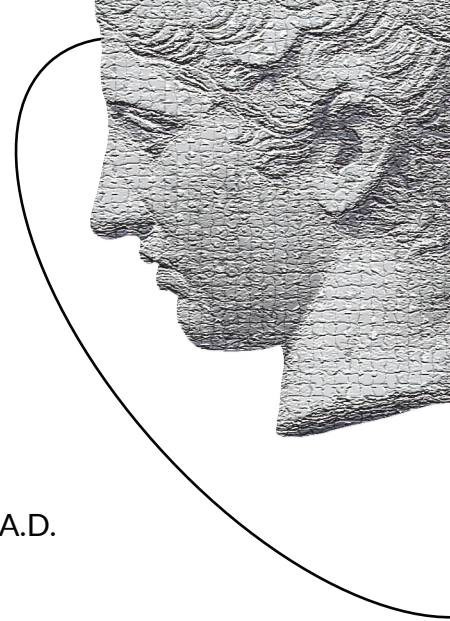




# acts.

## 11



### when.

- The events of Acts 11 span several years, an approximate timeframe is 39-45 A.D.
- Emperor Claudius reigned from 41-54 A.D.

### characters.

- Peter – One of Jesus 12 Apostles. In chapter 10, he visited a gentile named Cornelius.
- The Circumcision Party – Jews who were critical of Peter’s visit to Cornelius.
- Barnabas – A disciple, “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith.”
- Saul – More commonly known as Paul. A disciple living in Tarsus.
- Agabus – A prophet of God. He also appears in Acts 21:10.

### where.

- The chapter opens with Peter travelling from Caesarea Maritima to Jerusalem.
- Barnabas worked in the young church at Antioch of Syria.
- Barnabas travelled to Tarsus to find Saul.
- This chapter mentions a severe famine that affected the region of Judea.



# acts.

## outline.

- PETER EXPLAINS HIS ACTIONS AT CORNELIUS' HOUSE (11:1-18):
  - + After visiting Cornelius' house (chapter 10), Peter went to Jerusalem.
  - + People from the "circumcision party" criticized him for visiting a gentile's house.
  - + Peter recounted the events that led him to meet with Cornelius.
  - + He told the Jews about his vision of the animals being lowered from heaven in a great sheet.
  - + He told them how the Holy Spirit guided him to Caesarea and gave miraculous gifts to Cornelius' household.
  - + He concluded by saying, "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?"
  - + When the Jews in Jerusalem heard Peter's account, they glorified God saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."
- THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH (11:19-26):
  - + Due to persecution in Jerusalem, the believers were scattered abroad.
  - + Some believers from Cyprus and Cyrene preached to the Hellenists (gentiles) in Antioch and many "turned to the Lord."
  - + Barnabas moved Antioch and began working with the church.
  - + A while later, he travelled to Tarsus to find Saul and bring him to assist with the work in Antioch.
  - + They worked in Antioch for a year and taught many people.
  - + It was in Antioch that the disciples of Jesus were first called "Christians."
- THE FAMINE (11:27-30):
  - + A prophet named Agabus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, foretold a famine that would affect the world during the reign of Emperor Claudius.
  - + The disciples collected money to help the saints in Judea.
  - + Paul and Barnabas were entrusted to take the collected money to the elders in Judea.

## application.

- The Jews were caught off guard when God invited the gentiles to be a part of His Kingdom.
- God doesn't always work in the ways we expect, so we need to be ready to accept His plan when it's different from our expectations.
- Be the kind of person who actively recruits good men/women for God's work.
- There are many talented believers who are just waiting to be told they are useful.
- Barnabas went and found the man he wanted to work alongside him.
- Rather than waiting for people on the sideline to ask for opportunities, let's be actively scouting for talented people.
- Part of being a mentor and a leader is recognizing unutilized talent.
- Many are willing to work, but just need someone to tell them they are useful.

