

God is Not Partial

Peter Opens the Door of the Gospel to the Gentiles

Acts 10:24-48

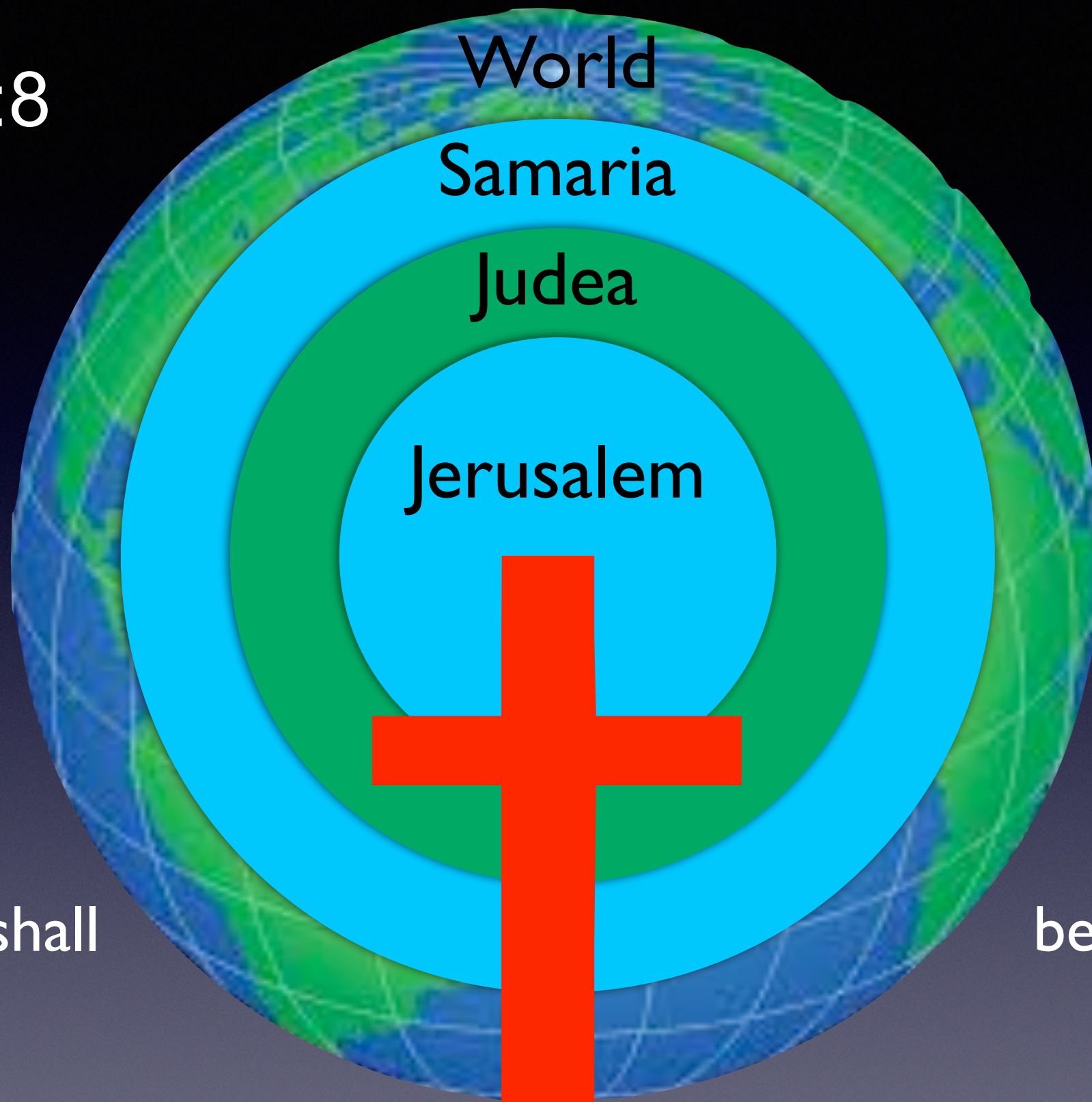


Acts 1:8

But you
will
receive
power

and you shall

both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and even to the remotest part of the earth



when the
Holy Spirit
has come
upon you;

be My witnesses

Acts 10:28 - Then he said to them, “**You know** how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. **But God** has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

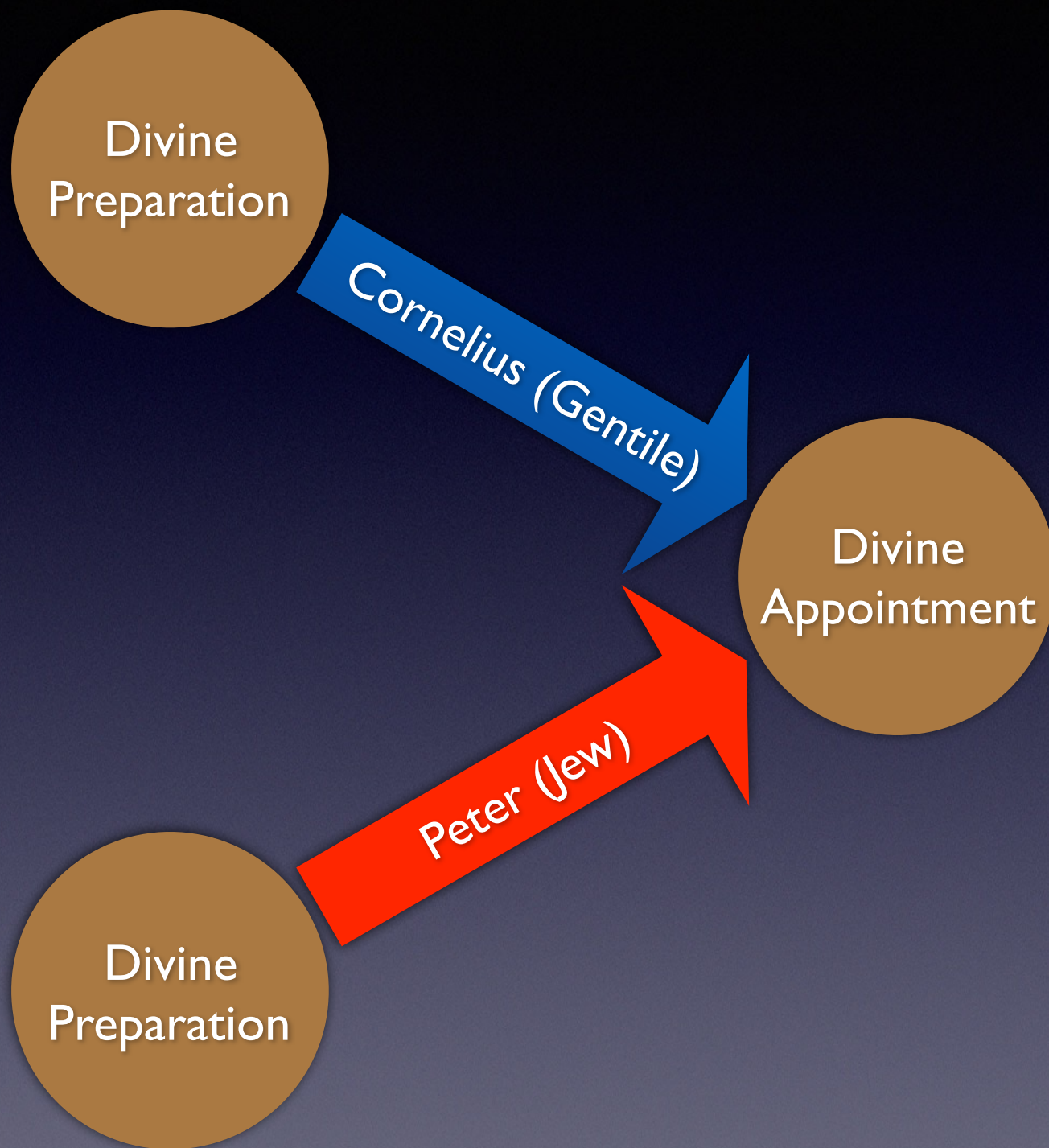


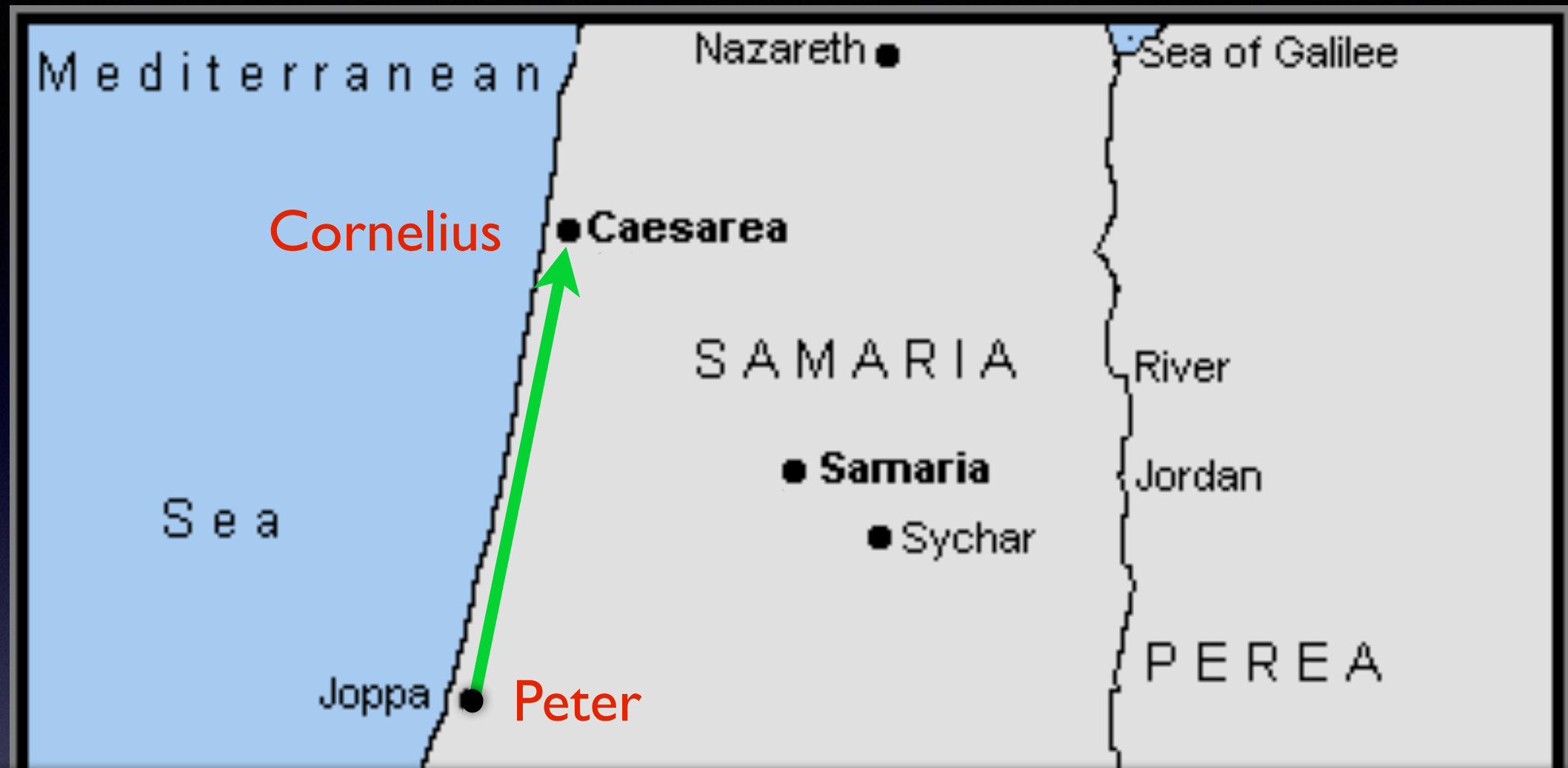
Cornelius (Gentile)

“Middle Wall of Separation” (Ephesians 2:14b - NKJV)



Peter (Jew)





John MacArthur - “Two worlds are about to collide, as seven devout, orthodox Jews were about to meet a houseful of eager Gentiles. A milestone in the history of the church as been reached.”

The Meeting

Acts 10:24-33

1. Cornelius, in anticipation of Peter's arrival, had assembled a welcoming party of close friends and relatives (God prepares the hearts of receivers of the gospel) - v. 24 & 27
2. Cornelius exalted and worshiped Peter but Peter humbled himself before Cornelius (the evangelization process is simply a saved person witnessing to an unsaved person) v. 25-26
3. Peter reminded Cornelius of the wall of separation between the Jews and the Gentiles but Peter also revealed that God had broken down that barrier allowing Peter to come to Cornelius' house (the evangelization process is barrier-free at God's sovereign direction) - v. 28-29a

The Meeting

Acts 10:24-33

3. Peter reminded Cornelius of the wall of separation between the Jews and the Gentiles but Peter also revealed that God had broken down that barrier allowing Peter to come to Cornelius' house **(the evangelization process is barrier-free at God's sovereign direction)** - v. 28-29a
4. Peter's question: What is the purpose of this meeting?
5. Cornelius related how God had answered his prayers and commanded him to send for Peter **(God will satisfy those who hunger and thirst for righteousness)**
6. Cornelius' question: What is the message from the Lord that you have for us?

The Message

Acts 10:34-43

1. The Gospel is for every nation and every ethnicity
 - a. God does not show partiality to any nation or ethnicity
 - b. God welcomes anyone who fears God and does what is right

Darrell Bock - "The point is not that Cornelius earned righteousness as his due but that his responsiveness leads God to send Peter to reveal more of God's way to him, as the rest of the speech points the way to what Cornelius must now do. The effect is that Cornelius enters into the peace of God and can now serve god in a way that honors Him."

The Message

Acts 10:34-43

1. The Gospel is for every nation and every ethnicity
2. The Gospel is focused on Jesus Christ who is Lord of all

a. You yourselves (emphatic) know about the preaching of

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 - “If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you **hang him on a tree**, his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (**for he who is hanged is accursed of God**), so that you do not defile your land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance.”

c. The apostles were witnesses of the death of Jesus Christ by hanging on a “tree”

d. The apostles were witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

The Message

Acts 10:34-43

Jeremiah 31:33-34 - “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will **forgive their iniquity**, and their sin I will remember no more.”

b. We can receive forgiveness of sins through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

Isaiah 53:11 - As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as **He will bear their iniquities**.

The Message

Acts 10:34-43

1. The Gospel is for every nation and every ethnicity
2. The Gospel is focused on Jesus Christ who is Lord of all
3. The Gospel demands a response

The Miracle

Acts 10:44-48

1. The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Gentiles evidenced by their speaking in tongues just like had done with the apostles at Pentecost
2. No one could deny that God had saved these Gentiles and so they were baptized as a testimony of their entrance into the church of God
3. Christian Jews and Christian Gentiles can together enjoy true fellowship being united in the one body of Jesus Christ

Implications

Ephesians 2:13-16

But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

God is not partial, therefore, we can be confident that:

Implications

God is not partial, therefore, we can be confident that:

1. God is preparing hearts in all nations to receive the Gospel of peace through the Lord Jesus Christ
2. God is preparing our hearts to share the Gospel with any person of any ethnicity/nation
3. God will sovereignly superintend each of the Divine Appointments in which we are privileged to participate