

The Three Eternal Destinies #163 *Cornelius and his Household*

Acts 10:1-2 — Cornelius was a man of the nations, as Acts 13:16,26 describes: “Men of Israel, descendants of Abraham, and the men of the nations who live by their conscience, who *fear God...*” They are the *Righteous* in Rev 22:11 (Acts 10:34-35; Rom 2:5-11).

Rom 2:14 — Those of the nations who are doers of the Law (verse 13) *by nature*. They follow the NATURAL LAW in that they do *by nature* what is in the Law of Moses about morality. They live by their conscience, the inner judge of one’s deeds, whether good or evil, to which the Gentiles are accountable (verse 16). Cain, as well as Adam and Eve and all their descendants afterward to Abraham, were *Gentiles*, men of the nations.

Acts 13:16,26 makes the distinction between Abraham’s descendants and the nations, between Israel and the nations or Gentiles. Those who fear God — Acts 13:16,26; 10:2; 16:14 — as distinguished from Israel — Acts 2:14; 3:12; 7:2.

Acts 10:4 — The prayers and alms of a *Gentile* ascended as “a memorial” — God remembered his righteous deeds; they were acceptable (verses 34-35), written in the books (Rev 20:12).

Acts 10:22,35 — The righteous of the nations, when they hear the gospel, will respond even as the God-fearers in Acts 13:16,26 and 44-48 — as many as had been “appointed or ordained for salvation” (Lk 10:20; Ex 32:32-33; Ps 69:28; Isa 4:3; Dan 12:1).