

## First Gentile Believers ~ Part 7

### Kefa Returns to Yerushalayim to Brief the other Emissaries

In my last post, we learned that **Cornelius, His Family, and Guests Are Baptized**. In this post, we learn that **Kefa Returns to Yerushalayim to Brief the other Emissaries**.

*<sup>1</sup> The emissaries and the brothers throughout Y'hudah heard that the Goyim had received the word of God; <sup>2</sup> but when Kefa went up to Yerushalayim, the members of the Circumcision Faction criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, "You went into the homes of uncircumcised men and even ate with them!" (In case you missed it, we learned about the Circumcision Faction in my last post.)*

*<sup>4</sup> In reply, Kefa began explaining in detail what had actually happened: <sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Yafo, praying; and in a trance, I had a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being lowered by its four corners from heaven, and it came down to me. <sup>6</sup> I looked inside and saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, crawling creatures, and wild birds. <sup>7</sup> Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Kefa, slaughter and eat!' <sup>8</sup> I said, 'No, sir! Absolutely not! Nothing unclean or treif has ever entered my mouth!' <sup>9</sup> But the voice spoke again from heaven: 'Stop treating as unclean what God has made clean.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times, and then everything was pulled back up into heaven.*

*Nothing unclean or treif has ever entered my mouth!* (see Acts 10:12–14). **Kefa's** hearers, the strict **Circumcision Faction**, "zealots for the **Torah**" (see Acts 21:20), are no more **Torah**-observant than **Kefa** himself. God chose **Kefa** as His instrument to bring **Yeshua** to the **Gentiles** precisely because he was an observant **Jew**; in this way, all would know that **God's** hand was in it. Had a less **Torah**-observant **Jew** seen the vision, it would have been no less of **God**, but observant **Jews** might have dismissed him as self-serving.

*<sup>11</sup> "At that very moment, three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea arrived at the house where I was staying; <sup>12</sup> and the Spirit told me to have no misgivings about going back with them. These six brothers also came with me, and we went into the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Yafo and bring back Shim' on, known as Kefa. <sup>14</sup> He has a message for you which will enable you and your whole household to be saved.' <sup>15</sup> "But I had hardly begun speaking when the Ruach HaKodesh fell on them, just as on us at the beginning! <sup>16</sup> And I remembered that the Lord had said, 'Yochanan used to immerse people in the water, but you will be immersed in the Ruach HaKodesh.' <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if God gave them the same gift as he gave us after we had come to put our trust in the Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who was I to stand in God's way?" <sup>18</sup> On hearing these things, they stopped objecting and began to praise God, saying, "This means that God has enabled the Goyim as well to do t' shuvah (repentance) and have life!" ~ Acts 11:1-18*

The observant **Jews** in the **Messianic Community** were amazed that **Gentiles** could become part of **God's** people, part of the **Messiah's Body**, without first becoming **Jews**. To oppose something that so clearly had a divine stamp of approval on it would oppose **God**. **Kefa's** explanation caused the other **Jewish Believers** to give God glory for granting repentance resulting in life even to the **Gentiles**.

Today, the situation is precisely the opposite: many **Gentile Believers** are amazed at the movement of **Messianic Jews** that claims **Jews** can accept the **Jewish Messiah, Yeshua**, without taking on the lifestyle of **Gentiles**. The more things change, the more they stay the same!

In my next post, we learn that **Kefa** gets caught up in **Herod Agrippa I's Persecution of the Saints**.