

Acts Bible Study Discussion Questions

Chapter 12

Acts 12:1-11

1. Who was this Herod? What do we know about him?
2. Is the death of James a continuation of the persecution of the church, or does it raise the persecution to a new level?
3. If Herod had been able to carry out his plan to put Peter on trial publicly, what would the charges probably have been? (Also see v. 11.)
4. Were the circumstances of Peter's imprisonment unusual? If so, why?
5. What did Peter think when the angel freed him?
6. Was Peter surprised at being rescued? Why or why not?

Acts 12:12-17

7. Where did Peter go? Why there?
8. How was Peter received when he got there?
9. "It must be his angel." What does this mean?
10. After they had admitted him, what did Peter say and do? Who were "James and the brothers"?

Acts 12:18-24

11. What did Herod do about Peter's escape?
12. What was the occasion for Herod's speech at Caesarea?
13. Why did the people shout what they did?
14. What happened to Herod? Why?
15. What happened to the church?

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Chapter 13

Acts 12:25-13:3

1. Were Barnabas and Saul in Jerusalem when Peter was imprisoned and when Herod died?
2. Who was John, also called Mark? (See below.)
3. What were the roles of Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul in the Antioch church?
4. How were Barnabas and Saul appointed to go on a mission trip?

Acts 13:4-12

5. Who went with Saul on this first missionary journey?
6. What kind of place was Cyprus?
7. How did the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, hear about Barnabas and Saul? Why did he send for them?
8. Note that in verse 9 Saul begins to be called Paul. Why is that? (See vv. 46-47)
9. Why did Paul chastise the sorcerer? What was his punishment?
10. What was the result of this encounter?

Acts 13:13-43

11. What happened to John (Mark)?
12. What did Paul and Barnabas do in Pisidian Antioch? What does this tell you about their ministry at this time?
13. How is Paul's discourse like that of Stephen before he was killed? How is it different?
14. How was the message received by those who heard it on that first Sabbath?

Acts 13:44-52

15. What happened on the next Sabbath day?
16. How do Paul and Barnabas respond to the abuse of the Jews?
17. What is the result of this conflict?
18. Who are "the disciples" mentioned in v. 52?

Mark was a cousin or nephew (sister's son) to Barnabas (Colossians 4:10). Acts 12:12 tells us he was the son of Mary, a pious woman of Jerusalem, at whose house the apostles and the first Christians assembled. Peter called him "my son" (1 Peter 5:13), which leads to the supposition that Mark was converted by Peter. Thus Mark was closely united with the followers of Jesus, if not himself a follower.

Mark wrote his Gospel account at Rome. Some suppose that Peter dictated to him, though it is more generally thought that Mark, having been Peter's companion for some time and having a clear understanding of what Peter preached, was chosen (or himself chose) to commit the particulars to the written record.