

RBCPC
2011 Study Series



New Testament

Week #4
Study Guide

Acts (Part 2)

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www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/

Overview

This is a continuation of the study of the book of Acts – focusing on the mission of Paul and other apostles as they spread the gospel beyond Jerusalem.

Scripture Study – Key Passages

Open your Bible and read the following scripture:

Acts 11:19-21

1. What was the goal of the persecutors in Jerusalem?
2. What happened to the faith of the believers when they fled to other cities?
3. How did the goal of the persecutors backfire on them?
4. Does this change your perspective on religious persecution today? Why or why not?

Acts 12:20-23

1. Why do you think Herod was angry with the people?
2. Why did the people worship Herod and not God? What hold did Herod have over them?
3. Why did God punish Herod and not the people for their false worship?

Acts 13:2-3

1. Why is it important that the “Holy Spirit,” instead of the “Lord,” speaks in this scripture?
2. What does this reveal about the nature of the Holy Spirit?
3. Is the “Holy Spirit” different from the “Lord?” Explain.

Bonus Question

Read the following scriptures about two different imprisonments:

Acts 12:6-17* and *Acts 16:22-35

1. What caused the officials to imprison Peter and Paul in each instance?
2. Describe the differences in how each of the apostles was released.
3. What was the difference in the guard’s behavior in each story?
4. How did God use the imprisonment of Peter and Paul to spread the gospel in each story?

Key Themes

1. There are no obstacles that can stop God’s plan for spreading the gospel.
2. We are all saved by grace through faith, Jews and Gentiles alike.
3. Paul’s mission to share the gospel with the Gentiles is a fulfillment of God’s purpose for Israel.

Reflection

In spite of man-made obstacles, including severe persecution, the gospel is spread to the “ends of the earth.” The apostles were rarely alone, they traveled together, often regrouping at each stop. Reflect on the different people who have walked with you on your faith journey and the value of their individual influence and companionship.

Prayer

Paul and Silas were praying and singing to God while they were chained up in prison. Following their example, express your trust and joy in God by singing, or praying, a hymn of praise, regardless of how you feel, or what your current situation might be. Here is an example:

Psalm 142:

*I cry aloud to the LORD;
I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy.
I pour out before him my complaint;
before him I tell my trouble.
When my spirit grows faint within me,
it is you who watch over my way.
In the path where I walk
people have hidden a snare for me.
Look and see, there is no one at my right hand;
no one is concerned for me.
I have no refuge;
no one cares for my life.
I cry to you, LORD;
I say, “You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living.”
Listen to my cry,
for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.
Set me free from my prison,
that I may praise your name.
Then the righteous will gather about me
because of your goodness to me.*

Homework

Read **Acts 18:1-3, 24-26**, in preparation for the sermon on May 7/8, “*True Influences*.” Mark words, or phrases that stand out to you.

Notes & Reflections: