

# **Studies in the Acts of the Apostles**

## **NT Survey Lesson 62--Acts 12**

**Introduction:** Peter is dominant character in the first twelve chapters of Acts. In this chapter we see an example of God's miraculous preservation of Peter so that he could continue his preaching work. In contrast to Peter's humble service is Herod's arrogant reign as king. Peter is exalted by God; Herod is brought down by the Lord.

### **Peter's miraculous delivery from prison--Ac. 12:1-19**

1. Why did Herod put Peter into prison?
2. How did the church respond to this crisis?
3. What provisions did Herod make to prevent Peter's escape? When had apostles escaped from prison before?
4. Could Peter's escape be attributed to a conspiracy by the church to bribe the prison guards? Why not?
5. What evidence does Peter himself provide that his rescue was miraculous?
6. What does this episode teach us:
  - a. About God?
  - b. About Peter?
  - c. About the church?
  - d. About prayer?

## **Herod's death--Ac. 12:20-25**

1. How did the people of Tyre and Sidon seek to appease Herod's anger toward them? Why did they do so?
2. For what reason was Herod smitten by the Lord? Had Herod been given any reason to humble himself before the Lord?
3. How does Luke describe the advance of the gospel during this period of time?
4. Verse 25 describes the conclusion of what event by Paul and Barnabas? Does this verse prove that Jerusalem was the "sponsoring church" for assisting the needy in Judea? Give reasons for your answer.