

Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Forty Four

Acts of the Apostles

Acts 12:1-25

The miraculous release of Peter from prison

This chapter records the efforts by King Herod to harass the church in Jerusalem.

This Herod was Agrippa I, son of Herod Antipas (who beheaded John the Baptist, [Mt 14:1-12](#)), and grandson of Herod the Great (who slew the infants at Bethlehem, [Mt 2:1-16](#)).

Successfully killing James the brother of John with the sword, Herod had Peter arrested and imprisoned, intending to bring Peter before the people after the Passover.

Herod's plans were thwarted when an angel of the Lord freed Peter from prison. After meeting with brethren at the home of Mary, mother of John Mark, Peter sent word to James and the brethren of his miraculous release.

When Peter was not found in the prison, Herod had the guards examined and executed. Herod then went down to Caesarea

The untimely death of Herod

While at Caesarea, the people of Tyre and Sidon came to Herod to appeal for peace.

When he gave them an oration, the people praised his speech as "the voice of a god and not of a man."

Failing to give glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck Herod and he died.

The word of God, however, grew and multiplied. Barnabas and Saul, having completed their ministry to the saints in Judea (cf. **11:29-30**), returned from Jerusalem to Antioch accompanied by John Mark.

At this point in Luke's narrative of the history of the church, the focus turns from the ministry of Peter to the ministry of Paul