

GOD PROTECTS THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM  
(James is martyred; Peter is rescued)

Acts 12:1-25

Key Verse: 12:5

\* THE CHURCH PRAYS FOR PETER (1-5)

1. Read verse 1-2. What new adversary arose to attack the church? What did he do? How was this persecution different from the previous persecution?
2. Read verses 3-5. Why and how did Herod continue his attack on the church? Why was Peter's arrest so distressing to the church? What were they anticipating? What did they do?
3. Read verses 6-11. What was Peter's situation in jail? What was he doing? What does this show about him? How did the Lord act to rescue him? When did Peter realize what was happening?
4. What did Peter do when he realized that the Lord had set him free? Why didn't he immediately get out of town? (12)
5. Read verses 13-17. Where was the church gathered? What were they doing? Who was Rhoda and what did she do? When they finally let Peter in, what did he tell them and what did he do? (How was this event different from the previous time Peter had been in jail? (Ac 5:17-26) What does this reveal about the situation of the church in Jerusalem?

\* HEROD DIES; THE CHURCH GROWS (19-25)

6. Read verse 18-19a. What was the reaction of Herod and his soldiers when Peter was discovered missing? What did Herod do? What does this tell us about the intensity of his opposition to the church?
7. Read verses 19b-23. Where did Herod go after this? What event happened that fed his pride? What happened to him when he gave in to that pride? What happened to the church he was trying to destroy? Where were Barnabas and Saul?