

Power to Witness in Word and Deed*The Book of Acts***Acts 12:1–24****Read Acts 12:1–24.**

1. The first part of Acts (chapters 1–12) focuses on the growth of the church in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria (1:8).
 - a. What is the latest we have heard about how the church is doing in those places? (9:31)
 - b. What is happening to the church now? (vv. 1–2)
2. What is Peter's situation in verses 2– 6?
3. This King Herod, also known as Agrippa I, is the grandson of Herod the Great (who was king when Jesus was born) and the nephew of Herod Antipas (who beheaded John the Baptist). Given the favorable reaction to James's execution, it appears that Herod has the same fate in mind for Peter (v. 11).
 - a. How do you think the other believers are feeling at this point?
 - b. Faced with the brutal power of Herod, to what do they turn? (vv. 5, 12)
4. List all of the things the angel of the Lord does to rescue Peter. (vv. 7–11)
5. Initially Peter thinks he is seeing a vision (v. 9). What does he come to realize? (v. 11)
6. Leaving the miraculously delivered Peter pounding at the door to get in, Rhoda, the servant girl, delivers the news of his release to the praying believers.
 - a. How do they respond? (v. 15)
 - b. Why is their disbelief ironic? (Consider what they have probably been praying for.)
 - c. Why is their disbelief not all that surprising?
 - d. How do you find their reaction encouraging?

7. After Peter is safely inside, what does he do? (v. 17¹)

8. Herod is in a position of power over the people of Tyre and Sidon. Since they depend on him for their food supply, they seek to make peace with him. How do they respond to Herod's address? (v. 22)

9. King Herod fails to do what he should have done in this situation.
 - a. What does verse 23 say he should have done? (📖* 10:26; 14:8–18)

 - b. How is he punished? (v. 23)

10. Review this chapter. From a human perspective, what power shift has taken place?

11. Acts records a pattern of opposition followed by the spread of the gospel. Trace a sampling of this pattern in the chart below.

Opposition	Spread of the gospel
4:18	4:31
5:17–18, 40	5:41–42
7:59–8:1	8:4; 11:19–21

12. Read Romans 8:28–39. God works all things together for the spread of his worldwide kingdom and for the salvation and growth of individual believers.
How have you seen this truth play out in this chapter of Acts?

How have you seen it play out in your life?

*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

¹ The James in this verse is the brother of Jesus (Mk. 6:3). He will eventually become the leader of the church in Jerusalem.