



Acts Chapter 10 Part 2 Peters Dream Of The Sheet Full Of Animals

Moving into Acts Chapter ten part 2 of our study on the book of Acts, we'll be studying the true meaning of Peters dream concerning the sheet full of animals.

But before we do that I want to take a few minutes to recap what we've learned in last weeks study of Acts chapter ten part 1.

We spoke about Cornelius the Roman Centurion who was a gentile, and how it was that he came to hear the gospel message of Yahshua. We also learned that contrary to what today's Christian academia teaches.. Cornelius was not the first gentile to be grafted into the House of Israel.

We learned that from clear back in the book of Exodus Yahovah our Father was already grafting the nations into the House of Israel.. and for those of you who don't know that, you can take a look at Exodus 12:48 and 49, Leviticus 24:22, Numbers 9:14, Numbers 15:14 through 16 and so on and so fourth.

We also learned that according to scripture the House of Israel was chosen out of the world to be a light on a hill that would attract all other nations to her. She was to follow after Yahovah the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob, and walk in his ways, and Yahovah our Father was going to bless them abundantly so that she would make all of the other nations of the earth Jealous, and so that they too would come and would want to be grafted into the House of Israel.

But.. that's not how things worked out. The House of Israel decided to follow after other gods and other idols.. and to profane the appointments and the Sabbaths of Yahovah God their Father.. and so he divorced her and scattered her into the four corners of the earth.

But her original duty was to be the very bride of Yahovah God and to be that shinning city on a hill that would draw all the other nations of the world to him, and we looked at scriptures to verify the very purpose of the House of Israel in Isaiah 42:6 and 7, and in Isaiah chapter 60 verses 1 through 5.

We also looked at the "New Covenant" in Jeremiah 31:31 through 33 and we saw that the "New Covenant" was only made with the "House of Israel" and no one else. And we learned that the

“New Covenant” was all about God writing his laws on the hearts and in the minds of his people.. not nailing them to a tree somewhere.

We also looked at scriptures like Galatians 3:27 through 29 and we spoke about Romans chapter 11 just a couple of scriptures that clearly define a born again Christian as part of the Olive Tree that is the House of Israel, and we learned that anyone who truly believes in the Messiah Yahshua, is part of the Messiah Yahshua and is therefore indeed the offspring of Abraham, and heirs to the promise of Abraham.

We looked at the prophecy of the two sticks of Ezekiel in Ezekiel chapter 37: verses 16 through 28 where we're told exactly how Yahshua our Messiah would once again join the two sticks of the two kingdoms of the House of Israel back into one stick in the Fathers hand.. and how Yahshua his son would make them one nation so she could return to her groom, and through the watery grave of baptism she could then die to her old sins and be raised a new creature in the Messiah.. a new bride.. a new creature.. once again clean, and acceptable to her groom.

We spoke about the fact that Yahshua Jesus did not come for the gentiles.. he came for the lost sheep of the House of Israel so that he could proclaim the good news that his work at the cross was about to complete. And just as we find in Matthew chapter 15 verse 24.. our Messiah tells us with his own breath and his own tongue, and in his own words.. that he came only for the lost sheep of the House of Israel.

He had to heal the two sticks of Ezekiel.. the two kingdoms into one stick, one kingdom in the Fathers hand before the nations could once again be grafted into her.

We spoke about how Cornelius a gentile Roman Centurion could have been grafted into the House of Israel with out being part of the Temple, or the Synagogues, or the hybrid system of the Pharisees and Sadducee's.

And we put all of these things in perspective last week so that we could understand what was really taking place in Acts chapter 10 when Peter entered into the house of a gentile and was surprised to see them being infilled with the Ruach Hakodesh... the Holy Spirit of God.

We also spoke about why Peter was surprised to see this.. and why he should not have been surprised to see such a thing.

THE DREAM OF THE SHEET FULL OF ANIMALS

So with all of that knowledge under our belts.. lets examine this sheet full of animals that comes to Peter in his dream.

The false and twisted teachings of Peters dream with in Christian academia today and throughout her thousands of denominational charters of men knows no bounds. And many of today's denominational charters of men will wrongly teach and preach that Acts chapter ten proves that they can eat animals that are not food according to our Father in Heaven and his Levitical instructions.

And the reason that they teach such things is to once again remove a would be Christian from understanding how to love their Father in Heaven properly.

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

1Jn 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

1Jn 2:4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

1Jn 2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

1Jn 2:6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Did Yahshua Jesus ever eat a pig... how about a horse.. did he ever heat a horse? No he did not, and yet it is written that if we abide in him we ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. So the question then begs.. are Christians today walking in the same way in which their Messiah walked?

Lets read the text, and lets see if God really calls all animals food;

Act 10:9 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.

Act 10:10 And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance

Act 10:11 and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth.

Act 10:12 In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.

Act 10:13 And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

Act 10:14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."

Act 10:15 And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."

Act 10:16 This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

Act 10:17 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen

might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate

Act 10:18 and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there.

Now.. before we go to much farther... did you hear God say that he had made all animals good for food anywhere in this scripture that we just read?

And was the sheet full of “unclean animals”? Is that what the scripture says?.. Lets re-visit that verse once again:

*Act 10:12 In it were **all kinds of animals** and reptiles and birds of the air.*

So because the scripture tells us that there were “all kinds of animals” we have to believe that there were “all kinds of animals” both clean and unclean correct?

The text does not say that this was a sheet full of only “unclean” animals does it? It says it contained “all kinds of animals”.

Lets break this down:

Act 10:9 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.

*Act 10:10 And **he became hungry and wanted something to eat**, but while **they were preparing it**, he fell into a trance*

So Peter was hungry and he wanted something to eat.. do we understand that much so far from verse 10? And verse 10 also tells us that they were preparing the food so Peter could probably smell the food that they were preparing, and so Peter already has food on his mind, and he slips off into a trance... do we get that so far?

So whats on Peters mind as he begins to slip into his dream?... food. So what does God use to get his message across to Peter? He uses the food that's already on Peters mind.

So then Peter sees this large sheet come down out of the heavens and whats it filled with?

Act 10:12 In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.

So there are all kinds of animals in the sheet. Now we know that reptiles are not considered to be food, so we know that at least some of the animals in the sheet were not to be eaten. And we know that some of these animals were not considered to be food because of how Peter responds when he hears that voice that tells him to rise, and to kill and to eat. What does Peter say?

Act 10:14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."

So here we find Peter refusing to rise, kill, and eat, because he knows that at least some of these animals are not food according to Gods Levitical dietary laws.

So Peter at this point in time is confused and perplexed about what God is trying to tell him:

Act 10:17 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate

We have to remember.. that Peter walked with Yahshua Jesus through out his ministry, and even right up to his crucifixion.

If at any time Yahshua had eaten a ham sandwich, or told the Apostles that all animals were now okay to eat.. Peter never got the memo did he?

Peter instinctively knew better, and no matter what this voice said in this dream that he was having.. and he knew full well down to his boots that these animals were not food according to Yahshua, or his Father.

Now there are some professing Christian academics out there who will wrongly proclaim that God right here, right at this moment makes it okay to eat any animal you want to eat.. but this is clearly not anything even close to what the text says is it?

No where do we read that God says it's okay to eat animals that are not considered by him to be food does it? So lets just be clear as we move forward.

In order to say that all animals are now considered to be food according to God.. you really have to really make some pretty far fetched assumptions don't you?

You really have to go out on a limb here, and assume that this is what God is telling Peter who clearly knows better.

Did Peter know the meaning of this dream right away? Once again lets revisit verse 17 what does it say again?

Act 10:17 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate

Notice that the voice tells Peter to “rise, kill, and eat” three times.. and how many men come to the door to fetch Peter? There was three men wasn't there?

*Act 10:7 When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him,
Act 10:8 and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.*

So there were two servants and a devout soldier.. how many men is that? Thats three men right? Thats three gentile men right? And how many times did the voice tell Peter to “rise, kill, and eat”? That voice gave Peter that message three times.

So the meaning of the dream begins to come into view does it not? We're starting to get the message just like Peter began to get the message at this point in time. And so what does Peter tell us the dream meant?

Act 10:28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean."

What did Peter just say that God had shown him? Did he say that God showed him that it's okay to eat all animals now? No!

He says and I quote “God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean”

No person is common or unclean my friends.. we are all created in the image of God, and we were all created by God, and we all breath the breath of God.

So why was Peter perplexed? Peter was perplexed because of the Halakah of the Pharisees!

What does Peter say to Cornelius in verse 28?

Act 10:28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation,

You see that law is not found anywhere in the Torah or the Tanakh my friends. This law that Peter is talking about that says that a Jews could not associate with or visit a gentile or someone from another nation was a man made, man created, man fabricated law. It was part of their “Halakah” their hybrid religious system.

This whole idea of Jews not being able to enter the home of a gentile or eat with a gentile came from the Halakah of the Pharisees my friends, and this is what perplexed Peter! This is why

Peter was confused and had a hard time understanding this sheet that was filled with all kinds of animals. He had been taught by the religious leaders of his time that it was a sin to even associate with a gentile.

God was simply making it clear to Peter that there is no such thing as an unclean human being, that has been created in the image of God, and breaths the very breath of God.

God was telling Peter these are animals.. people are not animals and should not be separated and divided as animals are. Peter.. you're putting my people in the same basket as these animals and this wrong thinking!

Peter was not perplexed over the animals.. he knew better than to eat animals that were not food. Peter knew that there had to be something more to the dream that he was not understanding, and it wasn't until the three gentile men showed up at his door and explained that Cornelius a gentile Centurion, had been visited by an angle and told him to send for Peter that Peter finally understood what God was trying to tell him.

The dream had nothing to do with animals or food my friends.. and Peter even says so in verse 28 and again in verse 34.. it had everything to do with Peter thinking that the gentiles were unclean. Peter was in error because he had been programmed by the Pharisees the hybrid religious system of the Synagogues to believe that he could not associate with.. or even eat with.. a gentile. And that was never commanded by God.

The idea that this chapter tells us that all animals are good for food is laughable on it's face my friends. And once again the only way that anyone could possibly believe such a thing.. is if someone injects their own man made, man created, man fabricated assumption into the scripture and creates a new understanding.. much like the Pharisees and Saducees had done.

What did we read in Deuteronomy 4:2 and 12:32? That we shall not add to.. or take away from.. his word?

Once again men have built in their own assumptions, and their own speculations, into the scripture to facilitate the other lie that they habitually continue to preach that says all of Gods laws are nailed to the cross.

You see one assumption leads to another assumption, and each assumption and or speculation leads to another assumption or speculation until they're so far away from the truth that they can't even see it anymore.

Now some of these professing Christian academics will ask the question “if God didn't want Peter to rise, kill, and eat” the unclean animals then why did he tell him to do it?”.

God was trying to reach Peter by making a point. God was asking Peter why he was obeying the Torah and his commandments concerning animals and food.. and then turning right around and breaking his commandments concerning the gentiles?

What God was saying to Peter is “Peter you know whats written in my Torah, so why don't you know what is not written in my Torah?”.

You see God was pulling Peter out of the hybrid religious system of men, and bringing him back into being Torah observant.

Its important for us all to not just realize what IS.. written in Gods Torah.. but that we also need to realize what is NOT.. written in our Fathers Torah. Because there are tons and tons of man made, man created, man fabricated laws, commandments, rituals, and traditions that man has heaped upon Gods scripture that our Father never commanded.

And by obeying man who are we worshiping God or man? We are worshiping men rather than God our Father. We have made void the Word of God in order to hold onto our own traditions. We honor him with our lips but our hearts are far from him, in vain do we worship him teaching and preaching the doctrines of men.. and that's what we have done (You can find that in Matthew 15: verses 8 and 9 for those of you who don't know that one by the way).

You see Peter knew that God his Father is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He knew that God was not going to command one thing yesterday, something different today, and then change his mind and go back to what he first commanded in the beginning yesterday.

The idea of animals representing gentile men, and then becoming holy was not a new idea that God had just come up with.. consider scripture found in Hosea 2:18

Hos 2:18 And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety.

Hos 2:19 And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy.

Hos 2:20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

Hos 2:21 "And in that day I will answer; declares the LORD, I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth,

Hos 2:22 and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel,

Hos 2:23 and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, 'You are my people'; and he shall say, 'You are my God.'"

In the end my friends Peter was not receiving anything new.. he was receiving what was already

established. The problem Peter had was that he had been wrongly programmed to think that the gentiles were somehow “unclean” and could not be grafted in.

Now some may ask “so then why would Yahshua not reveal this to Peter”? Why didn't Yahshua tell Peter that the gentiles were not unclean?

The answer to that my friends should be obvious.. Yahshua was sent only for the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And Yahshua knew that Peter could not begin calling the gentiles to the House of Israel until his work at the cross had been completed.

Consider what he told the 12 when he sent them out:

*Mat 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans,
Mat 10:6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

Once his work at the cross had been completed, then and only then could the sins of Israel be forgiven them.. and the two sticks of Ezekiel could once again be made one in the fathers hand.. bringing back both the Northern kingdom of Ephraim and the Southern kingdom of Judah back into one nation, one people, one bride, one stick.. in the Fathers hand.

Peter could not graft Cornelius who was a gentile into a broken house, that had been divorced from God. It was not until Israel could finally be forgiven of her adultery by going to her death in that watery grave of baptism that she could once again rise up a new creature clean, and acceptable to her Groom.. then and only then could the nations of the Earth once again be grafted into the House of Israel just as God the Father had intended from the very beginning.

So Yahshua knew that it was not time for Peter to call in the gentiles yet. His work at the cross had not yet been done. It was not until after Yahshua's death, burial, and resurrection, that he could then finally allow Peter to once again begin calling the gentiles in.

So once again.. at the proper time.. God was telling Peter “the door is now once again open.. bring them in”.

Gods promises never fall short. When he says he's going to do something.. he does it.. one way or the other.

Now there's also something else that I want us to understand concerning whether or not God made all animals food in Acts chapter 10.

I want us to hear Peters explanation of what happened when he explains this story to the brothers who were in Judea.. listen to what Peter says his account of the story was.. and see if

you hear him saying anything at all about all animals being okay to eat:

Act 11:1 Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

Act 11:2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying,

Act 11:3 "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them."

Act 11:4 But Peter began and explained it to them in order:

Act 11:5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me.

Act 11:6 Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air.

Act 11:7 And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.'

Act 11:8 But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

Act 11:9 But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.'

Act 11:10 This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven.

Act 11:11 And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea.

Act 11:12 And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

Act 11:13 And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter;

Act 11:14 he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

Act 11:15 As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.

Act 11:16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

Act 11:17 If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

Act 11:18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Notice my fiends that food is never mentioned in this recount of Peters dream concerning the grafting in of the gentiles.

And consider this.. if the other brothers were eating unclean animals don't you think that they would have been angry at Peter for not rising, killing, and eating the animals like the voice had told him to do in his dream?

If all animals were now food.. then Peter would have been disobeying God when he refused to

rise, kill, and eat wouldn't he?

And yet we see in verse 18 that the brothers were not angry with Peter at all.. in fact listen to what the brothers said to Peter:

Act 11:18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Did the brothers come to the conclusion that God had just made all animals food? No they did clearly did not. Their conclusion was the same as Peters:

Act 11:18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

You see the whole idea that Acts chapter ten has anything to do with food or God changing his dietary laws falls flat on it's face if we simply read the scripture for ourselves.

Just as God our Father had always intended from the very beginning.. there would be no Jew or Gentile, no slave nor free, not even a man or a woman but that we would all be one in the Messiah walking just as he walked.

Num 15:15 For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you, a statute forever throughout your generations. You and the sojourner shall be alike before the LORD.

Num 15:16 One law and one rule shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you."

So the next time you hear some pour lost soul teaching and preaching that Acts chapter ten proves that you can eat what ever animal you want to eat.. simply smile.. and ask them to show you where it says that in the scripture.. and then help them to understand.