

~DORCAS (144)
(Dor'cas) [Gazelle]

- A Christian woman in the Joppa congregation abounding in good deeds and gifts of mercy, evidently including the making of inner and outer garments for needy widows.
- But in Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which, when translated, means **Dorcas**. **She abounded in good deeds and gifts of mercy that she was rendering.** (**Acts of Apostles 9:36**)
- At that Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they led him up into the upper chamber, and all the widows presented themselves to him weeping and exhibiting many inner garments and outer garments that **Dorcas** used to make while she was with them. (**Acts of Apostles 9:39**)
- **Dorcas** corresponds to the **Aramaic Tabitha**, both names meaning **Gazelle**. Possibly **Dorcas** was known by both names, as it was not uncommon then for Jews, especially those living in a seaport such as Joppa with its mixed population of Jews and Gentiles, to have a Hebrew name as well as a Greek or Latin name.
- Or, Luke may have translated the name for the benefit of Gentile readers. **Dorcas** is the only woman mentioned in the Scriptures as having the feminine form of the word **disciple** applied to her. This, however, does not mean that she held a special position in the congregation, for all Christians were actually disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 28:19**)
- Teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things. (**Matthew 28:20**)
- Though her death in **36 C.E.** caused much weeping among the widows who had apparently benefited greatly from her kindnesses, the fact that no mention is made of sorrow on the part of a husband suggests that **Dorcas** was unmarried at the time.

- At her death the disciples at Joppa prepared her for burial and, on learning that Peter was in Lydda, about 18 kilometers (11 miles) Southeast of Joppa, sent for him. Undoubtedly they had heard about Peter's healing the paralytic Aeneas there, and this may have given them a basis for reasoning that the apostle might resurrect **Dorcas**. On the other hand, they may have turned to Peter simply for consolation.

- Now as Peter was going through all parts he came down also to the holy ones that dwelt in Lydda. (**Acts of Apostles 9:32**)

- There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been lying flat on his cot for eight years, as he was paralyzed. (**Acts of Apostles 9:33**)

- And Peter said to him; Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Rise and make up your bed. And he rose immediately. (**Acts of Apostles 9:34**)

- And all those who inhabited Lydda and the plain of Sharon saw him, and these turned to the Lord. (**Acts of Apostles 9:35**)

- But in Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which, when translated, means **Dorcas**. She abounded in good deeds and gifts of mercy that she was rendering. (**Acts of Apostles 9:36**)

- But in those days she happened to fall sick and die. So they bathed her and laid her in an upper chamber. (**Acts of Apostles 9:37**)

- Now as Lydda was near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was in this city they dispatched two men to him to entreat him; Please do not hesitate to come on as far as us. (**Acts of Apostles 9:38**)

- Following a procedure similar to that used by Jesus in resurrecting Jairus daughter.

- So they came to the house of the presiding officer of the synagogue, and he beheld the noisy confusion and those weeping and letting out many wails. (**Mark 5:38**)

- And, after stepping in, he said to them; Why are you causing

noisy confusion and weeping? The young child has not died, but is sleeping. (**Mark 5:39**)

- At this they began to laugh scornfully at him. But, having put them all out, he took along the young child's father and mother and those with him, and he went in where the young child was. (**Mark 5:40**)
- And, taking the hand of the young child, he said to her; Talitha cumi, which, translated, means. **Maiden, I say to you, Get up!** (**Mark 5:41**)
- When he reached the house he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter and John and James and the girl's father and mother. (**Luke 8:51**)
- But people were all weeping and beating themselves in grief for her. So he said; Stop weeping, for she did not die, but is sleeping. (**Luke 8:52**)
- At this they began to laugh at him scornfully, because they knew she had died. (**Luke 8:53**)
- But he took her by the hand and called, saying; Girl, get up! (**Luke 8:54**)
- And her spirit returned, and she rose instantly, and he ordered something to be given her to eat. (**Luke 8:55**)
- Peter, after dismissing everyone from the upper chamber, prayed and then said; Tabitha, rise! **Dorcas** opened her eyes, sat up, and took Peter's hand to rise. This is the first reported resurrection performed by an apostle, resulting in many becoming believers throughout Joppa.
- At that Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they led him up into the upper chamber, and all the widows presented themselves to him weeping and exhibiting many inner garments and outer garments that **Dorcas** used to make while she was with them. (**Acts of Apostles 9:39**)
- But Peter put everybody outside and, bending his knees, he prayed, and, turning to the body, he said; Tabitha, rise! She opened her eyes and, as she caught sight of Peter, she sat up. (**Acts of Apostles 9:40**)

- **Giving her his hand, he raised her up, and he called the holy ones and the widows and presented her alive. ([Acts of Apostles 9:41](#))**
- **This became known throughout all Joppa, and many became believers on the Lord. ([Acts of Apostles 9:42](#))**