

The Acts of the Apostles

Part I: Peter and the Other Apostles Witness in Jerusalem and the Surrounding Areas (Acts 1-12)

Session 11: Jerusalem Church Preserved in Famine and Persecution (11:27-12:25)

Videos of this Bible Study may be found on YouTube under "Joseph Polzin" or through this link: <https://bit.ly/2WWBV1t>

- I. What did the prophet Agabus foretell? (11:28) What was the Church's response? (v.29)

- II. What did King Herod begin to do (12:1-2)?
 - a. *Note: This is Herod Agrippa I (r. A.D. 41-44). His grandfather was Herod the Great (killed the infants in Bethlehem) and his uncle was Herod Antipas (beheaded John the Baptist).*
 - b. What emboldened him? (v. 3) What does this say about whose approval he sought after? (cf. v. 22)

- III. What the reaction of the Church in v. 5 to Peter's imprisonment?
 - a. What do the details in v. 6 tell us about the security? What does this say about man's efforts vs. God's efforts? (This will be a theme in this session.)
 - b. What was Peter's first reaction to his escape? (v. 9; cf. v. 11)

- IV. Where does Peter go? (v. 12)
 - a. *Note: This may be the same Upper Room where Jesus spends Passover with his disciples, and where they were gathered in Acts 1:13.*
 - b. How is Peter's interaction with Rhoda subtly humorous? (vv. 13-16)

- V. Why would the soldiers be particularly disturbed in v. 18? (cf. v. 19)

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- VI. What was the historical situation for what happened to Herod? (vv. 20-23)
- a. What did this people say in v. 22? Given what we noted in v. 3, how is this consistent with the personality of Herod?
 - b. Why do you think Luke is taking time to record this occurrence? (Note the overall theme of this session.)
 - c. What contrast does Luke note in v. 24? Why is this significant?
- VII. Who is the new companion of Barnabas and Saul? (v. 25; cf. v. 12; Col. 4:10)