

# Logos Class – Acts of the Apostles

On Campus class for Sept 26, 2021

*Acts Ch 12 – Persecution and Miracles*

# Acts Basic Outline

Six sections, each ending with a summary

- ✓ **Chapters 1-6:7** – Church in Jerusalem and Peter's preaching. Church growing and large number of Priests were coming to the Lord
- ✓ **Chapters 6:8-9:31** – Church spreading and growing in all Roman Palestine, and the martyrdom of Stephen. Churches multiplying in Galilee
- ✓ **Ch 9:32-12:24** – Conversion of Saul to Paul, the extension of the church into Antioch and Peter's reception of Cornelius the Gentile into the church
- **Ch 12:25-16:5** – The church is spreading in Asia Minor (Turkey) and the spreading of the Gospel in Galatia
- **Ch 16:6-19:20** – The church crossed the Med and spreads to Europe. Paul is starting churches in Ephesus, Philippi, and Corinth
- **Ch 19:21-28:31** – Arrival of Paul in Rome and his imprisonment. Paul boldly proclaims Jesus Christ, and tells of the Kingdom

# Several items

- God Things
  - The lesson by Bill Minor last week, and the members who participated in the discussion is a God Thing
  - FRC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is a God Thing
    - Our Pastors
    - Our staffs
    - Our leaders
    - Our members

*We need to thank God each day for the blessings we have in life  
and in our church*

# ICYMI

- There is chaos all over the world with refugees, financial difficulties for countries, rising need for unified “world” military (NATO army, and UN army)
- The US congress pulled support for replenishment of the **Iron Dome** defense system for Israel. This is the system that intercepts rockets fired at Israel. There is an outcry to replace it, and it probably will be replaced and replenished, but **it is very indicative of how dependent Israel is on the US and US weapons.**
- In addition to the call for unified military, there is a call, especially in Europe for a global governance, starting in Health, and Environment, and following with armaments regulation and control into the country level. This is the elimination of national identity on the altar of the greater good of the “world”
- Muslim enemies of Israel are working with Iran to replenish missile stocks and creating unrest within Israel. **Israel will not passively wait for the endgame of the Muslims, but will strike back, and I believe this will be soon.**
- US lack of strong support for Israel in public ways, is emboldening the enemies of Israel, but also pushing the pressure on the trigger of action. We can only wait and see.
- Also, global phenomena like fires, volcanic eruptions, active earthquakes, hurricanes, torrential rains, and flooding
- Positioning of countries against Israel, and weak leadership in world leading USA, and the chess pieces coming into place for the predicted Gog/Magog war. Turkey asserting itself and trying to lead the caliphate, and on and on
- Finally, in the **chaos our politicians** are trying to divert our attention from the disasters in Afghanistan, and the border by focusing on Border Patrol and Charitable organizations as the **“shiny object” so we don’t notice the real problems...deception is alive and well**

# Before we start.

- 18<sup>th</sup> century poet, William Cowper who said:

*God moves in a mysterious way. His wonders to perform.*

*He plants His footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.*

# Acts Ch 12:1-5 Persecution comes to Jerusalem

***12 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them.***

***2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.***

***3 When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.***

***4 After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.***

***5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.***

# Acts Ch 12:6-10

<sup>6</sup> *The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was **sleeping** between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.*

<sup>7</sup> ***Suddenly** an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. **He struck Peter on the side and woke him up.** “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.*

<sup>8</sup> *Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him.*

<sup>9</sup> *Peter followed him out of the prison, **but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.***

<sup>10</sup> *They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. **It opened for them by itself,** and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, **suddenly the angel left him.***

# Acts Ch 12:11-15

***11 Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.”***

***12 When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.***

***13 Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door.***

***14 When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, “Peter is at the door!”***

# Acts Ch 12:15-17

<sup>15</sup> *“You’re out of your mind,” they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, **“It must be his angel.”***

<sup>16</sup> *But Peter kept on knocking, and when **they** opened the door and saw him, **they** were astonished.*

<sup>17</sup> *Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. **“Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this,”** he said, **and then he left for another place.***

## Acts Ch 12:18-19 Morning comes...

*<sup>18</sup> In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter.*

*<sup>19</sup> After Herod had a **thorough search** made for him and did not find him, **he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.***

*Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and **stayed there.***

# Acts Ch 12:20-24

*20 He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. After securing the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply.*

*21 On the appointed day Herod, **wearing his royal robes**, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people.*

*22 They shouted, "**This is the voice of a god, not of a man.**"*

*23 Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by **worms** and died.*

*24 **But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.***

# Acts Ch 12:25 Saul and Barnabus

*25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them **John, also called Mark.***

*Next week we will begin the first missionary journey of the **Apostle Paul***

*But before that...*

# What can learn from this chapter?

## ***Lessons learned from Peter***

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## ***Truths about the Lord***

- *God is full of Surprises, lots of little surprises. John Calvin wrote “**He gave the saints several miracles to talk about for generation after generation**”*
- *He is fully in control*
- *The purposes of God are not thwarted by man or Satan*

# Before next week

- *Read chapter 13*
- *Pray for our class list of needs*
- *Pray for America in this dark time*
- *Pray for our Church in the next 25 years to be faithful to the call of the Lord*
- *Pray for Israel in this ever more hostile world*

*The clock is ticking, trim your wicks*