

GOD MIRACULOUSLY DELIVERS PETER & SPREADS HIS WORD (Acts 12:1-25)

I. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JERUSALEM (1-7)

II. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, & SYRIA (8-12)

A. The WITNESS of PHILIP to the SAMARITANS & ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH (8:1-40)

B. The CONVERSION & EARLY MINISTRY of PAUL (9:1-31)

C. The MIRACULOUS HEALING MINISTRY of PETER (9:32-43)

D. The WITNESS of PETER & the CHURCH of ANTIOCH (10:1-11:18)

E. The DELIVERANCE of PETER & SPREAD of GOD'S WORD (12:1-25)

1. God Sees Our Problems: James Martyred; Peter Imprisoned (12:1-4)

- a. The *time* of these events (v. 1, "Now about that time") was approximately _____, around the time of the relief gift brought to Jerusalem by Barnabas and Saul from the primarily Gentile church of Antioch (11:27-30).
- b. The *human actor* of this renewed persecution was _____. (v. 1)
 - *What do we know about him historically?*
 - *Who was ultimately behind this persecution? (1 Peter 5:8-9)*
 - *What other methods/wiles (Eph. 6:11) does he employ?*
- c. The *initial target* of persecution was the apostle _____ who was likely _____. (v. 2)
 - *What can we learn from this? (Acts 20:32; Phil. 1:21; Rev. 2:10)*
- d. The *result* of killing James was that it _____ the _____, which motivated Herod to persecute the church more by arresting the apostle _____. (v. 3)
- e. The *imprisonment* of Peter involved a heavy _____ presence for security (probably in the fortress Tower of Antonia), so he could be brought "before the people [for public trial] after Passover." (v. 4)
 - *What spiritual lessons can we learn from this? (Eph. 6:10-12; 1 Peter 3:12a)*

2. God Hears Our Prayers: Peter Delivered through an Angel (12:5-17)

- a. The *response* by the church to Peter's imprisonment was _____ to God for him. (v. 5; Eph. 6:17-18; Phil. 1:19; James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:12b)

b. The *timing* of Peter's deliverance showed God's _____ over these circumstances. (v. 6)

- *Why does He often wait to the end for deliverance? (Exod. 14:13; Deut. 8:2-3; 1 Peter 1:6-7)*

c. The *answer* to the church's intercessory prayers was an _____ intervention. (vv. 7-11)

- *What else does the Bible teach about angels?*

d. The *home* Peter fled to was _____, the mother of John Mark, where believers were praying well into the night. (v. 12)

- *Should we expect God to answer our prayers? (vv. 13-16; Jer. 33:3; Matt. 21:22; James 1:5-6; 1 John 5:14-15)*

e. The *testimony* of Peter to the prayer group was that _____ had delivered him, though He used an angel as the means. (v. 17)

- *What can we learn from Peter's example? (v. 23; 1 Cor. 10:31; Rev. 4:11; 14:7; 19:7)*
- *When does Peter next resurface in the story of Acts?*

3. God Handles Our Persecutors: Prison Guards & Herod Die (12:18-23)

a. The *Roman soldiers'* penalty from King Herod for their perceived dereliction of duty was _____. (vv. 18-19; 16:27-28)

b. *Herod Agrippa's* judgment from God for his self-glorification was _____ and _____. (vv. 20-23)

- *What date did this occur according to the Jewish Roman historian Josephus?*
- *What can we learn from the fate of the guards and Herod? (Rom. 12:19; 1 Peter 3:12c)*

4. God Continues His Plan: God's Word Spreads & Mission Team Formed (12:24-25)

a. The *irony* of Herod's attempt to persecute the church into silence was that the outreach and impact of God's Word actually _____. (v. 24; Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28; 2 Thess. 3:1-3)

b. The sovereignty of God was once again displayed by the first _____ team joining together in Jerusalem—Barnabas, Saul, and John Mark. (v. 25; 13:1-5)

- *What can we learn from all this regarding: persecution, prayer, angels, death & life, the growth of the church and the spread of the gospel, the sovereignty & goodness of God?*