

# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

## II THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA Acts 8-12

### LESSON 11 - Violence and the Prayer of the Saints - Acts 12

#### KEY VERSE

*But the Word of God grew and multiplied (Acts 12:24).*

#### PONDER<sup>1</sup>

READ Acts Chapter 12.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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#### THE CHURCH SUFFERS VIOLENCE

Herod stretched out his hand to harass the church.

READ Acts 12:1-4.

1. What violent act did King Herod <sup>2</sup> do to the Apostle James (vv. 1-3)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What was Herod's reason to arrest Peter? \_\_\_\_\_

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When did this persecution take place? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>3</sup>

2. What did Herod intend to do to Peter after Passover (v. 4)? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### PETER FREED FROM PRISON

READ Acts 12:5-19.

1. How did the Church respond to Peter's imprisonment (v. 5)? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

<sup>2</sup> King Herod: nephew of Herod Antipas and grandson of Herod the Great.

<sup>3</sup> Days of Unleavened Bread: the Passover commemorates the exodus from Egypt by the Hebrew children. God commanded them to spread the blood of a lamb on the doorposts and lintel of the door to their house so that the angel of death would pass over the house and spare their firstborn (see Exodus 12).

**LOOK DEEPER**

What instructions do the following Scriptures relate about constant prayer?

Luke 18:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:26, 27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:6, 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

James 5:13-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL**

According to the above Scriptures, how can you improve your prayer life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. DESCRIBE Peter's conditions in prison (Acts 12:6). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do we know that he was at peace? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What happened to Peter the night before he was to be tried for his faith (vv. 7-10)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Peter know for certain about the Lord (v. 11)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Where did Peter go to seek refuge (v. 12)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What was taking place at Mary's house? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. When Peter knocked, what did Rhoda do (vv. 13-15)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Though God answered the disciples' prayer, what did they accuse Rhoda of? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What was the reaction of the disciples when they answered the door (v. 16)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### PERSONAL

What has been your reaction to a miraculous answer to prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What did Peter testify to them (v. 17)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What did King Herod do (vv. 18, 19)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### HEROD'S VIOLENT DEATH

READ Acts 12:20-25.

1. What did the people of Tyre and Sidon<sup>4</sup> do in the attempt to appease the dreaded King Herod for being angry with them (vv. 20-22)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did the angel of the Lord strike him (v. 23)? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>4</sup> Tyre and Sidon: ancient Phoenician city on the Mediterranean coast.

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How did King Herod die? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What affect did persecution have on the new believers (v. 24)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem to Antioch. What had they fulfilled (v. 25)? \_\_\_\_\_

Who did they take with them? \_\_\_\_\_

WRITE out the KEY VERSE. \_\_\_\_\_

*And they continued steadfastly  
in the Apostles Doctrine and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*  
Acts 2:42

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