfilled. Before Jesus ascended, He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit had come upon them. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, descending from heaven as a rushing wind and lighting upon the apostles as tongues of fire. They began to speak in known languages proclaiming the mighty deeds of God to the many people of many languages standing before them. The people in the crowd heard the apostles speaking in their own native tongues so that they understood them. People from all over the Empire heard the apostles speaking in the language of their birth.

At Samaria the people believed in Jesus Christ as Savior. When Peter and John arrived in the city of Samaria, they laid their hands upon the people who had believed and they received the Holy Spirit, just as the apostles had received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The laying on of hands by the apostles brought about the filling of the Samaritans with the Holy Spirit. Peter and

John were eyewitnesses that the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit just like the Jews in Jerusalem.

Now at Caesarea, the Holy Spirit fell upon the people listening to Peter and they were Gentiles. In effect, Peter was witnessing the Gentile Pentecost. The vision of the sheet had just been fulfilled when Peter witnessed the Holy Spirit falling upon the Gentiles as he proclaimed Christ to them.

Listening

1. **While**. What happened while Peter was speaking? The Holy Spirit fell upon everyone who was listening to his message.

2. **Peter**. Peter had been ordered to proclaim salvation in Jesus. Now he understood that everyone was truly welcome to believe in Jesus for salvation.

3. **Speaking**. Peter was speaking all the words about Jesus that the Holy Spirit empowered him to speak to all the people gathered at the home of Cornelius.

4. **Holy Spirit**. Peter was familiar with the ministry of the Holy Spirit and laid his hands upon people in the city of Samaria and they received the Holy Spirit.

5. **Fell**. The Holy Spirit had not yet fallen upon any of the people before Peter proclaimed his message to them. Suddenly, while Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon the people.

6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit fell upon the people gathered together to hear Peter speak in the home of Cornelius the centurion.

7. **Listening**. We rejoice today because all the people listening to Peter proclaiming Christ to them had the Holy Spirit fall upon them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by delighting in the Holy Spirit falling upon people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus baptized us with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus more for keeping His promise that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus.**

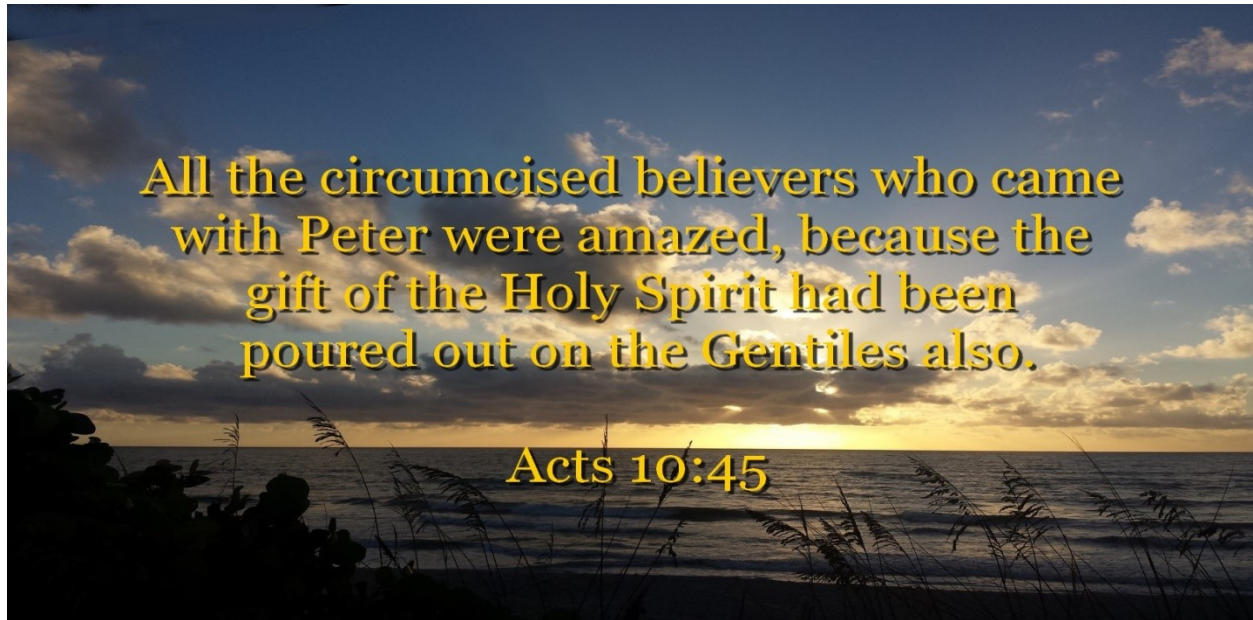
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that the Holy Spirit fell upon everyone hearing the message of Peter. Will you live holy in the family of God today by glorifying God for the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life after you heard and believed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 381

Amazed Today



What amazed circumcised believers? The gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

At Pentecost in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles and they spoke in foreign languages known to members of the crowd. The prophecy of John the Baptist that Jesus would baptize believers with the Holy Spirit was fulfilled at Pentecost. Likewise, the promise of Jesus that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in His name was also fulfilled that day.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit changed things dramatically for believers. His presence in the life of every believer enabled them to use their spiritual gifts bestowed upon them by God. Every believer became a priest to offer holy sacrifices to God and to proclaim the excellencies of His name. Jesus had offered one sacrifice for all sins for all time. Therefore, the sacrifices required of the Old Testament Law were no longer needed because Jesus had made a complete and eternal atonement for sin.

When the circumcised believers saw the Gentiles speaking in tongues, they immediately knew that those believers had been saved and received the gift of the Holy Spirit just as they had. The Gentiles and just become full members in the church.

Gentiles

1. **All**. What happened at the Caesarea Pentecost? The Holy Spirit fell upon all the Gentiles listening to Peter's message, just like He fell upon the apostles at Pentecost in Jerusalem.

2. **Circumcised**. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter from Joppa were amazed.

3. **Believers**. Notice that God called them believers, because they had saving faith already.

4. **Came**. Those circumcised believers (Jewish believers) had travelled with Peter from Joppa and had already seen some of the work of God there. Notice they had not seen the Holy Spirit fall upon any Gentiles yet, although Peter had laid his hands upon Samaritans and they received the Holy Spirit at the city of Samaria.

5. **Peter**. God had used Peter to become an eyewitness of the Gentile Pentecost at Caesarea, where the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Gentiles. Notice that Peter had seen the sheet lowered from heaven and God told Peter not to regard anything God had cleansed as unholy or unclean. Peter had witnessed the fulfillment of that prophetic message. The Gentiles were no longer to be considered unholy or unclean because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Amazed**. Living holy in the family of God means that God amazed the Jews from Joppa when He poured out the Holy Spirit upon the Gentiles at Caesarea who believed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Holy Spirit**. We rejoice today because both Jews and Gentiles and Samaritans all received the same Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Caesarean Pentecost.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that all people who believe the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ all receive the same Holy Spirit at salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the unity in the Holy Spirit all believers share.**

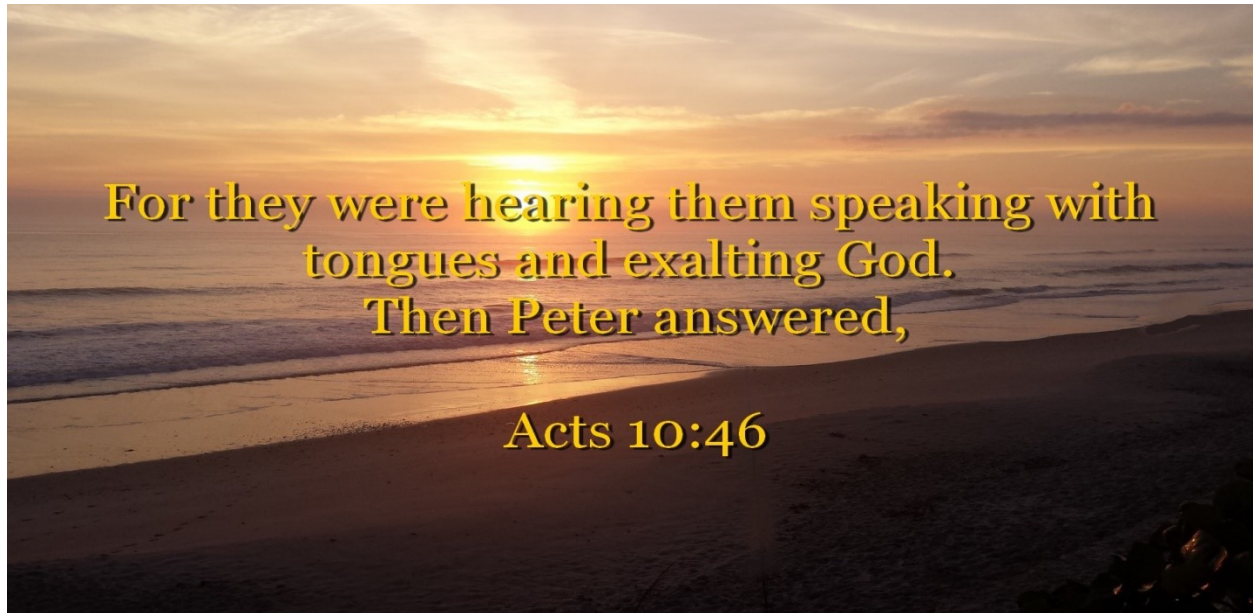
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that we have all been baptized by Jesus in the same Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 382

Speaking Today



For they were hearing them speaking with
tongues and exalting God.
Then Peter answered,

Acts 10:46

What were the Gentiles saying? They were speaking in tongues and exalting God.

When the Gentiles spoke in tongues that day at the Caesarea Pentecost, Peter and the other circumcised Jews had unmistakable proof that the Gentiles were truly saved and had received the Holy Spirit, just like they had at Pentecost. They were now full members of the church of Jesus Christ.

At Joppa, Peter had seen a vision of a great sheet filled with unclean animals lowered to earth. God told Peter to kill and eat, but Peter declined, saying that he had never done such a thing in his life. At Caesarea, Peter now saw unmistakable proof that the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit and were now welcomed by God into the church of Jesus Christ.

As a side note, Peter and the apostles spoke in tongues, which were known languages to the people in the crowd before them in Jerusalem. That crowd had come from many different lands in the Empire, representing many different languages. While the apostles spoke in a known foreign

language, they declared the mighty deeds of God. The Gentiles of Caesarea were also speaking in tongues and were exalting God.

Exalting

1. **For**. What did the circumcised believers hear? They heard the Gentiles speaking in tongues.

2. **They**. Some people today wrongly teach that you must speak in tongues to be truly saved. Others wrongly teach that the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs after salvation when you submit your life to God. Actually, not everyone speaks in tongues (1 Corinthians 12:30), but everyone is baptized by Jesus with the Holy Spirit when they join the Body of Christ (the church) at the moment of salvation (Matthew 3:11; 1 Corinthians 12:13).

3. **Hearing**. The circumcised believers heard them speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

4. **Speaking**. By speaking out loud in a foreign tongue, the new Gentile believers gave proof of the Holy Spirit falling upon them and filling them.

5. **Tongues**. At Pentecost, the apostles spoke with foreign tongues known to the people present who heard them speaking in their native tongues.

6. **Exalting**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Gentiles at Caesarea spoke in tongues when the Holy Spirit fell upon them after hearing Peter's message and they were exalting God with their words.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because God is not partial to any, but freely bestows the Holy Spirit upon all who believe the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that the Holy Spirit seals all believers at the moment of salvation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by sharing the joy of the Holy Spirit in all the lives of believers all over the world.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by exalting God for giving to all believers the Holy Spirit.**

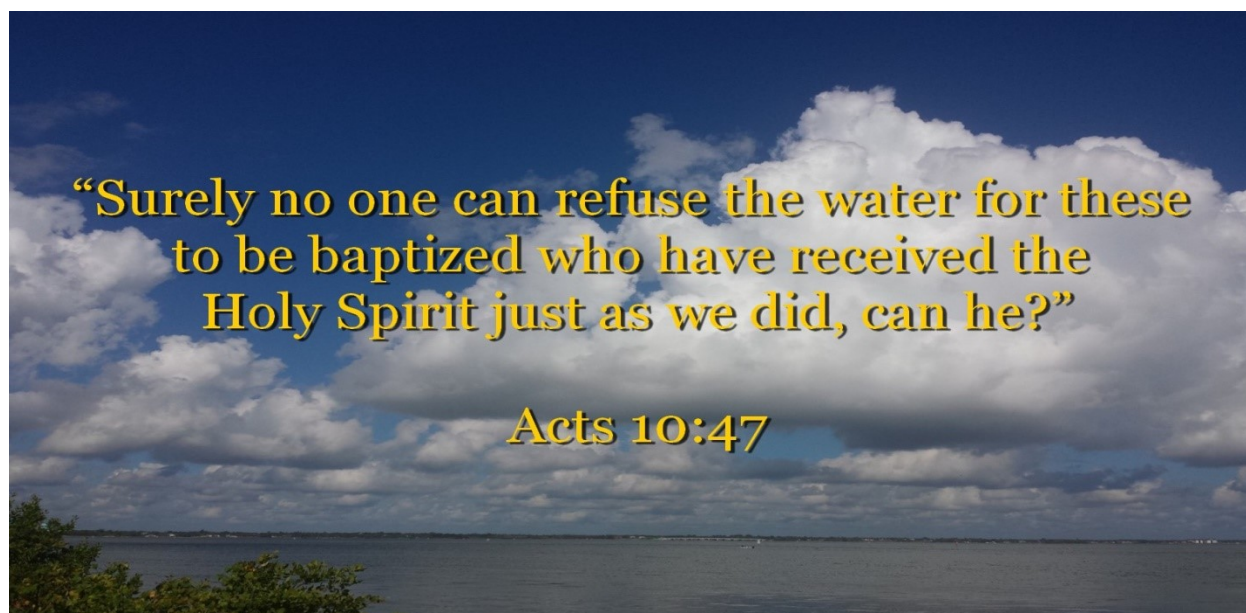
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that we receive the free gift of eternal life by faith in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and we also receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit at the same moment. Will you live holy in the family of God today by exalting God today through the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 383

Baptized Today



What did Peter want to do with the people who had received the Holy Spirit? He wanted them to be baptized in water.

At Caesarea, the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. The believers from the circumcision, including Peter, knew for certain that the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit just like they did at Pentecost. Therefore, Peter thought they should be baptized immediately.

Several things stand out here about the work of the Holy Spirit. First, no one laid hands upon those Gentiles for them to receive the Holy Spirit. Second, only three times in the Book of Acts do people speak in tongues: Jerusalem, Caesarea and Ephesus. Third, speaking in tongues had a powerful effect upon the people hearing the tongues so that they knew the people had been saved. In fact, speaking in tongues was so rare in the Book of Acts that the vast majority of people were saved and received the Holy Spirit without speaking in tongues and without the laying on of hands. Speaking in tongues demonstrated that different groups of people had now joined the church.

Water baptism also characterized the early church. Baptism followed salvation, because the Gentiles at Caesarea spoke in tongues before they were baptized, showing that baptism and salvation are completely different events.

Holy Spirit

1. **Peter**. What did Peter want to know? Peter wanted to know if anyone would refuse the water of baptism for the new Gentile believers.

2. **Refuse**. Peter asked if anyone would refuse the water of baptism. He expected no one would possibly refuse.

3. **Water**. New Testament believers were baptized immediately after salvation.

4. **Baptized**. Water baptism symbolized conversion and identification with Christ for daily public ministry in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Received**. The Gentiles at Caesarea convinced Peter and the Jews present that the Gentiles by faith had become a part of the Body of Christ. They had already been baptized by Jesus with the Holy Spirit and so would proclaim that spiritual salvation and spiritual baptism to the world through public water baptism.

6. **Holy Spirit**. Living holy in the family of God means that we receive baptism with the Holy Spirit by Jesus at the moment of salvation.

7. **We**. We rejoice today because Jesus baptizes both Jews and Gentiles and Samaritans with the One and Only Holy Spirit so that we all become members of the One and Only Body of Christ, the Church.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God wants all saints baptized in water.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by not refusing to baptize all believers.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for giving us water baptism as a public declaration of our faith in Christ.**

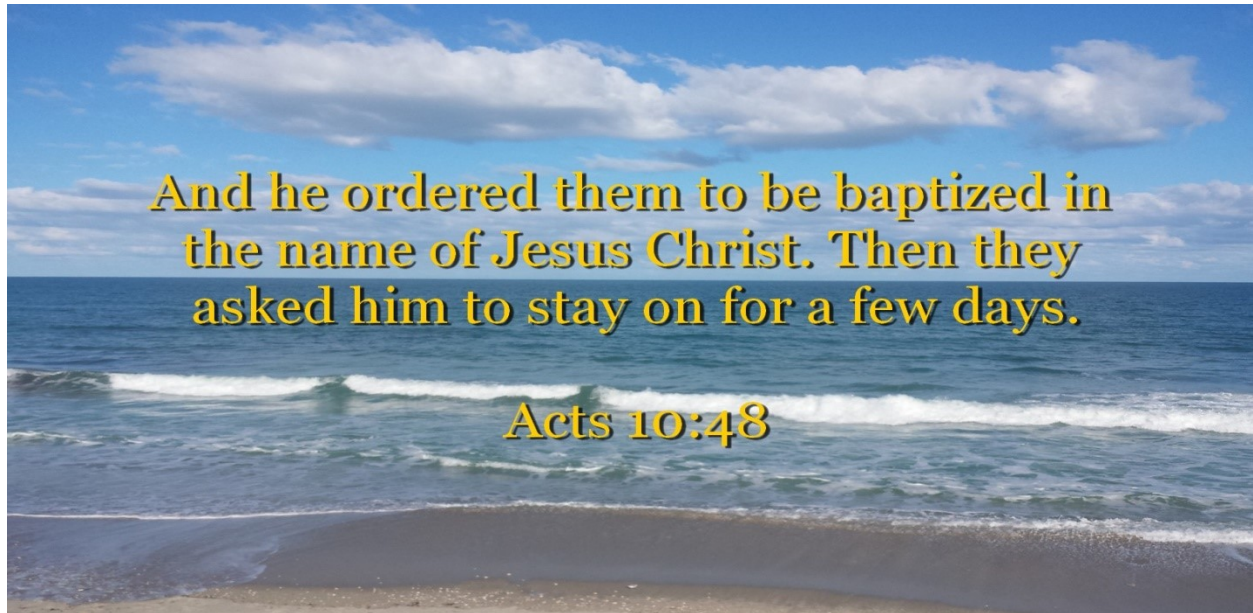
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives today and being baptized in water as a public declaration of our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never refusing believers baptism in the water?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 384

Ordered Today



What did Peter order them to do? Peter ordered them to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus commissioned His disciples, He ordered them to baptize converts in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. At Caesarea, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Book of Acts represents a strong transitional period in the program of God. Some things that took place in Acts were not characteristic of the general pattern of church activity. For example, many believers received the Holy Spirit after salvation, without the laying on of hands. During that transitional period, God gave visible signs of His activities so that Jews and Gentiles could understand that they were united by faith in one Savior so that they became fellow members of His one and only church.

The saints at Caesarea asked Peter to stay on for a few more days. You may recall that he also spent time at Lydda and Joppa. When many people turned to the Lord at Joppa, Peter stayed there for many days until Cornelius

sent three men to bring him to Caesarea. Therefore we see how the apostles ministered in different places at different times, according to the will of God.

Baptized

1. **Ordered**. What order did Peter give? He ordered the new Gentile believers to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ.

2. **Baptized**. Baptism followed salvation and speaking in tongues. When some people today wrongly claim that baptism saves you, they overlook Acts 10:44-48, where the Gentiles believed and spoke in tongues as evidence of their salvation for the benefit of Peter and the circumcised believers present at Caesarea. Those Gentiles were already saved as witnessed by speaking in tongues and then they were baptized. Baptism never saves anyone, but baptism follows salvation. The thief on the cross beside Jesus who believed in Jesus as Savior went to heaven without being baptized.

3. **Name**. Peter ordered the saints to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ.

4. **Jesus Christ**. Peter referred to the Lord as Jesus Christ, the anointed Savior.

5. **Stay**. The new believers at Caesarea asked Peter to stay on for a few days, in contrast to the believers in Joppa where Peter stayed on for many days.

6. **Few**. Living holy in the family of God means that God moves His messengers from place to place, but they also stay in one place according to the need of the moment.

7. **Days**. We rejoice today because Peter stayed several days more in Caesarea.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Gentiles were baptized with water after being baptized by Jesus into the Body of Christ and being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by moving where God moves us so that we can do His will where He wants us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that all believers from all backgrounds join the Body of Christ (the church) at the moment of salvation.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by welcoming all people into the Body of Christ where we all have been made to drink of one Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by welcoming new believers in to the Body of Christ without partiality?

HALLELUJAH !

Conclusion

The early church expanded rapidly in Jerusalem. As the Lord added new saints to the church, problems arose within the church and from outside the church. Inside, God took measures to organize the church so that it met the needs of the saints. Outside, the religious Council began to persecute the saints more vigorously. They focused their persecution Stephen, a man full of the spirit and of wisdom.

Stephen produced signs and wonders by the power of God and the religious Council took notice. They condemned Stephen to death after he recounted the history of Israel sinning against God. Stephen explained the sin of the present generation rejecting Jesus as Savior and his enemies stoned him to death, laying their robes at the feet of Saul of Tarsus. Stephen had faithfully presented the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and sealed his testimony with his martyrdom.

From that date a great persecution arose of the saints. They fled, spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ as they went to new lands. The apostles stayed behind in Jerusalem, but some of them traveled.

Philip, another man full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, spread the Gospel in Samaria and shared the good news of Jesus with an Ethiopian eunuch and baptized him on the desert road. Meanwhile, Peter and John came to Samaria and witnessed the conversion of many people and the Holy Spirit came upon them through the laying on of hands. Peter then traveled to Lydda and Joppa spreading the good news and doing works of powers.

At Joppa Peter received a vision that he should call no man unholy or unclean. Shortly afterwards, Peter witnessed the conversion of many Gentiles at Caesarea as he preached the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to them. They spoke in tongues after the Holy Spirit fell upon them and then they were baptized. By this point in the Book of Acts, the Samaritans and the Gentiles had received the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now the church faced the issues of how to bring the Gentiles into full fellowship in the church and what to do with the law of Moses, because everyone, both Jews and Gentiles, had all been saved by grace through faith.

HALLELUJAH !