

Understand your Bible

Suggested notes

Acts 12

What we will see in this chapter:

- King Herod killed James
- He arrested Peter who was delivered by an angel
- King Herod died

1 Read the chapter

2 Questions to help us in our understanding of this chapter. Look at the chapter verses in your Bible and use the questions to help you make your notes.

Chapter verses	Questions (to help with your notes)	Suggested notes
1 to 4	1. What did Herod do to James and Peter, and what were his plans for Peter?	King Herod killed James, the brother of John. To please the Jews, he also had Peter imprisoned with the intention of making him a public spectacle.
5	2. What was the church doing for Peter?	His fellow believers were praying for his release.
6 to 10	3. How were Herod's plans thwarted?	As Peter was sleeping chained to two guards, an angel told him to get up. His chains fell off. As the angel led him out of the prison, the iron gate opened by itself.
11 & 12	4. What did Peter do after realising he was free?	He went to the house of Mary.
12 to 17	5. What were the believers doing and what was their reaction when Peter arrived?	The believers were praying. They initially thought Peter's arrival was in the imagination of Rhoda, and then that it was his angel. They were amazed when they realised it was Peter.
18 & 19	6. What did Herod do to his prison guards?	Herod condemned the prison guards to death for losing their prisoner.
20 to 23	7. What happened to Herod in Caesarea?	Herod, who was basking in the flattery of the people who were calling him a god, was struck down by an angel and died.

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Chapter verses	Questions	Suggested notes
24 & 25	8. What did Barnabas and Saul do next?	Barnabas and Saul returned *to Jerusalem taking John Mark with them [* other Bible versions have "from"].

3 Related theme from v 12: *God listens to prayer.*

Have a look at these related verses and see this theme running through the Bible. Make a note of the main point(s) in the verse(s).

Verse(s)	Main point(s)
Psalms 65 v 2	God hears the prayers of all who come to him.
Psalms 86 v 7	God will answer in the day of trouble.
Isaiah 65 v 24	The prophet talks of a time when God will hear and answer prayer immediately.
Jeremiah 29 v 10 to 13	The prophet Jeremiah tells the Israelites that God will hear their prayers after their 70 years in Babylon.
Acts 10 v 31	God heard the prayer of Cornelius.
1 John 5 v 14	The apostle John tells us that God responds to requests that are according to His will.