

Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles in Judea and Samaria

Peace and Multiplication

".... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Introduction: As we conclude the last section on the conversion of Saul in Acts Chapter 9, we find God's hand revealing His plan to move the Gospel beyond Samaria and move into the last division of the book of Acts, "the uttermost". Saul is now converted and on His path to being prepared for His journey ahead. Paul will resurface again in Acts chapter 13. Peter now will once again be center stage as the door is opened to the Gentiles with Cornelius and His family in chapter 10. At the end of chapter nine however, we find two accounts of miracles wrought through Peter by God for as the Gospel continues to push northward.



Joppa

¹Joppa became the port of Jerusalem in the days of Solomon, and has been ever since. Here Jonah took ship to flee from the presence of God (**Jon 1:3**). Here, on the house-top of Simon the tanner, "by the seaside," Peter had his vision (**Ac 11:5**). The existing town contains about 4000 inhabitants. Joppa Heb. yapu, "beauty" was an old city on the Mediterranean, about 30 miles NW of Jerusalem. It is supposed to have received its name from the mass of sunshine that its houses reflected.

¹ <http://www.bible-history.com/geography/ancient-israel/joppa.html>

Lydda

²It is located in the midst of a rich and fertile plain. It was one of the most westernly of the Jewish settlements after the Exile, the site of which is described as Gehaharashim, the valley of the smiths or craftsmen. It was here that Peter healed the paralytic and secured many converts (Acts 9:32-35). It was not Jewish, but pagan, under the name Diospolis.

I. Living proofs of a Man made Whole 32-35

A. Peter's Mission – encouragement perhaps, admonishment perhaps, helping perhaps 32

1. Peter displays servant leadership, demonstrated by Ananias and Barnabas

B. Aeneas Condition 33

1. Paralyzed – “Kept his bed for eight years”

- a. **Unable to help himself - Romans 8:7** *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*
- b. **Jer 13:23** *Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.*
- c. **We should not want to go back to that condition - Galatians 4:9** *But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*

C. Peter's Confession – “Jesus Christ maketh thee whole” 34

1. Wholeness comes from Jesus only, no man can make you whole 34

- a. **Matt 9:22 , Luke 17:19** – Made complete or saved
- b. **John 10:9-10** *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*
- c. The opposite of whole is missing something - unsaved man is in an incomplete state, out of touch with His Creator



² <http://www.bible-history.com/geography/ancient-israel/lydda.html>

2. Wholeness is immediate 34

- a. While it is true “He’s still working on me” – We are whole in the sight of God at the moment of Salvation
- b. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. John 5:24*
- c. *And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.- Romans 11:6*
- d. I am Thankful the Lord doesn’t have a conditional salvation but that it is unmerited.

D. A Changed life preaches 35

- a. Notice they “saw him”
- b. Results – they “turned to the Lord”
- c. Reasons for our godly living- **Titus 2:2-4 Tit 2:11** *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

II. The Legacy of a Life lived Whole

A. Dorcas – Tabitha – “Doe” (Graceful or Beautiful) 36

1. Known not for her wealth, or waywardness but for her “good works” and “Almsdeeds”
 - a. Almsdeeds – Charitable Deeds (deeds wrought out of love or compassion toward those who cannot help themselves)
- 2.1 **Timothy 2:9-10** *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

B. “And it came to pass” 37-38

1. **Hebrews 9:27** *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: o Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*
2. **Luke 9:25** *For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?*

C. Peter went in faith, prayed in faith, and acted in faith 39 – 42

1. Someone is expecting you to have faith in their time of need
2. **He prayed believing, but he also acted believing** “Tabitha arise”
3. **It is God’s prerogative to answer prayer the way we think it should be answered.**
4. **The results** – “many believed in the Lord”