

Four Days That Changed the World: The Grafting in of the Gentiles

Acts 10:1-48, ESV / April 22, 2023

The Use of the Number Four in the Bible: *Universal Participation, Completion*

Creation:	4 th Day: 4 Seasons	(Genesis 1:14-19)
Garden of Eden:	4 Rivers	(Genesis 2:10-14)
Commandments:	4 th Commandment: Keep the Sabbath holy	(Exodus 20:8)
Isaiah:	4 Justices, 4 Compassions, 4 Blessings, and 4 Actions	(Isaiah 58)
Directions:	4 Winds and 4 Corners	(Rev 7:1)
Buildings:	4 Corners and 4 Sides	(Ezek. 42:20;46:21)
Tabernacle:	4 Rings, 4 Cups, 4 Pillars, 4 Horns, 4 Bronze rings, 4 Rows of stones.	(Exodus 25-39)
Daniel's Vision:	4 Winds, 4 Beasts, 4 Heads, 4 Kings, 4 Horns, 4 Kingdoms	(Daniel 7-11)
Transgressions:	4 Sins of: Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammonites, Moab, Judah, Israel	(Amos 1-2)
Apocalyptic Visions:	4 Beasts, 4 Heads, 4 Kings, 4 Living creatures, 4 Angels, and 4 Horns	(Revelation)
All Nations:	4 Descriptions: "Tribe, Tongue, People, Nation"	(Revelation)
Proverbs:	4 Things Never Satisfied (Sheol, Barren womb, land no water, fire)	(Prov 30:15-16)
Proverbs:	4 Things are Too Wonderful (Eagle, serpent, ship, man with virgin)	(Prov 30:18-19)
Proverbs:	4 Things the Earth Trembles (Slave, fool, unloved woman, maidservant)	(Prov 30:21-23)
Proverbs:	4 Things that are Small (Ants, rock badgers, locusts, lizard)	(Prov 30:24-28)
Proverbs:	4 Things are Stately (Lion, rooster, he-goat, king)	(Prov 30:29-31)
Jesus:	4 pieces of the torn robe	(John 19:23)
Lazarus:	4 days Lazarus was dead	(John 11:17)
Peter's Vision:	4 corners of a sheet	(Acts 10:11)
Cornelius:	4 days ago	(Acts 10:30)

Foreshadowing: And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. And he (Peter) stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner. (Acts 9:42-43, ESV)

DAY 1: Cornelius and the Angel of the Lord (10:1-8, ESV)

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.

About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "*Cornelius.*"

And he stared at him in terror and said, "*What is it, Lord?*"

And he said to him, "*Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa (32 miles south) and bring one Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.*"

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, and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Visions/Dreams of God

ABRAHAM: (Genesis 15:1)
JOSEPH (Genesis 42:9)
SAMUEL: (1 Samuel 3:1)
NATHAN: (2 Samuel 7:17)
ISAIAH: (2 Chronicles 32:32)
JEREMIAH: (Jeremiah 38:21)
EZEKIEL: (Ezekiel 8:4)

DANIEL: (Daniel 7:2)
OBADAH (Obadiah 1)
MICAHA. (Micah 3:6)
NAHUM (Nahum 1:1)
HABAKKUK (Habakkuk 2:2)
ZECHARIAH (Zechariah 13:4)
JOEL (Joel 2:28)

ZECHARIAH: (Luke 1:22)
JOSEPH (Matthew 1:20)
WISE MEN (Matthew 2:12)
ANANIAS (Acts 9:10)
PETER (Acts 10:17)

DAY 2: Peter and the Voice from Heaven (10:9-23a, ESV)

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. And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.

And there came a voice to him: *“Rise, Peter; kill and eat.”*

But Peter said, *“By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.”*

And the voice came to him again a second time, *“What God has made clean, do not call common.”*

This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven. 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 and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there.

And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, *“Behold, three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.”*

And Peter went down to the men and said, *“I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?”*

And they said, *“Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.”*

So he invited them in to be his guests.

Nevertheless, among those that chew the cud or part the hoof, you shall not eat these: The camel, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you. And the rock badger, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you. And the hare, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you. And the pig, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. You shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you. (Leviticus 11:4-8, ESV)

But anything in the seas or the rivers that does not have fins and scales, of the swarming creatures in the waters and of the living creatures that are in the waters, is detestable to you. You shall regard them as detestable; you shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall detest their carcasses. (Leviticus 11:10-11, ESV)

“And these you shall detest among the birds; they shall not be eaten; they are detestable: the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture, the kite, the falcon of any kind, every raven of any kind, the ostrich, the nighthawk, the sea gull, the hawk of any kind, the little owl, the cormorant, the short-eared owl, the barn owl, the tawny owl, the carrion vulture, the stork, the heron of any kind, the hoopoe, and the bat. (Leviticus 11:13-19, ESV)

This is the law about beast and bird and every living creature that moves through the waters and every creature that swarms on the ground, to make a distinction between the unclean and the clean and between the living creature that may be eaten and the living creature that may not be eaten. (Leviticus 11:46-47, ESV)

DAY 3: Peter Leaves for Cornelius (10:23b, ESV)

The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

DAY 4: Cornelius and the Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit (10:24-48a, ESV)

And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.

But **Peter** lifted him up, saying, *“Stand up; I too am a man.”*

And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered.

And **he (Peter)** 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. So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.”*

And **Cornelius** said, *“Four days ago, about this hour, **I was praying** in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man **stood before me** in bright clothing and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. **Send** therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ So **I sent** for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to **hear** all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”*

So **Peter** opened his mouth and said:

- *“Truly I understand that God shows **no partiality**, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),*
- *you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the **baptism** that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.*
- *He went about **doing good** and **healing** all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.*
- *They put him to **death** by hanging him on a tree, but*
- *God **raised** him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he **rose** from the dead.*
- *And he **commanded** us to preach to the people and*
- *to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be **judge** of the living and the dead.*
- *To him all the **prophets** bear witness*
- *that everyone who believes in him receives **forgiveness of sins** through his name.”*

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

Then Peter declared, *“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”*

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

SOME DAYS: Peter remains with Cornelius in Caesarea (10:48b, ESV)

Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Gentiles Brought Into the Temple

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time

1. separated from Christ,
2. alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and
3. strangers to the covenants of promise,
4. having no hope and
5. without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off

1. have been **brought near** by the blood of Christ.
2. For he himself is our peace, who has made us **both one** and
3. has **broken down** in his flesh the **dividing wall of hostility** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances,
4. that he might create in himself **one new man** in place of the two,
5. so **making peace**, and
6. might **reconcile us** both to God in **one body** through the cross, thereby **killing the hostility**.
7. And he came and preached **peace** to you who were far off and **peace** to those who were near.
8. For through him we both have **access in one Spirit** to the Father.
9. So then you are **no longer strangers and aliens**, but
10. you are **fellow citizens** with the saints and
11. **members** of the household of God,
12. **built** on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
13. in whom the whole structure, being **joined together**,
14. grows into a **holy temple** in the Lord.
15. In him you also are **being built together** into a **dwelling place** for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:11-22, ESV)

The Mystery Revealed: Gentiles Joined with the Jews

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the **mystery** was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the **mystery** of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

This **mystery** is that the Gentiles are

1. fellow heirs,
2. members of the same body, and
3. partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the **mystery** hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory. (Ephesians 3:1-13, ESV)

Gentiles Grafted into the Tree

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you.

Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God’s kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. (Romans 11:17-24, ESV)