

# Acts 9:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

## Analysis

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**And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.** Peter's itinerant ministry demonstrates apostolic oversight of emerging churches and God's strategic positioning of leaders for kingdom purposes.

Passed throughout all quarters indicates systematic visitation, not random wandering. Apostles exercised pastoral oversight of scattered congregations, strengthening believers and establishing doctrine. This pattern combines central authority (apostolic teaching) with local congregational life—balancing unity and diversity.

Came down...to Lydda geographically descends from Jerusalem's elevation to coastal plain. Lydda (Old Testament Lod, modern Lod/Lydda) lay on major trade route between Jerusalem and Mediterranean coast. Strategic location made it important for gospel advance. God positions believers and leaders in places serving kingdom purposes.

The saints indicates technical term for believers—those set apart as holy to God. Not describing moral perfection but covenant status. Reformed theology emphasizes positional holiness (saints by God's declaration) preceding progressive holiness (saints in practice). Lydda's Christian community, though small, represented Christ's presence in that strategic location.

## Historical Context

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Lydda, approximately 25 miles northwest of Jerusalem, featured mixed Jewish-Gentile population. Its location on Via Maris (coastal highway) made it commercially significant. The Christian community there likely emerged from Jerusalem-dispersed believers following Stephen's martyrdom (Acts 8:1,4).

Peter's visit occurred during the peace period (approximately 38-39 CE) described in Acts 9:31. His travels extended apostolic oversight while establishing precedent for regional ministry beyond Jerusalem. The Lydda visit preceded Joppa (Acts 9:36-43) and Caesarea (Acts 10), progressively moving Peter toward Gentile-centered ministry. God was preparing Peter for Cornelius encounter that would revolutionize early Christianity's understanding of Gentile inclusion.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does apostolic oversight balance central authority with local church autonomy?
2. What role does strategic geographic positioning play in gospel advance?
3. In what ways does viewing believers as 'saints' shape church identity and practice?
4. How should church leaders balance ministering to local congregations with broader oversight?
5. What patterns of pastoral care does Peter's itinerant ministry model?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐγένετο δὲ Πέτρον διερχόμενον διὰ πάντων  
it came And Peter passed throughout G1223 all  
G1096 G1161 G4074 G1330 G3956

κατελθεῖν καὶ πρὸς τοὺς ἀγίους τοὺς  
quarters he came down also to which the saints which  
G2718 G2532 G4314 G3588 G40 G3588

κατοικοῦντας Λύδαν  
dwelt at Lydda  
G2730 G3069

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 9:13** (Holy): Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

**Acts 8:25** (Parallel theme): And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

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