

Early Jewish Resistance to Salvation without Circumcision (c. 38–40)

Acts 11:1–18

Peter Attacked by the Circumcision Party

1 Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him,
3 saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

Peter’s Defense of Gentile Conversion Apart from Circumcision

4 But Peter began *speaking* and *proceeded* to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying,

5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me,

6 and when I had fixed my gaze on it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air.

7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’

8 But I said, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

9 But a voice from heaven answered a second time, ‘What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.’

10 This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky.

11 And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were *staying*, having been sent to me from Caesarea.

12 The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man’s house.

13 And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;

14 and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as *He did* upon us at the beginning.

16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ [cf. [Acts 1:5](#); [Mark 1:8](#)]

17 Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as *He gave* to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”

Most Jews are Convinced by Peter’s Explanation (but not all, cf. Acts 15:1–5)

18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads to life*.”