

July 17–23

Acts 10–15

“The Word of God Grew and Multiplied”



The Gospel is Extended to the Gentiles

Acts 10:1-6

What can we learn about personal revelation from Cornelius' experience?

LeGrand Richards

"From this example we learn that no matter how righteous one may be who seeks after truth, the Lord directs him to one of his servants who has been ordained to the priesthood, so that he can be baptized at his hands and be instructed.

"This was also true with respect to Saul, to which we have already referred. Even though the Savior spoke to him on the road to Damascus, the Lord directed him to go into the city of Damascus, where the Lord instructed one of his servants, Ananias, what to do." (A Marvelous Work and a Wonder, pg. 105)

Parley P. Pratt

“The doctrine of visions and ministering of angels... was common to all dispensations... We will carry it still further. It was enjoyed among the Gentiles, before there was a people of God fully organized among them in the days of Christ. Cornelius had the ministering of angels before he became a member of the Christian Church, or understood there was a crucified and risen Redeemer. He prayed to the living God, and gave alms of such things as he had. He was a good man, and an angel came to him and told him his prayers were heard, and his alms had come up as a memorial before God.”

(JD, 1:297)

The Gospel is Extended to the Gentiles

Acts 10:9-18

Why did Peter refuse to eat the animals shown in the vision?

What lesson do you think that the Lord was trying to teach Peter?

Leviticus 20:25

Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean.

Spencer W. Kimball

"The prejudices were deep rooted in Peter, and it took a vision from heaven to help him cast off his bias.... Then the heavenly voice made clear that the program was for all. 'What God hath cleansed,' it said, 'that call not thou common.' Peter's long sustained prejudices finally gave way under the power of the thrice-repeated command. When the devout gentile Cornelius immediately thereafter appealed to him for the gospel, the full meaning of the vision burst upon Peter and he exclaimed, 'God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.'" (Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg. 294)

The Gospel is Extended to the Gentiles

Acts 10:19-20,25-28

What did Peter learn was the interpretation of his vision?

Brigham Young

“At that time the Gospel had been given to the Jews only, and Peter and his brethren had the idea that it was not for the Gentiles; but this vision was as much as to say, ‘I want to open your eyes and show you that the Gentiles as well as the Jews are to receive and participate in the blessings of the Gospel.’ Just as Peter awoke from his vision there came a rap at the door and the messengers of Cornelius inquired for him.” (JD, 14:129)

The Gospel is Extended to the Gentiles

Acts 10:34-35,44-48

What convinced those Christian Jews present that the gospel was also for the Gentiles?

D. Todd Christofferson

"By this experience and revelation to Peter, the Lord modified the practice of the Church and revealed a more complete doctrinal understanding to His disciples. And so the preaching of the gospel expanded to encompass all mankind." (CR, April 2012)

The Gospel is Extended to the Gentiles

Acts 11:1-4,18

What was the initial reaction of the Jewish church members to Peter's actions?

What was their reaction after Peter explained the vision he had?

Spencer J. Condie

"Traditions seem natural because most people in a given society engage in such behaviors, but the commandments of God are based upon revealed truth, not popular preferences....

“Sometimes members become so fond of certain traditions within the Church that a change in a given policy or procedure becomes a test of their faith. They believe in continuous revelation as long as it does not involve change. Describing the Saints in his day, the Prophet Joseph Smith once exclaimed, 'I have tried for a number of years to get the minds of the Saints prepared to receive the things of God; but we frequently see some of them... will fly to pieces like glass as soon as anything comes that is contrary to their traditions' (TPJS, pg. 331).” (“A Disposition to Do Good Continually”, Ensign, Aug. 2001)

Paul's First Mission

Acts 13:2-4

What do you think is significant about there Saul and Barnabas were sent on their first mission?

The real significance of Paul's first missionary journey lies in the fact that it led to the establishment of branches of the church in areas far removed from Jerusalem. Many hear and received the gospel message who could otherwise not have done so.... We note also Paul's eagerness to preach the gospel to all men, regardless of their station or background. When the Jews reject the word of God, Paul turns to the gentiles. (Institute Manual, The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles, pg. 263)

Paul's First Mission

Acts 13:33-39,42

What did Paul tell the Jews that Jesus had done that set Him apart from other prophets whom they glorified?

Paul's First Mission

Acts 13:44-50

What is the reason Paul gives for preaching the gospel to the Gentiles?

How would you compare the reaction of the Gentiles to Paul's teachings to that of the Jews?

Joseph Smith

"And so it came to pass that as Israel in those days rejected the Gospel of the kingdom which was first offered to them, so God also rejected them; and they have stood rejected to this day; smitten and trodden under foot of the Gentile races, a scoff, a hiss, and a byword in every land that they have inhabited; while the kingdom of God first offered to them was left to other people, to the Gentiles, who for a season, brought forth the fruits thereof." (History of the Church, 1:39)

Paul's First Mission

Acts 14:1-7

Which group actively apposed Paul and his message and how did they try to stop him?

Paul's First Mission

Acts 14:8-20

What did Paul perceive about the crippled man that prompted him heal him?

What does that teach us about be healed?

Spencer W. Kimball

“The need of faith is often underestimated. The ill one and the family often seem to depend wholly on the power of the priesthood and the gift of healing that they hope the administering brethren may have, whereas the greater responsibility is with him who is blessed.... The major element is the faith of the individual when that person is conscious and accountable. ‘Thy faith hath made thee whole’ (Matthew 9:22) was repeated so often by the Master that it almost became a chorus.”
 (“Administration to the Sick”, New Era, Oct. 1981)

Paul's First Mission

Acts 14:21-28

Conference in Jerusalem – Law of Moses

Acts 15:5-11

Why do you think that some Jewish converts thought that they should continue to conform to rituals from the Law of Moses?

What evidence does Peter give that these outward rituals are no longer necessary?

Dean L. Larsen

"This loyalty to and affinity for programs that were an outgrowth of the ritualism and regimentation of the past proved to be a great obstacle to accepting the simple, basic principles of the gospel. For the converted Jews, whose lives had been so filled with the programmed requirements of the law and whose religious commitment had been demonstrated by their outward observance of these requirements, the religious life outlined by the gospel of Christ must have seemed very open and unregulated. It was not easy for them to leave the feeling of security provided in the total regimentation of the Jewish law." ("Some Thoughts on Goal-Setting," Ensign, Feb. 1981)

Romans 7:6

But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

Conference in Jerusalem – Law of Moses

Acts 15:19-24,28

Why do you think the Jewish traditions were an unnecessary burden for the early church members to bear?

By comparison, what did Jesus say about taking upon us His burden?

John Taylor

“The law [of Moses] was added not as a peculiar kind of a blessing that some people speak of, but as a peculiar kind of a curse—the law of carnal commandments, 'a yoke that we nor our fathers were able to bear.' And when Jesus came, what did he bring? Why, the Gospel.... that everlasting, eternal, unchangeable principle that brings men into relationship with their God, unveils the heavens and the purposes of God to the human family, and leads them in the paths of life.” (JD, 14:356)

Matt 11:28-30

[28] Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

[29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

[30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Regarding the scribes and Pharisees:

Matt 23:4

For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

Next Week:

July 24–30

Acts 16–21

“The Lord Had Called Us for to Preach
the Gospel”

