

Acts 11:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying,

Analysis

But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying, Peter's methodical, sequential explanation demonstrates wise apologetic approach—presenting evidence systematically rather than defensively reacting.

Historical Context

Rehearsed from beginning indicates comprehensive account. Expounded by order suggests logical, sequential presentation. Peter didn't defensively justify actions but carefully explained divine orchestration. This approach around 40 CE modeled handling controversial ministry decisions—grounding actions in verifiable divine guidance rather than personal preference. His detailed account (Acts 11:5-17) retells Acts 10 from his perspective.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does systematic explanation differ from defensive reaction?
2. What role does orderly presentation play in resolving controversial issues?
3. In what ways should leaders document and explain controversial Spirit-led decisions?
4. How does beginning with divine initiative strengthen controversial action's justification?
5. What does Peter's approach teach about accountability in church leadership?

Interlinear Text

ἀρξάμενος	δὲ	ὁ	Πέτρος	ἐξετίθετο
rehearsed the matter from the beginning	But	G3588	Peter	and expounded
G756	G1161		G4074	G1620
αὐτοῖς	καθεξῆς	λέγων		
unto them	it by order	saying		
G846	G2517	G3004		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:3 (Parallel theme): It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,