



Introduction

Peter tells the early church about the conversion of Cornelius - a non-Jew (v 4). Non-Jews are then accepted into the early church.



Questions

1. What was the reaction of those who initially contended with Peter, when they heard his story?
2. In what place were the disciples first called Christians?
3. What was the reaction of the church in Antioch when they heard of the famine in Judea?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 18** Peter is initially criticised for preaching to Gentiles (non-Jews, see theme), but the believers glorify God when they hear the full story of the conversion of Cornelius (Acts 10)
- **v 19 to 24** Oppression makes believers travel further afield to preach, mainly to Jews. Barnabas is sent to help the growing church in Antioch in Syria (see first map)
- **v 25 to 30** Barnabas finds Saul to help preach in Antioch. Then a worldwide famine is prophesied and believers show compassion by sending relief to their fellow believers in Judea (see second map)

Timeline AD 60 (see below)



Theme / Information

God's people include both Jews and non-Jews

A selection of verses showing that both Jews and non-Jews can be involved in God's plan.

The promise God makes to Abraham makes it clear that all nations can be involved through his offspring:

Genesis 12 verse 3, 22 verses 17 and 18

The apostle Paul confirms this idea to the Galatian believers:

Galatians 3 verses 7 to 9

There are also many hints in the Old Testament that God always intended that individual salvation would be available to all:

Psalms 117 verses 1 and 2

The apostle Paul says that it is his mission to preach salvation to all:

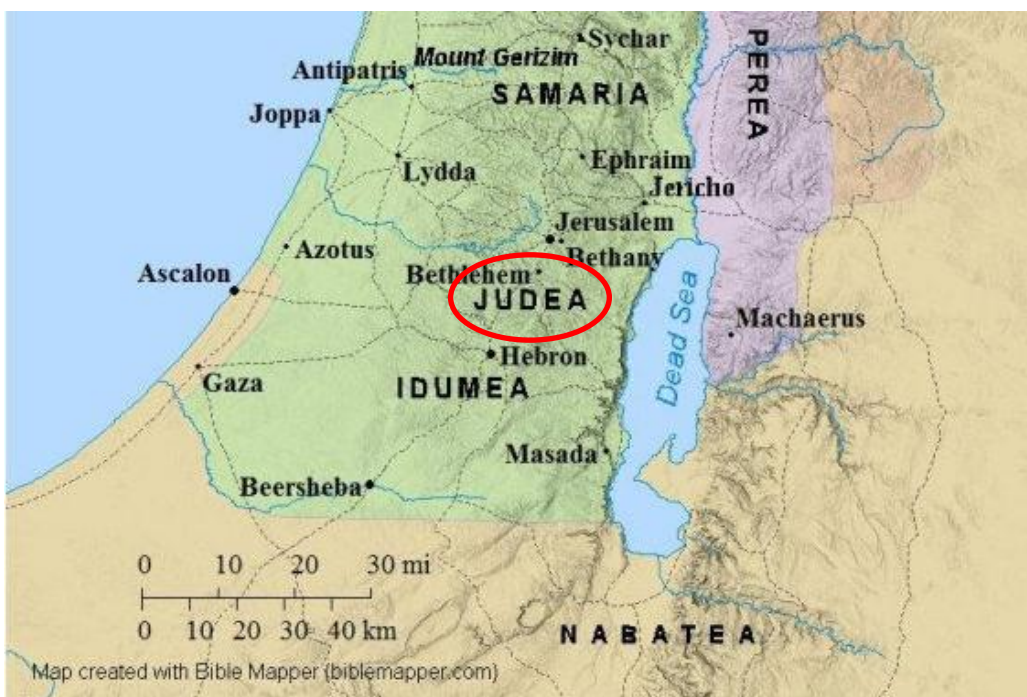
Romans 1 verse 16



Map showing Antioch in Syria



Map showing Judea





? Answers to questions

Verses which answer the Questions:

Q 1: v 18, Q 2: v 26, Q 3: v 29

Bible timeline

