

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## THE BOOK OF ACTS

### Fruitage of the Ministry

CORINNE HELINE

*Peter and Cornelius*  
*"God Hath Also to the Gentiles*  
*Granted Life"*

Acts 10:1-5

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

And when he looked upon him he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord?

And He said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

And now send thou men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter.

In all the Scriptures there is no more beautiful or touching incident than the interview of Peter with Cornelius. When the pupil is ready the Teacher appears. When the aura of the pupil begins to shine with sufficient intensity there is no danger of his being overlooked by the Great Ones, because here and now the harvest is white and the laborers all too few. Cornelius was a captain of the Roman guard at Caesarea. He accepted Christ and endeavored, amid the most hostile surroundings, to live the Christian life. Being a haughty Roman soldier, his great test was to humble himself to receive instruction from a Jew and a simple fisherman. Cornelius represents in humanity the

militant or martial power when transformed into the gentle self-effacing spirit of the Christ. The difficult test for Peter was to enlarge his vision sufficiently to include Gentiles and Jews. It was necessary that he come to the place where he made no distinction among people because of race, color or creed. He had attained to the universality of consciousness required of him. These are difficult steps confronting the aspirant.

As Cornelius was prepared by an Angel for the coming of Peter, so Peter was being prepared for another and a higher step in his important work.

Acts 1:9-16

On the morrow as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour:

And he became very hungry, and would have eaten; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet; knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.

And the voice spake unto him again a second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

This was done thrice; and the vessel was received up again unto heaven.

Peter gives the essence of his vision in the words, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." The Christ fully demonstrated this fact while upon earth. It is the test before which the most advanced are prone to fail. Peter was on the housetop, that is, in a high spiritual consciousness; his hunger was that of the spirit for further illumination. The great sheet knit at the four corners symbolized the cosmic planes wherein he was reviewing the work of Four Days of Creation and the evolution of the four life waves upon the earth: mineral, plant, animal and human. With this vision came the true realization of the oneness and unity of all life with God; or, as Peter expressed it, the knowledge that God is no respecter of persons. It was for an especial purpose that the Master Jesus was born into the Jewish race, but the Christ Spirit, which ensouled Jesus' body for three years, came as the Master Pattern for all humanity. To Peter was given an opportunity for teaching this new conception of the mission of the Christ to mankind.

Peter, who had now become the dauntless, fearless one, was faithful unto his trust regardless of results to himself.

#### Acts 11:1-3, 16-18

And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him.

Saying Thou wentest in to men uncircumcized and didst eat with them.

Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as He did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

In the vision of Peter, the command to kill and eat means to subjugate and transmute. Animals symbolize the lower passions and appetites. This work of subjugation and transmutation was what Peter was giving to the neophytes in Lydda and Joppa. Cornelius and his group of students (referred to as his household) were ready for this work.

#### Acts 10:30-33

And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing.

And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.

Send therefore to Joppa and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter: he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the seaside; who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.

Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded of God.

Peter did much more than merely tell these people of Christ and His Crucifixion. This chapter contains the keys of Initiation as nearly as they can be made public. Peter was both explaining and demonstrating to them truths concerning the esoteric mission of Christ Jesus, for Peter had become a Christed one. The powers of the Christ were his to manifest.

#### Acts 10:44

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them that heard the word.

The same powers are to be made known to all men of all ages as soon as they make themselves worthy to understand the *magic of the word*. This is the *Lost Word* of the Masons and the *word* which every mystic Mason will find when he is resurrected a Master by the strong grip of the Lion's Paw.