

## **~JOPPA (327)**

**(Jop'pa) [Beautiful, or Pretty, City]**

- An ancient seaport about 55 kilometers (34 miles) West-Northwest of Jerusalem. Modern **Yafo**, Arabic, **Jaffa**, merged with Tel Aviv in **1950 C.E.** and now called **Tel Aviv-Yafo**, occupies the ancient site.
- The city is situated on a rocky hill rising to a height of about 35 meters (115 feet). Its harbor, the only natural one between Mount Carmel and the border of Egypt, is formed by a low ledge of rocks about 100 meters (330 feet) from the coast.
- The harbor may be entered either through a narrow gap in the rocky ledge or at the open but shallow north end. Rocks bar access from the south.
- **Joppa** was on the border of Dan's original territory, although not necessarily a part of it.
- It was for the tribe of the sons of Dan by their families that the seventh lot came out. (**Joshua 19:40**)
- And the border of their inheritance came to be Zorah and Eshtaol and Ir-shemesh. (**Joshua 19:41**)
- And Me-jarkon and Rakkon, with the border in front of **Joppa**. (**Joshua 19:46**)
- Gilead kept to his residence on the other side of the Jordan. And Dan, why did he continue to dwell for the time in ships? Asher sat idle at the seashore, and by his landing places he kept residing. (**Judges 5:17**)
- Associates Dan with ships, and this may imply that the Danites actually controlled the seaport of **Joppa**.
- In view of King Solomon's extensive commercial intercourse with other nations.
- For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish on the sea along with Hiram's fleet of ships. Once every three years the fleet of ships

- of Tarshish would come carrying gold and silver, ivory, and apes and peacocks. (1 Kings 10:22)
- And there was the export of the horses that Solomon had from Egypt, and the company of the kings merchants would themselves take the horse drove for a price. (1 Kings 10:28)
  - And a chariot customarily came up and was exported from Egypt for six hundred silver pieces, and a horse for a hundred and fifty, and that was the way it was for all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria. It was by means of them that they did the exporting. (1 Kings 10:29)
  - Likely the harbor facilities at Joppa were improved. It was to Joppa that the Tyrians floated rafts of timber from the forests of Lebanon, to be used in temple construction.
  - As for ourselves, we shall cut down trees from Lebanon according to all your need, and we shall bring them to you as rafts by sea to Joppa, and you, for your part, will take them up to Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 2:16)
  - Later, the prophet Jonah, seeking to flee from his assignment, boarded a ship at Joppa to go to Tarshish.
  - And Jonah proceeded to get up and run away to Tarshish from before Yehowah, and he finally came down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid its fare and went down into it, in order to go with them to Tarshish from before Yehowah. (Jonah 1:3)
  - After the Babylonian exile, Joppa again served as the harbor for receiving cedar timbers from Lebanon for use in temple rebuilding.
  - And they proceeded to give money to the cutters and to the craftsmen, and eatables and drink and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians, to bring cedar timbers from Lebanon to the sea at Joppa, according to the permission granted by Cyrus the king of Persia to them. (Ezra 3:7)
  - In the First Century C.E, a Christian congregation existed at Joppa. Dorcas, Tabitha, a woman abounding in good deeds and gifts of mercy, was associated with that congregation.

- Upon her death Peter came from nearby Lydda on request, and he subsequently resurrected Dorcas. As news of this miracle spread throughout **Joppa**, many became believers.
- 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**)
- 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**)
- For quite a few days, Peter stayed at **Joppa**, being entertained by a certain Simon, a tanner, who had his house by the sea.
- For quite a few days he remained in **Joppa** with a certain Simon, a tanner. (**Acts of Apostles 9:43**)
- This man is being entertained by a certain Simon, a tanner, who has a house by the sea. (**Acts of Apostles 10:6**)

- It was on the roof of Simon's house that Peter, while in a trance, received divine revelation concerning the propriety of preaching to non-Jews, just in time to receive the messengers from the Gentile Cornelius.
- Consequently, Peter did not hesitate to go to Caesarea with these messengers. Also, six Jewish brothers, apparently from Joppa, accompanied him.
- The next day as they were pursuing their journey and were approaching the city, Peter went up to the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ([Acts of Apostles 10:9](#))
- But he became very hungry and wanted to eat. While they were preparing, he fell into a trance. ([Acts of Apostles 10:10](#))
- And beheld heaven opened and some sort of vessel descending like a great linen sheet being let down by its four extremities upon the earth. ([Acts of Apostles 10:11](#))
- And in it there were all sorts of four-footed creatures and creeping things of the earth and birds of heaven. ([Acts of Apostles 10:12](#))
- And a voice came to him; Rise, Peter, slaughter and eat! ([Acts of Apostles 10:13](#))
- But Peter said; Not at all, Lord, because never have I eaten anything defiled and unclean. ([Acts of Apostles 10:14](#))
- And the voice spoke again to him, the second time; You stop calling defiled the things God has cleansed. ([Acts of Apostles 10:15](#))
- This occurred a third time, and immediately the vessel was taken up into heaven. ([Acts of Apostles 10:16](#))
- Now while Peter was in great perplexity inwardly over what the vision he had seen might mean, look! The men dispatched by Cornelius had made inquiries for Simon's house and stood there at the gate. ([Acts of Apostles 10:17](#))
- And they called out and inquired whether Simon who was surnamed Peter was being entertained there. ([Acts of Apostles](#)

## **10:18)**

- **As Peter was going over in his mind about the vision, the spirit said; Look! Three men are seeking you. (Acts of Apostles 10:19)**
- **However, rise, go downstairs and be on your way with them, not doubting at all, because I have dispatched them. (Acts of Apostles 10:20)**
- **So Peter went downstairs to the men and said; Look! I am the one you are seeking. What is the cause for which you are present? (Acts of Apostles 10:21)**
- **They said; Cornelius, an army officer, a man righteous and fearing God and well reported by the whole nation of the Jews, was given divine instructions by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear the things you have to say. (Acts of Apostles 10:22)**
- **Therefore he invited them in and entertained them. The next day he rose and went off with them, and some of the brothers that were from Joppa went with him. (Acts of Apostles 10:23)**
- **On the day after that he entered into Caesarea. Cornelius, of course, was expecting them and had called together his relatives and intimate friends. (Acts of Apostles 10:24)**
- **As Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet and did obeisance to him. (Acts of Apostles 10:25)**
- **But Peter lifted him up, saying; Rise, I myself am also a man. (Acts of Apostles 10:26)**
- **And as he conversed with him he went in and found many people assembled. (Acts of Apostles 10:27)**
- **And he said to them; You well know how unlawful it is for a Jew to join himself to or approach a man of another race, and yet God has shown me I should call no man defiled or unclean. (Acts of Apostles 10:28)**
- **Hence I came, really without objection, when I was sent for. Therefore I inquire the reason that you have sent for me. (Acts of Apostles 10:29)**

- Accordingly Cornelius said; Four days ago counting from this hour I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, when, look! A man in bright raiment stood before me. ([Acts of Apostles 10:30](#))
- And said; Cornelius, your prayer has been favorably heard and your gifts of mercy have been remembered before God. ([Acts of Apostles 10:31](#))
- Send, therefore, to **Joppa** and call for Simon, who is surnamed Peter. This man is being entertained in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. ([Acts of Apostles 10:32](#))
- Therefore I at once sent to you, and you did well in coming here. And so at this time we are all present before God to hear all the things you have been commanded by Yehowah to say. ([Acts of Apostles 10:33](#))
- At this Peter opened his mouth and said; For a certainty I perceive that God is not partial. ([Acts of Apostles 10:34](#))
- But in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. ([Acts of Apostles 10:35](#))
- He sent out the word to the sons of Israel to declare to them the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, this One is Lord of all others. ([Acts of Apostles 10:36](#))
- You know the subject that was talked about throughout the whole of Judea, starting from Galilee after the baptism that John preached. ([Acts of Apostles 10:37](#))
- Namely, Jesus who was from Nazareth, how God anointed him with Holy Spirit and power, and he went through the land doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him. ([Acts of Apostles 10:38](#))
- And we are witnesses of all the things he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem, but they also did away with him by hanging him on a stake. ([Acts of Apostles 10:39](#))
- God raised this One up on the third day and granted him to become manifest. ([Acts of Apostles 10:40](#))

- Not to all the people, but to witnesses appointed beforehand by God, to us, who ate and drank with him after his rising from the dead. (**Acts of Apostles 10:41**)
- Also, he ordered us to preach to the people and to give a thorough witness that this is the One decreed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. (**Acts of Apostles 10:42**)
- To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone putting faith in him gets forgiveness of sins through his name. (**Acts of Apostles 10:43**)
- While Peter was yet speaking about these matters the Holy Spirit fell upon all those hearing the word. (**Acts of Apostles 10:44**)
- And the faithful ones that had come with Peter who were of those circumcised were amazed, because the free gift of the Holy Spirit was being poured out also upon people of the nations. (**Acts of Apostles 10:45**)
- I was in the city of **Joppa** praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, some sort of vessel descending like a great linen sheet being let down by its four extremities from heaven, and it came clear to me. (**Acts of Apostles 11:5**)
- Gazing into it, I made observations and saw four-footed creatures of the earth and wild beasts and creeping things and birds of heaven. (**Acts of Apostles 11:6**)
- I also heard a voice say to me; Rise, Peter, slaughter and eat! (**Acts of Apostles 11:7**)
- But I said; Not at all, Lord, because a defiled or unclean thing has never entered into my mouth. (**Acts of Apostles 11:8**)
- The second time the voice from heaven answered, You stop calling defiled the things God has cleansed. (**Acts of Apostles 11:9**)
- This occurred for a third time, and everything was pulled up again into heaven. (**Acts of Apostles 11:10**)
- Also, look! At that instant there were three men standing at the house in which we were, they having been dispatched from

Caesarea to me. (**Acts of Apostles 11:11**)

- So the spirit told me to go with them, not doubting at all. But these six brothers also went with me, and we entered into the house of the man. (**Acts of Apostles 11:12**)
- He reported to us how he saw the angel stand in his house and say; Dispatch men to **Joppa** and send for Simon who is surnamed Peter. (**Acts of Apostles 11:13**)
- And he will speak those things to you by which you and all your household may get saved. (**Acts of Apostles 11:14**)