

~ARMY OFFICER (431)

- This translates the **Greek** terms *he-ka-ton-tar'khes* or *he-ka-ton'tar khos* and *ken-ty-ri'on*, and it designates an **officer** in command of a hundred soldiers, a centurion. The Roman legion, regardless of its size, was always divided into 60 centuries, each under the command of a centurion.
- If the legion shrank below 6,000, still one sixtieth, even when less than 100, was under a **centurion**. These **army** officers were nominated by tribunes and were approved by higher government authorities. The office of **centurion** was the highest rank the common soldier could reach, though there were opportunities for some advancement within the ranks of the **centurions** themselves.
- The **centurions** were keymen and served a most important function in the legion. While they were under the authority of the **tribunes** and responsible to carry out their orders, the **army officer** was the real and immediate head of the soldiers. He drilled the soldiers, worked with them, inspected their arms, supplies, and food and regulated their conduct.
- He was the **disciplinarian who supervised scourgings and capital punishment**, the one who **authorized punishment of his troops**. The readiness and efficiency of the Roman **army**, for the most part, depended more on **centurions** than on anyone else, they were, generally speaking, the **most experienced and valuable men in the Roman army**.

See Also ARMY

- **Army officers** appear in the Christian Greek Scripture narratives on several occasions. The **army officer** from Capernaum who sought Jesus healing power on behalf of his slave was commended by the Master for his exemplary faith.
- When he entered into Capernaum, an **army** officer came to him, entreating him (**Matthew 8:5**)
- And saying; Sir, my manservant is laid up in the house with paralysis, being terribly tormented. (**Matthew 8:6**)

- He said to him; When I get there I will cure him. (**Matthew 8:7**)
- In reply the **army officer** said; Sir, I am not a fit man for you to enter under my roof, but just say the word and my manservant will be healed. (**Matthew 8:8**)
- For I too am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this one; Be on your way! And he is on his way. And to another; Come! And he comes. And to my slave; Do this! And he does it. (**Matthew 8:9**)
- Hearing that, Jesus became amazed and said to those following him; I tell you the truth, with no one in Israel have I found so great a faith. (**Matthew 8:10**)
- But I tell you that many from eastern parts and western parts will come and recline at the table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens. (**Matthew 8:11**)
- Whereas the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the darkness outside. There is where their weeping and the gnashing of their teeth will be. (**Matthew 8:12**)
- Then Jesus said to the **army officer**; Go. Just as it has been your faith, so let it come to pass for you. And the manservant was healed in that hour. (**Matthew 8:13**)
- The statement of the Jews; He loves our nation and he himself built the synagogue for us, the centurions acknowledgment that I am not fit to have you come in under my roof, and Jesus comment;
- Not even in Israel have I found so great a faith, all indicate that the **army officer** was a Gentile. If he was a Roman, this was all the more remarkable, for Romans were not noted for their compassion toward slaves. (**Luke 7:9**)
- When he had completed all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered into Capernaum. (**Luke 7:1**)
- Now a certain **army officers** slave, who was dear to him, was ailing and was about to pass away. (**Luke 7:2**)
- When he heard about Jesus, he sent forth older men of the Jews to him to ask him to come and bring his slave safely through.

(Luke 7:3)

- Then those that came up to Jesus began to entreat him earnestly, saying; He is worthy of your conferring this upon him. **(Luke 7:4)**
- For he loves our nation and he himself built the synagogue for us. **(Luke 7:5)**
- So Jesus started off with them. But when he was not far from the house, the **army officer** had already sent friends to say to him; Sir, do not bother, for I am not fit to have you come in under my roof. **(Luke 7:6)**
- For that reason I did not consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. **(Luke 7:7)**
- For I too am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this one. Be on your way! And he is on his way. And to another; Come! And he comes. And to my slave; Do this! And he does it. **(Luke 7:8)**
- Well, when Jesus heard these things he marveled at him, and he turned to the crowd following him and said; I tell you, not even in Israel have I found so great a faith. **(Luke 7:9)**
- An **army officer** headed the four soldiers who put Jesus to death.
- Now when the soldiers had impaled Jesus, they took his outer garments and made four parts, for each soldier a part, and the inner garment. But the inner garment was without a seam, being woven from the top throughout its length. **(John 19:23)**
- This **centurion** likely had been present when the claim of divine Sonship was discussed before Pilate.
- The Jews answered him; We have a Law, and according to the Law he ought to die, because he made himself God's son. **(John 19:7)**
- Observing this trial and the other circumstances surrounding the impalement, as well as the miraculous phenomena accompanying Jesus death, the **army officer** began to glorify God, saying; Really this man was righteous, Certainly this was God's Son.

- Because of seeing what occurred the **army officer** began to glorify God, saying; Really this man was righteous. (**Luke 23:47**)
- But the **army officer** and those with him watching over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things happening, grew very much afraid, saying, Certainly this was God's Son. (**Matthew 27:54**)
- **Undoubtedly it was of him that Pilate inquired whether Jesus was dead before giving the body over for burial.**
- But Pilate wondered whether he was already dead, and, summoning the **army officer**, he asked him whether he had already died. (**Mark 15:44**)
- So after making certain from the **army officer**, he granted the corpse to Joseph. (**Mark 15:45**)
- **Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian band, stationed in Caesarea, was the first uncircumcised Gentile to become a Christian.**
- Now in Caesarea there was a certain man named Cornelius, an **army officer** of the Italian band, as it was called. (**Acts of Apostles 10:1**)
- A devout man and one fearing God together with all his household, and he made many gifts of mercy to the people and made supplication to God continually. (**Acts of Apostles 10:2**)
- Just about the ninth hour of the day he saw plainly in a vision an angel of God come in to him and say to him; Cornelius! (**Acts of Apostles 10:3**)
- The man gazed at him and, becoming frightened, said; What is it, Lord? He said to him; Your prayers and gifts of mercy have ascended as a remembrance before God. (**Acts of Apostles 10:4**)
- So now send men to Joppa and summon a certain Simon who is surnamed Peter. (**Acts of Apostles 10:5**)
- This man is being entertained by a certain Simon, a tanner, who has a house by the sea. (**Acts of Apostles 10:6**)
- As soon as the angel that spoke to him had left, he called two of

his house servants and a **devout soldier** from among those who were in constant attendance upon him. (**Acts of Apostles 10:7**)

- **And he related everything to them and dispatched them to Joppa. (**Acts of Apostles 10:8**)**
- **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. 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 one's 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**)
- For they heard them speaking with tongues and magnifying God. Then Peter responded. (**Acts of Apostles 10:46**)
- Can anyone forbid water so that these might not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have? (**Acts of Apostles 10:47**)
- With that he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they requested him to remain for some days. (**Acts of Apostles 10:48**)
- The fact that he had his own house and attendant soldiers indicates that **officers** of this rank were allowed to live detached from the regular troops.

See Also CORNELIUS

- **Army officers** stationed in the Tower of Antonia, together with their soldiers and the military commander, rushed down to the adjoining temple grounds and rescued Paul from a mob, about **56 C.E.**
- And he at once took soldiers and **army officers** and ran down to them. When they caught sight of the military commander and the soldiers, they quit beating Paul. (**Acts of Apostles 21:32**)

- Later, Paul escaped scourging on the order of the **military commander** by disclosing to an attending **army officer** that he was a Roman citizen.
- But when they had stretched him out for the whipping, Paul said to the **army officer** standing there; Is it lawful for you men to scourge a man that is a Roman and uncondemned? (**Acts of Apostles 22:25**)
- Well, when the **army officer** heard this, he went to the military commander and made report, saying; What are you intending to do? Why, this man is a Roman. (**Acts of Apostles 22:26**)
- Upon learning of a plot against his life, Paul called an **army officer** to lead his nephew to the military commander with this report. In turn, two **army officers** were ordered to ready a force of 470 soldiers, cavalry, and spearmen to ensure Paul's safe conduct out of Jerusalem.
- So Paul called one of the **army officers** to him and said; Lead this young man off to the **military commander**, for he has something to report to him. (**Acts of Apostles 23:17**)
- And he summoned a certain two of the **army officers** and said, Get two hundred soldiers ready to march clear to Caesarea, also seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen, at the third hour of the night. (**Acts of Apostles 23:23**)
- Julius, an **army officer** of the band of Augustus, was responsible for Paul's passage from Adramyttium to Rome. He treated Paul with kindness, though at first ignoring the apostles advice. Eventually, however, this **centurion** learned to respect Paul's judgment, and he was instrumental in saving the apostle's life.
- Now as it was decided for us to sail away to Italy, they proceeded to hand both Paul and certain other prisoners over to an **army officer** named Julius of the band of Augustus. (**Acts of Apostles 27:1**)
- But there the **army officer** found a boat from Alexandria that was sailing for Italy, and he made us board it. (**Acts of Apostles 27:6**)
- However, the **army officer** went heeding the pilot and the shipowner rather than the things said by Paul. (**Acts of Apostles**

27:11)

- Paul said to the **army officer** and the soldiers; Unless these men remain in the boat, you cannot be saved. (**Acts of Apostles 27:31**)
- But the **army officer** desired to bring Paul safely through and restrained them from their purpose. And he commanded those able to swim to cast themselves into the sea and make it to land first. (**Acts of Apostles 27:43**)

See Also AUGUSTUS, BAND OF