

Title: GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE NATIONS, ACTS 10:34 – 43
(Chatham, NJ; 04/01/18, AM) [E – Exegetical]

Theme: Peter preaches the same Gospel to Cornelius that is essentially the message meant for all nations and people.

Purpose: To rejoice in the message of the Resurrection and to remind us not only to be encouraged by it but also to be the servants who carry on the job of witnessing and serving.

Introduction:

1. The Holy Spirit set up the meeting between Peter and Cornelius.
2. An angel spoke to Cornelius; God spoke to Peter in a vision.
3. An insight dawns on Peter: God accepts people from every nation.
4. God had chosen Israel (Deut. 10:14-15) to be a blessing to the aliens, but more importantly to all nations (promise to Abraham).
5. Peter's message to Cornelius provides a synopsis of the Gospel meant for everyone.

Peace through Jesus Who Is Lord of All, 36

- A. Good news of peace
 1. As opposed to the confusion, chaos, and violence that characterizes the kingdoms of the world and of Satan
 2. Last week I mentioned the violence attributed to atheistic regimes just in the last 100 years: 150 million killed through torture, starvation, and murder
 3. 1 John 3:12-13 would consider such people as descendants of Cain "who was of the evil one and murdered his brother."
 4. Jesus institutes a covenant of peace between mankind and God, "making peace by the blood of the cross," Col. 1:20.
 5. It was the message of angels at his birth, and it was his message to the scared and confused apostles after the resurrection, John 20:19 (read)
 6. I am reminded of one of Floyd Lewis' favorite Psalms – 37:1-3
- B. He is Lord of all
 1. Never forget his authority, Mt. 28:18
 2. Peter concludes his first sermon with "God has made him both Lord and Christ," Acts 2:36
 3. It is to this authority that every knee shall bow, Philippians 2:9-11 (read)
- C. God anointed him, 38-39
 1. Anointing is a messianic term
 2. He had power to do good and to heal
 3. God was with him: authoritative on its own merit
 4. We are witnesses

He Died but Was Resurrected, 39 – 40

- A. Evil powers were at work in putting him to death
 1. What does it say about our world that someone who did so much good was crucified as a criminal?
 2. Ask yourself, "For what good reason did people side with and choose to save a thief and murderer like Barabbas over Jesus?"
 3. When Satan left Jesus after his temptations in the desert, he sought a more opportune time.
 4. He found it at Jesus' trial and crucifixion.
 5. Yet something miraculous happened: Jesus conquered death
- B. God raised him from the dead

1. Satan's opportunity turned out to be his downfall
 2. By dying, Jesus gave the world the perfect sacrifice needed to satisfy the justice of God.
 3. By dying, Jesus' blood atoned for human sin in a way that mere animal sacrifices could not.
 4. By dying, Jesus turned rebels into friends
 5. By coming back to life, Jesus destroyed the one thing that Satan held over us: fear of death, Heb. 2:14
 6. By coming back to life, Jesus turned Satan's power against him
 7. By coming back to life, Jesus has given us eternal life
- C. We are witnesses, 41
1. All who ate with him, and touched him, and saw him 1 John 1:1-4.
 2. Even to Thomas who doubted and to Paul on the road to Damascus

Appointed to Judge the Living and the Dead, 42

- Good and evil alike will be raised to stand before God, John 5:28-29
- God will give to each as he has done in this life, Romans 2:6-10
- Yet by the cross Jesus draws us to himself and to salvation, John 3:14 & 12:32
- The apostolic message was reconciliation and forgiveness, Acts 10:43
- Cornelius and his family were baptized and received that forgiveness

Conclusion:

1. Don't be intimidated by Satan's chaos.
2. God has chosen you to be his witnesses to peace, eternal life, and forgiveness.
3. Your next step: become the church of Caesarea.
4. Your witness is God's message to the nations in human form.
5. Be of good cheer: He is Risen!