

Acts 10:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

Analysis

Cornelius's fear and question - 'What is it, Lord?' - showed reverent openness. The angel's response - 'Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God' - indicates God noted his devotion. Yet devotion required completion through the gospel message.

Historical Context

The 'memorial' language echoed Old Testament sacrifice terminology (Leviticus 2:2). God received Cornelius's piety as genuine seeking that would now find its proper object in Christ.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can genuine religious seeking find its completion only in Christ?
2. What does God 'remembering' prayers and alms teach about His attention to sincere seekers?

Interlinear Text

ὁ δὲ ἀτενίσας αὐτῷ καὶ ἔμφοβος γενόμενος εἶπεν
G3588 And when he looked on him and afraid he was he said
G1161 G816 G846 G2532 G1719 G1096 G2036

Τί ἔστιν κύριε εἶπεν δὲ αὐτῷ Αἱ προσευχαί σου
What is it Lord he said And on him G3588 prayers Thy
G5101 G2076 G2962 G2036 G1161 G846 G4335 G4675

καὶ αἱ ἐλεημοσύναι σου ἀνέβησαν εἰς μνημόσυνον
and G3588 alms Thy are come up for a memorial
G2532 G1654 G4675 G305 G1519 G3422

ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ
before G3588 God
G1799 G2316

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 4:6 (Prayer): Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Hebrews 6:10 (References God): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Malachi 3:16 (References Lord): Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Acts 10:31 (Prayer): And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.

Revelation 8:4 (Prayer): And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

Psalms 141:2 (Prayer): Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Philippians 4:18 (References God): But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

Matthew 26:13 (Parallel theme): Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

Luke 1:29 (Parallel theme): And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

2 Chronicles 6:33 (Parallel theme): Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, and fear thee, as doth thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name.